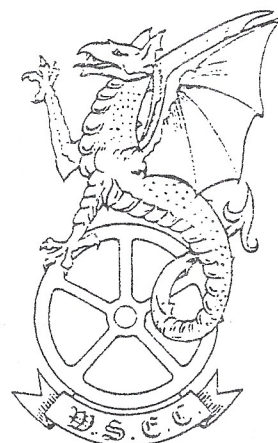


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

SEPTEMBER 2003

*The Editor : Brian Baker
27 Wickham Way
SHEPTON MALLET
Somerset BA4 5YG
Tel: 01749 342671*

NEWSLETTER



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******* EDITORIAL *******

You will see from the Chairman's report that the committee is disappointed at the lack of interest in some of the events and visits we plan. These events and visits are discussed and planned by the committee which only consists of about ten people from a total membership of over 350 members, we seldom get any suggestions or ideas from the members, so we do not know what you really want, or would like in the annual programme. I would therefore appeal to members to let us know if you have any suggestions of any venues or events that would be of interest and would benefit the members, and would make a worthwhile visit. I'll look forward to hearing from you as we are at present compiling the programme of events for 2004.

******* CHAIRMANS REPORT *******

I quite often think I am wasting my time attending committee meetings to discuss plans for events and visits for members to attend. Those thoughts were confirmed when I attended a planned visit only to find that only six members could be bothered to turn up. I refer to the planned visit to Haynes Motor Museum at Sparkford. This visit was well publicised in the News Letter and in the annual programme, which everyone of you received so where the hell were you? These visits will suffer the same fate as the coach trips, "if you don't use them, you will lose them". As a matter of interest Haynes Motor Museum is without a shadow of a doubt the finest collection of vehicles in the country, over 350 superbly presented exhibits including one I restored over 15 years ago, plus numerous motorcycles including a section devoted to vintage speedway bikes, truly a wonderful collection of veteran, vintage, classic and modern motors. You do not know what you missed. With the rally season now coming to an end there will be no rally reports to keep the newsletter going through the dark winter months, so if you have any snippets of information, birthdays anniversaries, restorations, recent purchases or finds please forward them on to me to try and keep the newsletter interesting during the months ahead. Nearly every month we read of a member passing on and this is why it is extremely important to encourage any youngster who shows an interest in our hobby to take their place. I have recently given two of our junior members an engine, I was absolutely amazed when the day after I had given one of them a Lister "D" he rang me to say he had got it running, and I could hear it doing just that over the phone, this was despite all the governor mechanism being seized up when I gave it to him. So encourage and assist any young member taking an interest in our hobby, they are our future.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to The Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Mr and Mrs P Riley from Longwell Green Bristol and Mr and Mrs R Savage from Westbury On Trym Bristol. We hope your membership will be a long and happy one.

CRANK-UP AT BRIAN FEARS GARAGE OAKHILL SUNDAY 31st AUGUST 2003

Every year it amazes me how much manages to fit into the one small field this crank-up is held in. This year, there were 26 engines on display, plus bootsale stalls, motorbikes, cars, table exhibits and tractors. The engines were, as always varied. The full range of engines were on display, from a Stuart Turner A2T 88cc, to the Fairbanks-Morse Type 'Z' 1 ½ hp and the Ingeco open crank oil engine. Also on display was a 1903 ½ hp Stewart Major sheep shearing set. This engine will run for two hours on two tablespoons of petrol. Other exhibits included a display of telegraph and power-pole insulators from countries such as Australia, Sweden, Holland and the Czech Republic, a case full of various weird and wonderful spark plugs, and an OO gauge model-railway layout. 6 tractors including 3 Massey Fergusons lined up on display on one side of the field, whilst in the opposite corner, there were 11 motor cycles, with models from names such as BSA, AJS, and Triumph on display. Club member Kim Siddorn displayed an interesting piece of metal from his collection. It is the cylinder from a 1938 9 cyl radial Bristol Pegasus Mk XV 111 aero engine. The cylinder has a 5 ½" bore and a 6" stroke and was originally part of the port engine of a Wellington bomber. The bomber crashed in the Brecon Beacons in 1940 or 1941. It was returning from a night bombing raid over Holland, and, having flown the breadth of England, had become completely lost. The radio had taken damage, and could not transmit, but not receive. Those on the ground knew where the plane was but could not help the pilot. The Brecon Beacons has many steep-sided glacial valleys, and the pilot inadvertently flew into one of these. As he saw the steep rock face at the end of the valley, he pulled hard to starboard. The fuselage and the port wing cleared but the starboard wing struck the hillside, burying the starboard engine deep in the scree face, and scattering the plane across the valley, killing all the crew. Up until recently, there were still pieces of the plane lying on the hillside. On a more humorous note now, a local press photographer visited in the afternoon, and decided to take a picture of a certain member's engine. She asked permission, and also if the owners would stand behind the engine in the photo. He refused, saying he had a police record (or was camera shy), and so Don Rogers, Tony Davis, Roger and Linda Pike all stood round to have their photograph taken with an engine which belonged to none of them! Roger and Linda also thanked all exhibitors for attending. A special mention must go to Don Rogers, who managed to pack all the exhibits into the small space available. Perhaps Don was a sardine packer in an earlier life? After counting up the money in the churns, and taking from the Clic stall and the bootsellers, the grand sum of £438-95 was raised for Clic. Thanks to those who attended for making it a great crank-up and a great success for Clic.

JONATHON HOCKEDY
WSEC JUNIOR REPORTER.

PS. The organisers would like to remind club members that it is "entries only" next year.

***** THE CLUTTON SHOW ***** AUGUST 9th - 10th 2003

What a splendid event! Anyone who didn't go to the show or take part in it missed a real treat. We felt we must write to congratulate and commend all who arranged the lay-out and setting up of the display. It was a pleasure to see the stationary Engines taking pride of place, instead of being tucked away in a corner, like poor relations, as they are at so many shows. The weather was beautiful, which was a bonus. It was a shame that the boot sale had so few stalls – in fact only one turned up, but despite that it was a wonderful weekend. Unfortunately due to Ralph's ill health, we were unable to bring an engine along as we usually do, but we did manage to attend for an hour to admire it all and wish we could stay longer before having to go home. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we shall be able to participate in next year's show. In the meantime – well done all.

From **Christine and Ralph Crisp.**

Thank you Christine and Ralph for those kind words, it isn't very often members take the trouble to praise the committee as you have. The engines were, to quote you, taking "pride of place" because since I have been Chairman my policy has always been we are a stationary engine club and the engines must be given priority on the rally field. I'm glad you were pleased, thank you.

Editor.

OBITUARYS

To write an obituary and inform our members that one of us has died is never an easy job, on this occasion it is even harder, Reg Butler from Trowbridge, a long term member and a good friend to many of us passed away on Tuesday 2nd September following a relatively short illness. To many who knew Reg this sad news will be a shock.

Only in last months newsletter you will have read a report of his holiday in Scotland with his wife Mary. On his way south from Scotland they both attended and had an enjoyable three days at Astle Park Rally, a favourite show of Reg's, where with other club members including Jackie and myself we all enjoyed each others company. After the show we had the pleasure of sharing a weeks holiday in Hertfordshire before returning home.

It was shortly after returning home that Reg began to feel unwell. Eventually this led to him being admitted to hospital where he sadly passed away. Those who knew Reg will always remember him as a quiet unassuming man, kind and gentle with a lovely sense of humour, he would love a bit of leg pulling and banter, and his death has left void in the lives of all who knew him well, we will miss him so much. Our thoughts go out to Mary, Stephen and Carol.

The day after writing Reg's obituary Jackie received another sad telephone call, this time from Viv Randall to say that her husband Fred had passed away, on Wednesday 3rd September.

Fred had been a club member for many years and was very well known amongst our membership, in particular for his stationary engine exhibits at the early Stourpaine rallies, which he supported right up until ill health stopped him exhibiting around two years ago, but he still managed to attend his favourite shows by rallying a Tiger Cub Motorcycle, which was less strenuous than a stationary engine. At our last Cheddar Rally Fred kindly donated an engine to be raffled, the proceeds going to club funds.

About one year ago Viv and Fred moved from Mere to Gillingham to a smaller home that would be less demanding regarding gardens and maintenance. Many of us will have fond memories of Fred and will miss his presence on the rally field. Our condolences go out to Viv and their family.

ROBIN

***** THE MARKET PLACE *****

FOR SALE Ruston Hornsby PB 3 ½ hp. On trolley, ready to rally. £250. Petter "M" 1 ½ hp. Tank cooled. On trolley. £350. Lister Junior 3hp. On trolley. Needs new piston rings. £100. Lister "D" on original Lister D trolley. £150. Wolseley WD 1 ½ hp. Smooth Hopper. On trolley £125. Domestic water pump on a trolley £60. For further details ring John on 01278 780513. Highbridge area. After 7 pm.

WANTED Amanco No 2 water pump parts. Required – Valve Covers, Drive Pulley, Valves, plus odds and ends, would consider complete pump. Thought to be the same as climax Pump. If you can help ring Andy on 01749 812598.

WANTED Is there any club member who can help me with information about a Lister H1 water pump. Such as where spare parts i.e. seals and possibly a service manual may be available. If you can help please ring mike on 01225 448929.

WANTED Would the person who left the rally site at Brian Fears Garage on August 31st, just after me, and picked up my trolley handle, (it's green with a brass top) please ring Tony on 01373 464982

***** MENDIP MEYHEM *****
AUGUST 31st 2003

Well what can I say, this rally just gets better than ever. The sun shone for us again and the field soon filled to capacity. The first car booter arriving at a quarter to seven! Thanks to Don we soon had every corner filled with engines, tractors, motorbikes, cars, collections, exhibits Clic stall, car boots and of course the ever growing raffle. A huge thanks to Brian and Mary, with help from Shirley who collected a massive £219 on the raffle. With tickets I had sold earlier the raffle raised £247-50. Thank you guys. The churn proves to be a good idea as a steady stream of visitors put in £132-69 donations during the day. Don and Chris have had a churn out all the rally season and handed me £72-50. This is excellent, thank you both. Ivor handed me £27 from his Clic box, thank you Ivor. The Clic stall raised £34-26. Thank you to Chris, Rose and Ev. A grand total of £558-45 was counted at the end of the day. Thank you to everyone involved in anyway, and to all who exhibited and gave raffle prizes. Rallies, crank-up's etc are getting to involve more "red tape" than they used to, with insurance being a major factor. Roger and I decided we would take out public liability insurance. Last year we donated the insurance at a cost of £105. This year the insurance was up to £159-60. Whilst we are happy to cover some of the cost we felt this was rather a lot for one day. Therefore we have taken £100 from the total to cover some of the cost, plus £20 towards the advertising. It's a shame we had to do this but we trust you will all understand. After expenses the total sum sent to Clic was £438-95. A brilliant donation. During the day we had free coverage from the press. The Shepton Journal came and took photo's and interviews, and the afternoon saw The Somerset Guardian doing the same. Thanks to all who took part, and lastly a huge thank you to Brian Fear who lets us use his field, and thanks to Ray who helped Roger see the many cars into the car park safely. We look forward to next year which will be Rogers and my 10th year!

LINDA and ROGER PIKE

***** EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY *****

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4th. Club Skittle Match and Social Evening at Hansons Social Club at Hapsford Nr Frome. 8pm onwards. Supper available of Fish and Chips or Chicken and Chips at £2-80, which must be pre-ordered by ringing Tony or Diane on 01373 464982. If you don't fancy fish or chicken bring your own picnic supper. The usual grand raffle, prizes for the raffle would be appreciated.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11th. NEW EVENT. Cheddar Valley Preservation Club's Autojumble at Winchester Farm Cheddar. 8am onwards. Stalls £5. Buyers £1. For details ring Colin Nicholson on 01934 743411. This event is not to be confused with the WSEC Sortout which has moved to a new venue.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25th. WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB "SORTOUT" at East Somerset Railway, Cranmore, Nr Shepton Mallet. 9am start. Pitches £5. Buyers £1. Refreshments and Toilets.

MONDAY OCTOBER 27th. Club night at the Old Down Inn. Guest Speaker - Eric Brain, an illustrated history of the Bristol Wagon and Carriage Works. Come early if you want a seat as Eric always attracts a large audience. The usual very popular raffle for club funds.

GETTING BETTER

Marg Appleby, who took a tumble while on holiday in Cornwall is making good progress and will soon be leaving Frome Victoria hospital to return home. Marg tripped over a cobbled stone pavement in Falmouth and broke a bone in her shoulder, and bruising her back, leg and hip area making it difficult to walk. She was taken to most hospitals in Cornwall, (Falmouth, Truro and Helston), before being brought back to Frome a week later. By the time she reads this she should be in fine fettle and keeping Bill in order. Best wishes to Marg from all of us.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

The club would like to wish a very happy birthday to Don Rogers who reaches the big 60 on Oct 2nd, also a very happy birthday to his son William who is 18 on Oct 6th, the very best birthday wishes to both of you from all of us.