

# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

## NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 1997

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### \*\*\*\*\* EDITORIAL \*\*\*\*\*

At the recent Stanton Drew Steam Up a stationary engine exhibitor was with his engine when he was approached by a member of the public who claimed he recognised the engine on display as one that had been stolen from him some time in the past. The upshot of this allegation was that the Police were called, they arrived mob handed and took the engine from the engine line up, and took it into Police custody while they investigated the complaint, as they would require it for evidence. It transpired that the engine exhibitor had purchased the engine from a private seller at the Fairfield auction. If indeed it is proven the engine was stolen at some stage this means the present "owner" has no legal title to this engine, and will not only lose the engine but also whatever sum of money he paid for it in the first place, as legal title will pass to his accuser. I can only impress on all members when buying an engine, make sure you obtain a signed and dated receipt from the vendor. Also all engines should have details such as engine numbers and other identifying details recorded, also a good colour photograph as well, these details could then always be used to identify your engines should they ever be stolen and later subject to litigation over proof of ownership.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

With this years rally season now drawing to a close we can reflect on what a mixed up season it has been. One of the wettest summers since records began and also one of the hottest on record. We were very lucky with our own rally in June because it rained most weekends leading up to it, and it certainly rained most weekends afterwards. I went this year for the first time to the Open Day at Wroughton in Wiltshire, it absolutely poured nearly all day on the Saturday, and I almost decided to pack up and go home, however I decided to stay and as it turned out I'm glad I did because on the Sunday it was bright and sunny with vast crowds everywhere. One of my favourite rallies is South Somerset Club's 'Yesterdays Farming', this year they were very lucky because the weather was brilliant, with plenty of exhibits and lots of general public. I had a good weekend because I won three cups with one engine. I took my Lister 'L' and H3 pump that hadn't seen the light of day for three years, I won the cup for the best restored Lister, the cup for the best Lister driving machinery, and a cup for the best vertical engine over 3½ hp. Three weeks later I exhibited at the Honiton Hill Rally, what a difference, it had rained most of the week before and the site was turned into a quagmire, every vehicle had to be towed in or out of the site by tractors, my Transit had to be towed across a sea of mud about eighteen inches deep, the steering had no effect in the mud at all, I just had to go wherever the tractor pulled me, however once in the engine line up the weekend wasn't to bad. I only hope the rest of the Autumn rallies are blessed with better weather, especially the Cox Brothers Full Quart Rally which is usually a brilliant day out.

**\*\*\*CLUB SHOP\*\*\*** For the benefit of new members and to remind the old ones, items the club has for sale includes mugs and cups, key rings, pens, badges, etc. etc. Also we are placing an order for sweatshirts in the following sizes, small, medium, large and extra large, these are in Navy Blue with the club logo in red - Price £16.95. Anyone requiring to place an order please contact Charlie Stephens on Wells 01749 674819.

LACKHAM COUNTRY ATTRACTIONS - LACOCK, WILTS.

Grandparents, if you are looking for somewhere to take the grandchildren that will provide interest for you as well, why not try Lackham Country Attractions. We arrived there with three young grandchildren just about opening time, and found a shady place to park in the large car park. Free car parking and a very modest entrance fee gets the outing off to a good start. The first big decision - what to look at first. The children are undecided between the animals and the adventure playground. Granma wants to look at the gardens and Grandad the vintage farm machinery collections. It was decided to go for a walk, past the animal pens along the river bank and back through the parkland to the playground before lunch. The rare breeds caused much interest and excitement, feeding the sheep and goats, watching the pigs and piglets wallowing in the mud, stroking the ponies and avoiding the attention of the Rheas. We found some strategically well placed seats in the playground where we could watch some surplus energy being used up. After a picnic lunch we walked down to the cafe to purchase ice creams, and then realised that they do offer a very reasonable lunch menu. A very pleasant walk through the rose garden, pass the embryonic maze, to discover the Rupert Bear garden complete with play house. Another little sit down for us to admire the scenery while the children explored this novelty. We couldn't put it off any longer, back to the barns which house the vintage machinery, tractors, farm carts, farming implements, mowers, engines, a smithy and a dairy. This took some time to view but we did manage a quick look at the vegetable gardens on the way back to the car park. They were well stocked with a large selection of crops. Returning home we all decided it was a very good day out and one that we all would like to repeat.

MARGARET SIMMONS.

\*\*\*\*\* FUTURE EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

4TH & 5TH OCTOBER - JOHN KYTE'S GARDEN RALLY held at Market Lavington, Nr. Devizes, Wiltshire.

ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENING AND SKITTLE MATCH. The annual skittle match and social evening that proved to be so successful last year will be held at the Cheddar Football Club on Saturday 11th October. As usual there will be a ploughmans type supper laid on, and we shall be running our usual raffle. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Jackie Lambert on Frome 01373 463526 as we wish to know how many to cater for. Anyone wishing to donate prizes for the raffle please bring them along on the night.

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER - Dean Forest Railway Road & Rail Show. It's a great day out.

CLUB NIGHT - MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER. 8.00 pm. Talk by our old friend Joe Powell on his past experience running an engineering works.

ANTI-FREEZE CRANK UP AT THE OLD DOWN INN CAR PARK. SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER. Make an effort, bring along an engine. Also bring along bits and pieces for bring and buy.

MINCE PIE CRANK UP ON SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER AT NASH'S TIMBER YARD, EVERCREECH JUNCTION. NR. SHEPTON MALLET. Everyone welcome. Free food and hot drinks all day. Grand raffle. Turn up, preferably with an engine, it will be your last chance of a crank up this year.

FOR SALE - NEW RELEASE. POWER OF THE PAST. The latest video from Knight-Macaire. Features the engines in the Ed. Bolton collection of early British and American stationary engines, many of which have never been seen on the rally field. Now available from Patrick Knight, 10 Upper Elms Road, Aldershot, Hampshire. GU11 3ET. Priced at £15.95 plus £1.00 Postage. STATIONARY ENGINE REVIEW BY PATRICK KNIGHT. This new publication covers a wide selection of engines from the Lenoir to the Lister 'D' type. Chapters include early days, early oil engines, unsuccessful pioneers, horizontal farm type engines and American engines. This book is a must for all stationary engine enthusiasts from the experienced collector to the novice. It contains 166 illustrations of which 129 are in colour. Available from Patrick Knight, address as above. PRICED AT £17.50 plus £2.00 postage. As a special offer if the book and video are ordered together the postage is £2.00

The Newsletter Editor always welcomes material for this publication, rally reports, adverts, auction reports, diary dates, hints and tips, restoration reports, recent acquisitions, etc., in fact anything of interest to our members.

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SITUATIONS VACANT - The committee are looking for someone to run and look after the club shop. This entails bringing the goods along to the monthly meetings and events and selling the items to our members, yes its as simple as that. If you are interested and would like to do your bit for the club please contact me on 01749 342671.

## \*\*\*\*\* THE COMMITTEE PAST AND PRESENT \*\*\*\*\*

Little is ever mentioned in the newsletter about the committee of the club and what they do for the club, in fact it must seem to some people as a secret service, this is definitely not so. Since the club was formed over twenty years ago it has been served by a very good hard working group of members, especially the various Presidents and Chairmen who have carried out sterling work to bring the club to what it is today. We must never forget the work the ordinary committee members, and particularly the ladies that so ably carry out the duties of Secretary and Treasurer, they are a very valuable asset to the club. Some of the duties carried out by the committee are fixing up the speakers etc for the monthly meetings, arranging the annual rally, and various crank ups, club visits and skittle match etc. And please remember the committee is there to serve the members, so do not hesitate to approach any member with any query you may have.

THANKING YOU, RAY BAKER.

CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN - AUGUST 18TH.

The August meeting of The Wessex Stationary Engine Club took the form of a quiz, consisting of sixty questions mostly on matters concerning stationary engines. The questions were compiled by our Chairman Brian Baker who also acted as question master. Unfortunately only about fifteen members were present, this was probably because the meeting was a week early owing to the bank holiday the following weekend. Before the quiz started the question master stated that if anyone wanted to collaborate together they could, this suited me as I was acting as timekeeper for the questions so I was able to collaborate with my brother Colin who was sat next to me. The questions were very varied and some had most members baffled. Some such questions were what engines were made in Bristol? Bath? Trowbridge? Taunton? Poole? Frome? and Bridport? this caused quite a few members to think hard. When the quiz ended the count was made and Colin Baker had won with 45 points and my help. He won a bottle of whisky, but without giving me a sip he handed it to the Chairman to auction for club funds, this was bought after brisk bidding by Rob Armstrong. The highest ladies prize which was a five pound note was won by Mrs. Francis Armstrong (well done). After a very good raffle with seven prizes on offer the meeting came to a close, it was a very enjoyable evening with quite a few good laughs, at one stage the Chairman stated he was up until midnight composing the questions, one member was heard to say, its a pity he didn't go to bed at eight o'clock we may have had a few easier questions.

RAY BAKER.

## THE MARKET PLACE.

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- FOR SALE - 1920 Fairbanks Morse. 6 hp. On original trolley. OFFERS.  
 1926 Amanco 2½ hp. LT. OFFERS.  
 Stuart R2 2 Stroke Pump Set. Complete with Stuart Pump on cast base and wheels. OFFERS.  
 Wolseley WD 11. On trolley. - £65.  
 Baby Winnower and Grain Cleaner in working order. On wheels. Looks good when working. Needs varnishing. No reasonable offer refused.  
 Lister DK. 1½ hp. Running order. On trolley, with base for pump - £70.  
 Large Godwin pump. £30.  
 RING ALAN ON 01380 830344. (WESTBURY, WILTS. AREA)
- FOR SALE - Large Frame Tent. Good Condition. £30. Ring 01749 342671. Shepton Mallet.
- FOR SALE - 1952 Ferguson TE20. T.V.O. Tractor. With High-Low ratio gearbox. A/hitch. Restored. Very tidy. £650. Ring Michael on 01373 826196.

## \*\*\*\* SERVICES \*\*\*\*

IN NEED OF HELP? CALL ALAN BARTLETT ON 01380 830344 FOR ENGINEERING REPAIRS. TURNING. MILLING. THREADING. KEYWAY CUTTING. BRASS BUSHES ETC MADE. PARTS REPAIRED AND MADE. NO JOB TOO SMALL. MATERIALS SUPPLIED IF REQUIRED.

## \*\*\*\* SERVICES \*\*\*\*

PETROL TANKS. WATER TANKS. OIL TANKS. ENGINE COWLINGS, SPLASH GUARDS, ETC. MADE TO YOUR PATTERNS OR DRAWINGS. VERY REASONABLE PRICES. GOOD QUALITY WORKMANSHIP. RING FOR DETAILS ON 01458 210929. (STREET AREA).



STANTON DREW STEAM UP.

What a weekend. Bigger and better than ever. The weather was fantastic, the rally can only be called a 'Mini Stourpaine', with some 37 traction engines, 13 of which were in steam on the Saturday night, their lights shining against a perfect sky, a larger than ever fair was in full swing, the big wheel was going around when we arrived on Friday evening and never stopped all weekend. Some 16,000 people passed through the gates not counting the thousands who were exhibiting at the show. The tractors and working engines were in a field ploughing all weekend, there were a gypsy encampment, birds of prey, 8 miniature steam engines, 7 organs, 132 tractors, 72 commercial vehicles, 8 buses and coaches, 80 stationary engines, 56 military vehicles, 149 cars, 22 of which were from the Rolls Royce Club, and 80 motorcycles. The model hall exhibited 22 displays of life like models including boats which took it in turns of being shown outside in a big pool. There was a excellent craft hall and many more side shows to numerous to mention. Both days were brought to a close with 10 hot air balloons taking to the skies, and then the evenings got under way with the fair, a group called 'Absolutly Mayhem' playing in the main hall where the bar was very busy, rumour has it that the beer barrels were changed every 11 minutes. The food stand was busy from 8 am with breakfasts until the early hours, and on Saturday had roasted 7 pigs and cooked 500 lb of chips, and had lost count of how many sausages and burgers. Further up the field was "Arts Cider Bar" where many gathered for a bite to eat and have a drink and have a good sing song to the variety of music played once again by a superb float from the Bristol Water Board. The whole weekend was hot, busy and enjoyable, a must for anyones calendar. Oh I nearly forgot, on Sunday afternoon a Swordfish Biplane flew over and gave us a fantastic display, a world war two plane from Yeovilton. I'm sure I've forgotten lots of things but sure to have whetted some appetites for a visit next year.

LINDA PIKE.

\*\*\* GET WELL WISHES \*\*\*

Unfortunately on Saturday evening at Stanton Drew the military steward Eddie Gore was taken ill and rushed to the R.U.H. in Bath where he spent quite a few days in intensive care. He is now home but waiting to undergo more tests. Many rally goers will know Eddie from the Selwood Rally at Rode where he and his wife Carol are committee members and the main organisers. We wish you a speedy recovery Eddie.

LINDA AND ROGER PIKE. EVE AND IVOR COX.

WANTED - 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.

PLEASE PHONE 01458 210929. (STREET AREA)

MARK HARVEST HOME.

Mark Harvest Home is a village celebration for a successful harvest that has taken place for centuries. A parade followed by a gigantic feast in a huge marquee, with sideshows and entertainment going on all day. A very nice day with lots of people looking at the engines and other exhibits, there were seven engines, twelve motorcycles and eight tractors, plenty of good food and drink given in the afternoon, and a very nice plaque.

SHEPPY'S CIDER AND CRAFT FAYRE.

JULY 26/27TH. A very nice site in the apple orchards, a lot to see and do, a museum that will take you a few hours to look around, a lot of craft stalls in the barns, horse and cart rides, a lot of stalls selling everything from cakes to pots and pans, plants, etc.

GLORIA CARP.

\*\*\*\* WEDDING BELLS \*\*\*\*

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The Wessex Club would like to extend their congratulations to Edward John and Leslie Ann Carp on their recent marriage. Their transport from the church to the wedding reception venue several miles away was a steam driven vehicle and carriage, this caused quite a stir in their village as nothing like this had been seen before, the press were there in force to record the event for posterity. Edward and Leslie we all wish you all the happiness in the future and hope you have a long and happy marriage.