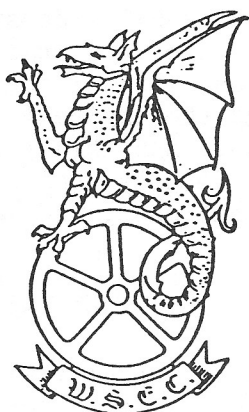


# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

## NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 1996

Please send Newsletter material to:-  
The Editor,  
Brian Baker,  
27 Wickham Way,  
SHEPTON MALLET,  
Somerset. BA4 5YG.

Telephone (01749) 342671

The material in this Newsletter shall not be reproduced without prior consent and due reference to the Wessex Stationary engine Club. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Club. All rights reserved.

\*\*\*\*\*

### EDITORIAL.

\*\*\*\*\*

As editor of this newsletter I quite often preach about safety on the rally field, and normally as nothing seems to happen it goes in one ear and out the other. Well this past weekend at the Countryside Cavalcade Rally at the Bath and West Showground something certainly did happen. A flywheel came off a Crossley engine and came out under the ropes and careered down the side of the tarmac road of the showground at a great rate of knots. After travelling about thirty or forty yards and heading straight for a young child, its progress was halted by one of the tractor exhibitors who was walking past the engines, he saw what was happening and stuck out his foot to push it over, I believe his foot was damaged in the process. Without his timely intervention the consequences could have been very serious indeed. I can only remind you all. BEWARE. SAFETY ON THE RALLY FIELD IS PARAMOUNT.

### \*\*\*\*CHAIRMAN'S REPORT\*\*\*\*

It was decided at a recent committee meeting that next years rally will definitely be held at Semington. The committee have looked at alternative sites in central Somerset but these have proved unsuitable. The rally will follow the same format as this year's, as this seems to be the most popular layout. Due to the fact that the '97 rally will be the twentieth Wessex rally we ought to make an effort to make it a special one. Make an effort to bring out the larger, rarer engines, leave the Villiers and Briggs and Stratton home.

### \*\*\*\*YESTERDAY'S FARMING RALLY - 17th/18th AUGUST \*\*\*\*

On the weekend of 17th and 18th August Brian and myself attended the South Somerset Preservation Clubs Yesterday's Farming Rally at Puckington, Nr. Ilminster. This rally is exactly what it is termed 'Yesterday's Farming', everything was connected with past methods of farming. There was certainly plenty to see including a hundred and ten stationary engines, a large amount of tractors and many side shows concerned with agriculture of the past. A feature of this show was horse ploughing in an adjoining field. The rally attracted a large amount of support from the general public, which was a very good thing as the last couple of years they suffered very wet weather, but the brilliant weather this weekend helped to make up for this. This was a very good, well set out and organised rally, very enjoyable.

RAY BAKER.

### UNBELIEVABLE BUT TRUE.

\*\*\*\*\*

One very reliable, and sober Wessex member witnessed this episode at a North Devon rally over the August bank holiday weekend, an exhibitor took three small Villiers engines from his vehicle, positioned them in the engine line, proceeded to level them up with a spirit level and then pegged them down to stop them moving. Why he went to all this trouble really is a mystery because they did not run all the weekend.

THE WEST OF ENGLAND STEAM ENGINE SOCIETY - 41st Annual Rally  
held at St. Agnes in Cornwall - 16/17/18th August 1996.

Twelve months ago this Society held their 40th Rally, a bumper event to celebrate a special year and this 41st year was a carbon copy of last year, even the weather was laid on. gorgeous sunshine with a nice strong breeze sweeping across this large hillside site. The field layout was almost the same as previous years with the exception of the stationary engines and motor cycle enclosures that were relocated to other areas which I found that most people thought it was a good move as more public walked around the engine lines. More and more Wessex members are making this long journey to Cornwall and this year brought a good cross section of exhibits which included a Fowler, Ruston & Hornsby, Delco Light, Lion, Fairbanks Morse, United, Stuart Turner Lighting plant, International, Madison, Stuart Gas engine and a Hercules Economy.

In the model tent was club members Reuben and Cath Smith with their Burrell 2" scale showmans loco, and in the motorcycle section, Derrick & Dot Watts with their 1961 BSA A7 motorbike.

The model and craft tent was a huge 12 pole structure and was full to capacity with exhibits. An eye-catcher for me was a model of the S.S. Great Britain's steam engine, superb engineering. I had seen this two years earlier here, but this time it was installed in a cut away model of the ship.

Full size steam engines totalled over 60, and one that caused a lot of interest was a Fowler 'Lafayette', a huge 8 nhp, 20 ton, road locomotive that once hauled guns in France during the First World War.

Ring events took up the whole day with over 600 exhibits eligible to complete the circuit, more than enough to satisfy the viewing public. Three long lines of stalls quenched the bargain hunters thirst and that of Wessex members who went through them with a fine tooth comb !!!!!!!

To sum up then, a great weekend, our thanks to stationary engine steward Chris Leverton for looking after us so well and how nice it was to see our Cornish club members who we only see once or twice a year at events such as this.

ROBIN

SCIENCE MUSEUM OPEN WEEKEND - Wroughton Airfield  
Saturday & Sunday 27/28th July 1996.

I haven't been to this airfield for many years so Jackie and I were really looking forward to this visit on the Sunday. Some members may not know that the hangers here are full of artifacts that belong to the London Science Museum, a kind of store if you like where they are interchanged from time to time and many are undergoing restoration work before being shown in London. The hangers are pretty well full to capacity with aircraft, lorries, tractors, steam engines, cars, motorbikes, cycles, in fact if you would like to name it, its there somewhere. Sadly many are suffering owing to lack of money to restore them to their former glory, which makes me wonder if they were in private ownership perhaps they would be better looked after.

This open weekend included a vintage rally the usual format with around 50 stationary engines, many brought by Wessex club members, lots of stalls, and many vehicles which included a lot of military vehicles (this was no doubt appropriate as its an old military airfield). A novel way to reach distant hangers way across the airfield was to hop on a vintage bus and enjoy the ride, several of these buses were in use all day long and seemed to cope very well with the hundreds of people who wanted to use them.

One thing that we found most interesting was in 'D' hanger, this had been turned into a giant antiques market with stalls dotted all around the exhibits which proved most popular with the public and later in the day it was so packed it was difficult to see what was on offer. Some stalls were dwarfed by a giant Constellation passenger airliner that stood gracefully at one end of the giant hanger, I remember when these were in service and always longed to fly in one. I would certainly like to come here again next year, perhaps as an exhibitor along with our friends in the engine line.

ROBIN

\*\*\*\* YESTERDAYS FARMING \*\*\*\*

I like watching the sheep being sheared, and I really loved stroking the ponies. Me and my Brother Karl went on the Cup and Saucer ride and we had great fun. Daddy and Grandad were really happy because they won certificates and cups for their engines. After everybody had packed up Grandad took us back to his house for tea and we had a happy day. From MICHAELA BAKER age 6½.

MARK HARVEST HOME - 20TH AUGUST.

A very nice half day mid-week rally. Lots of people looking around. On display were seven stationary engines, fifteen motorcycles, and ten tractors. You can purchase tickets for your lunch then sit behind your engines and sleep it off. A very nice plaque rounds off the day. I hope more engine exhibitors will attend next year.

GLORIA CARP.

HONITON HILL RALLY - 25/26TH AUGUST.

We broke all our rules and was towed into the rally field, but was assured it was alright once we were in there. A lot of rain each day, I wish engine stewards would think before they put up the ropes and number pegs on how long a car and caravan or trailer is. Rally committee's are going to have to think long and hard about how many people can arrive with one engine, no fewer than 5 cars and 22 people turned up with one. I do not think this is fair play, and as for 6 dogs with one family is just not on.

GLORIA CARP.

## \*\*\*\* WESSEX CLUB COACH TRIP TO CARDIFF BAY - SUNDAY AUGUST 11TH \*\*\*\*

Our annual coach trip this year was to the Cardiff Bay Docks Leisure Complex. The coach left the Old Down Inn at 8.30 am and headed for our destination with about 35 members and friends on board. Our route was up the M32 and over the new Severn Bridge. This new bridge really is an impressive piece of engineering, it was worth the coach fare just for the experience of crossing it for the first time. We stopped at a motorway services in Wales for breakfast and after a really good repast I felt set up for the day ahead. Well we arrived at Cardiff but unfortunately our driver got the commercial docks mixed up with the leisure docks, and we found ourselves in the wrong one, I thought we were going to be exported. After about a dozen laps of Cardiff we found our destination.

The Cardiff Bay complex is built on the old commercial docks and consists of a Maritime museum which housed some wonderful large engines, steam engines and generators etc. other attractions were Techniquet, which is a large building with scientific displays, a life-boat, a lightship, a large red brick building with beautiful carvings which I thought resembled a church, but turned out to be the administration building for the old docks, there was also a splendid white wooden church which was built for Norwegian sailors that visited the docks, this was now used as a coffee shop so a few of us popped in for a coffee and a natter.

At lunchtime most of us headed for Harry Ramsdens for fish and chips, well I've heard so many wonderful reports about this famous chippy I was really looking forward to a real treat, well what a let down, they were no better than most, and worst than some I've had in the past, the only thing different about them was the price, rather expensive. Anyway the seagulls enjoyed them. We were blessed with good weather all day, yet back home on the Mendips it had rained all day. We left Cardiff at 4.30 and headed for the new bridge again and arrived at the Old Down about 1½ hours later. This had been a very enjoyable day in very good company and those members who did not come this time you should definitely give it some thought next year.

B.J.B.

## \*\*\*\* AUGUST MEETING - SLIDE SHOW \*\*\*\*

At the August meeting of the Club held at The Old Down Inn members were entertained to a slide show by our Chairman, Brian. This consisted of many slides of engines and tractors taken at the Tatton Park 1000 engines show, it portrayed many engines that we never see in this part of the country, the engines and tractors were restored to a very high standard and indeed were a credit to their owners. Next we saw some shots of this years our own rally at Semington which was quite interesting. After this followed scenes from John Kyte's garden party which is always a very interesting occasion to visit and can be fully recommended with much to be seen with John being such a wonderful character. This meeting was not quite so well supported possibly because it was brought forward a week to cope with the Bank Holiday, I think some people forget this. A good raffle was held with winners Bob Hallam - a basket of fruit, Mary Verrall - Wine and Roger Pike - tins of beer. Altogether a very entertaining evening.

RAY BAKER.

The task of newsletter distribution has been taken on by Mary Butler. Thank you very much Mary for volunteering for this important job. Mary already does the final typing and proof reading of the newsletter, so we all owe her a debt of gratitude.

ED.



## \*\*\*\* BURRINGTON VILLAGE FETE JULY 6TH \*\*\*\*

On Saturday afternoon with Brian and a few more Wessex Stationary Club members, we were invited to a village fete at Burrington House in the very pretty village of Burrington. The engine display scene was organised by Wessex member Brian Reed, about eight engines were on display. Burrington House is situated next to the village church and is a very beautiful building with very immaculately kept grounds including some very nice walled in gardens. This venue was kindly loaned to the village hall committee to hold the fete and raise money in aid of the village hall, I believe over a thousand pounds was raised for this cause, there was many stalls etc., including cake stalls, bric-a-brac, bottle tombolas, a whiskey raffle plus various other competitions. Our Chairman took home a bottle of whiskey plus a litre bottle of wine. At the conclusion of the fete all the helpers and exhibitors were invited to the herb garden at the rear of the house by the owner (a very hospitable gentleman to partake of a few glasses of wine, which was very well enjoyed by all making a good ending to a very nice afternoon).

RAY BAKER.

## \*\*\*\*\* EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

- SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER - Mendip Crank-Up and Car Boot Sale at the Mendip Inn Garage on the A37 Nr. Oakhill. From 9.30 am onwards. Also grand raffle. For details contact Roger Pike on (01761) 233028 or Ivor Cox on (01275) 870269.
- SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER - Wessex Club Social Evening. Skittles, ploughmans supper, grand raffle, all Wessex members welcome at Cheddar Football Club. 8 pm onwards. Contact Jackie Lambert on (01373) 463526.
- MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER - Club night at The Old Down Inn. Talk by Julie Dexter - Social History of North Somerset.
- WANTED - Instruction book for Coventry Victor air cooled twin model AN4. Also spares book and any information.  
Instruction book and spares manual for Norman air cooled twin model T 600 mk 1.  
Ring 01749 342671.
- WANTED - The following 'Stationary Engine' magazines.  
1974 - No's 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.  
1975 - No's 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.  
1976 - No's 23, 24, 28, 31, 34.  
Ring 01458 210929.
- FOR SALE - Lister CS Diesel. Model 3/1. On a trolley with rubber wheels and turntable front axle, with cooling tank. In as found condition.  
Ring Mr. Millar on 01793 740711. Swindon Area.
- FOR SALE - Petter A. Serial Number 1520987. £40. Lister DH. Serial No. 1/26965. - £50. Both in good running order and complete.  
Bench 5 x 3, metal frame inc drawer, wooden top, laminated beech two inches thick. Originally supplied by US to BMEWS site at fylingdales. - £30.  
Clark hand winch and pulleys, 3 spools, US military origin - £25.  
Ring Norman Hodnett on 01249 720007. Chippenham Area.
- FOR SALE - Cement Mixer, Benford 1½ bag size, with 1935 Lister 'D' engine.  
Ring Michael Knight on 01373 832578. Corsley Nr. Frome area.  
Petrol and Water Tanks made to your pattern or specification at very reasonable prices.  
Ring Edward or Gloria on 01458 210929. Street area.