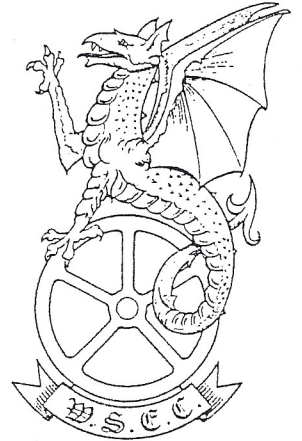


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

SEPTEMBER 2005

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NEWSLETTER



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

I was horrified to read Gordon Wright's editorial in the current copy of The Stationary Engine Magazine. He was referring to the Lister Tyndale Rally at North Nibley where the organisers had to take down the engine pens they had put up with the customary posts and double roping, these had to be replaced with metal crowd control barriers that lock into each other. This was on the whim of some jumped up official from the Health and Safety Dept of Stroud District Council. With this type of barrier it is impossible to take photographs of the engines, or for the exhibitors to get in or out of the pens. God forbid that this will become the normal format for rallies of the future. I commend the exhibitors who refused to be penned in like this and promptly went home, if I had been exhibiting at this rally I would have been one of them. These Health and Safety rules and regulations have gone completely over the top, when school children are prevented from doing knitting in case they harm themselves on the needles, and kids are stopped from playing conkers the world has gone completely mad. The normal practise of putting in sturdy posts and double roping them has served the WSEC and other clubs all over the country for the past thirty years without incident or accident. I would like to give this advice to all WSEC members, do not get out of bed in the mornings – it is too risky. Have a nice day.

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

One of the most enjoyable evenings I have spent for a long time was on the barbeque at Fred Biggs field next to the Court Hotel on the 17th August. Fred certainly done us proud, he had set up a barbeque, a skittle alley, a root cutter which rotated with numbered tennis balls in it and was a theme on the lottery. People were asked to bring their own food to cook on the barbeque and this certainly was popular, with a varied assortment of meats sizzling away. Every one who attended had a brilliant evening, with super weather and entertainment. I would like to thank Fred and his wife for their wonderful hospitality in a brilliant setting. I would like to think Fred will make this an annual event. Another very successful event was Derek Hardwick's "VE" day on Sept 3rd. The "VE" stood for Victoria Engines, and Derek managed to get 31 Victoria's on display, a truly wonderful sight. On behalf of the club I would like to convey thanks to Derek and his wife for the wonderful hospitality extended to all who attended. The crank-up at Camerton in aid of the Babe Appeal and organised by Tony and Diana Davis saw a good selection of engines exhibited and quite a good sum collected for the charity, it is certainly a good site, with the village hall serving food and drinks. The last event I attended was the crank-up at Wookey Farm Shop organised by club member Steve Baker, this was much better attended this year with a good selection of engines exhibited. Steve had a mobile caterer on site who did a really good bacon roll. A raffle rounded up what was a very enjoyable day. These crank-up's are very popular due to their laid back atmosphere without any hassle, roll on the next one.

FOR SALE Epsom Stylus 760 Printer. Complete with cables, installation software and manuals. New black cartridge just installed, new colour cartridge still in the box. Excellent condition. Has printed this newsletter for the past year. £ 30. Ring 01749 342671 for further details.

THE WEST OF ENGLAND 50TH ANNIVERSARY RALL AT ST. AGNES, CORNWALL 19TH – 21ST AUGUST 2005

This was a very special year for the West of England Steam Engine Society as it was to be their biggest and best yet with over 100 steam engines entered in the programme

A huge investment of £80,000 was needed to put this on and I am sure that in the back of their minds was the terrible weather that washed out the show last year and caused all the devastation to the tiny village of Boscastle not too far away along the coast.

The weather this year was to be in the shows favour and although I never arrived at the show until Saturday morning I am told that the steam road run took place on the Thursday from the show site to Porthtowan then up Engine Hill which is very steep and a good place to take photographs and video's with a break being taken at the Victory Pub no doubt for pasty's and a pint, then returning to the field.

This year a huge 90 page programme was produced and when turning to the Stationary Engine list there was a nice picture of a 5hp Powell owned by Wessex member Mike Snook, Mike also took the Powell along this year. Around 20 W.S.E.C. members exhibited at the show including Torquay member David Hallett who had his 1940's Norman – Alco twin cylinder engine generating 24 volts. David told me it was used for aircraft battery charging during WW2. Club members took a nice selection of engines ranging from Amanco's, Ruston & Hornsby's, Fairbanks, United, and an Eagle. Once again the engines were in pens surrounded by metal barriers which to me seemed very strange at first, but I did find it useful to lean on when chatting to the public about my exhibit

Looking around the fairground there was a Wall of Death for the motor cycle minded and this is believed to be the only ride of it's type still on tour and last year the organising Society issued a challenge to engineers and enthusiasts to construct a steam powered motor-cycle that could be ridden around the wall and I am told that this actually happened and I believe the prize money for achieving this was £2000 so someone went home very happy with their prize.

10 steam cars were here on show with makes such as Stanley, White, and Locomobile. I often think that when these cars were on the road in their heyday they must have been a nightmare for pedestrians crossing roads as if you did not see it you certainly would not have heard it as they ran so quiet.

The model and craft tent was once again almost bursting to the seams packed with models of all descriptions from railway and road locomotives, boats, model stationary engines, model wartime villages in France to a huge dockyard crane made from Meccano. Seeing the models made me wish I had kept my Meccano. The craft side of the marquee was very good, what gifted people there are creating allsorts of unusual items made from all kinds of materials. Situated in the field were 6 long rows of stalls, something here for everyone, plenty of food vans, and the ice cream sellers did well in the fine weather. Alan Connock and the road gang were here in attendance and drew a lot of interest from visiting public and in addition to their normal set up they had a large stone crusher operating that was powered by a traction engine. (Their Jack Russell came too and spent the weekend with his head down a hole !!) To sum up this was a great weekend our thanks to engine steward Chris Leverton for looking after us so well, he's been doing this job for 27 years, long may he continue.

ROBIN

BBQ at FRED'S FIELD WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST

The evening commenced at around 6pm, it was a glorious evening, warm, dry, and sunny. Martin lit the BBQ, by 6-45pm we were able to cook. Out came the steak, pork chops, sausages and burgers. All cooked to perfection! The perfect setting was the icing on the cake, Fred had made a real effort to create a perfect evening. Tables set up, and straw bales to sit on. Brian had provided some prizes for a raffle, and donations were given too, Fred provided a superb box of home grown vegetables. The highlight had to be the lottery, Fred's root cutter filled with numbered tennis balls, 50p a go, and money back in prizes, this was hilarious for Henry, Max and Oliver who took turns to push the handle around. We then had skittles, prizes for the top Lady, Man, and Child scorer. What a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all who turned up! Thanks Fred for providing such a wonderful setting!

ANDREA FEENEY

CLUTTON 2005

James had been pestering me for weeks reminding me that the annual rally would soon be upon us. So time to stop watching TV and get out in the garage! It's quite surprising how paint and general condition deteriorates over a short space of time. This meant that I was going to miss more TV than I thought. What with painting, overhauling both water pumps and changing oil etc on James Lister D, time marched on. We had finished most things when I dropped one of the pumps and split the wooden base, so off to my dads for another one. He had some, but it was thinner, he gave us two pieces with the intention of joining them together. James also has a Wilsco stationary steam engine with a saw bench which he wanted to bring to the rally. Before I had a chance to use the wood he had mounted his Wilsco and saw bench on one piece? Luckily I managed to use the other piece on the pump. With the van loaded the night before, we headed off to the rally. Once on site, we were unsure where to go. Another exhibitor told us to look out for a man with a yellow jacket and a floppy hat! We soon found Eric. He showed us where to go and soon we unloaded and set up. The Lister and pumps were running well, James only just managed to get his Wilsco running as the wind had started getting up. We soon found out why as it then started to rain. A quick dash with tools etc back to the van but we left the Lister going. After all the hard work by us getting the engine ready and the club preparing the site, rain was an unwelcome sight. However, you have to make the best you can of the situation so I then went to sleep. James did not let this go on for too long as he got out the van's user manual and started asking questions. We were pleased with the Lister and pumps. They ran all the time we were there during all the rain. I suppose this is what they were really designed to do. It is not always easy to borrow the van as James grandpa normally uses it to go to golf, but it was good that we could support this year's club rally. As we had travelled some way to be there, we stayed on for the BBQ. It was good to see it being well supported by over 70 people. It made the day worthwhile when James' name was called out to receive the best Junior engine on show. Something he really was not expecting, even better when I won two prizes in the draw. Thanks must go to everyone who made us very welcome and all the people involved in organising this year's club rally, without these dedicated people, our hobby would be no more.

STEVE & JAMES BAILEY

******* EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR *******

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8th Social and skittles evening at Butler & Tanner's Social Club Frome. 7-30 onwards. This is a very popular event with the chance to have a natter and a drink without the hassle of looking after an engine. After a game of skittles we have a supper of fish and chips or chicken and chips which must be ordered beforehand by ringing Tony or Diana on 01373 464982. The evening would not be complete without our usual raffle, we would appreciate any gifts of prizes. If you do not wish to use your fingers please bring your own cutlery.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22nd Winter Sortout at Cranmore Railway Station. 8am onwards. Stalls still only£5. Buyers £1. The station café will be open for food and drinks. Lets have a good turnout of buyers and sellers to make this event the success it deserves. For further details ring 01749 342671.

MONDAY OCTOBER 31st Club night at the Old Down Inn. Guest speaker is Mr Les Davis giving a talk and slide show on The Mendip Hills and Surrounding Area. The usual raffle will be held, prizes would be appreciated.

CHARITY CRANK – UP AT CAMERTON **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11th**

A good turn out of club members on the day gave us 30 engines. Heavy storms on the Saturday and a damp start to the Sunday morning put off the boot sellers and public, plus only one lot of adverts in local papers do little to help, although other papers were notified of the event. To all club members who helped with setting out the field, running the raffle and charity stall, a special thanks. And with their help we managed to raise £134-81p for the Babe Appeal, this is the Children's Hospice South West Bristol. One other vote of thanks to Carol Galpin and her team for access to the hall and keeping up the supply of hot food and drinks.

Tony and Diana Davis

CLUB VISIT TO DERRICK HARDWICKE'S V.E.DAY AT RANGEWORTHY, Nr BRISTOL SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3rd of September was the date many of us had been waiting for, as once again Derrick had invited the Wessex S.E.C. along to view the Beechgrove Collection and Engine Museum. It was three years ago when we last visited this private collection and the welcome and hospitality that was extended to us by Derrick and his wife Margaret was very much appreciated.

Amongst Derrick's vast collection he has several Victoria engines manufactured by The Bristol Wagon & Carriage Works and he thought it would be a nice idea to invite Victoria owners to bring along their engines to display at the V.E. (Victoria Engines) day. I am told that there were 31 Victoria's displayed here ranging from 1½ to 7hp. This included a green one that was petrol/paraffin, surely this must have been a record having so many of this marque in one place at the same time.

There were other engines from the Beechgrove Collection running here too as Derrick and his friends moved from engine to engine starting them up. Many are lamp start and run on oil or gas, the oldest engine dating back to 1898. Around 50 engines make up the collection.

The latest eye catching exhibit that has just been installed is a 12hp Crossley Gas Engine single flywheel that was made in 1915, this engine actually found Derrick not the other way around and he has written a book on how all this came about and hopefully this may be serialised in the S.E Magazine, it will make fantastic reading as it tells us that there are still engines to be found in their original working locations. When Derrick installed the Crossley he first had to build a concrete plinth for the engine block and another for the outrigger bearing to sit on as the flywheel weighed around 1½ tons. When the engine was all reassembled a nice wood building was installed around it complete with tin roof and sliding patio doors for outside viewing, inside the building the engine ran so quite, just the occasional click and the piston whooshing to and fro along its cylinder.

Stationary Engine photographer and Wessex member Patrick Knight was busy taking photographs during the day so we may see one or two in the magazine. At the end of the day when things fell silent and the engine were loaded up for the journey home Derrick came around and thanked everyone for attending. A special thank you to him and Margaret for making us most welcome and John Rogers who was engine steward designate.

ROBIN

******* GET WELL SOON *******

The club would like to wish Gloria Carp a speedy recovery after recent surgery in Taunton hospital. Gloria was in a critical condition where they did not know if she would make it or not. Being the determined woman she is Gloria is still with us and now recovering at home. The club members wish you a speedy recovery Gloria and we all hope to see you soon at our events and meetings.

******* CONGRATULATIONS *******

The club would like to offer their congratulations to our Vice Chairman Eric and his wife Maureen on reaching their Ruby Wedding. (40 years) on Sunday 11th of September. This is quite an achievement of which you should be very proud. The club would like to extend all the best wishes for the future for you both, please let me know when the next 40 years are up so it can be mentioned in the newsletter.

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

FOR SALE 2 Lister hand shearing machines with clippers. 1 for sheep and 1 for horses. £40 each o.n.o. These can easily be dismantled to go in a car boot. Petter operation and parts book for types A1, A2, W1, W2. £3. Lister instruction book and parts list for types D & DK. £2. Old Stationary Engine Magazines 54 copies £20 the lot. For further details contact Mr P C Willan on 01934 516606. Worle area.

FOR SALE Metal Galvanised Trailer. 3' X 3' 6". Spare Wheel. Excellent condition. £120. Ring 01749 344115 for further details. Shepton Mallet Area.