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HEDDINGTON AND STOCKLEY RALLY 1982

Every year we see improvements made to this rally for both the exhibitors and the public. This year the field had been extended by removing a hedgerow and what a difference it made; a really nice layout, with exhibitors parked against the boundary hedge, a nice seven metre "in-out" roadway, and the engines and ropes. There is always a lot to see here and something for everyone; Jennings Fun Fair, Vintage Cars, Motor Bikes, Lorries, etc. and the usual ring events; but this year there was no auction. This proved a bit of a problem for many people as they arrived loaded up with something to sell! Consequently a lot of "gear" was put by the engines and I'm sure most of it changed hands eventually. Helicopter rides were a new attraction here and for the adventurous, it looked an exciting trip. The Stationary Engine Section was really well attended with engines halfway around the very large field: these included many "new" exhibits which reflects on all that hard restoration work done during last winter. Evening entertainment was the usual Beer Tent at the top of the field, a Barn Dance held in a nearby village, and local barbeques which were popular with the exhibitors.

The "Tony Jones Fry-Up" was to be our resting place for the evening and his fire was busy all evening cooking bangers and bacon for some fifty persons all sat around exchanging stories. Entertainment was by courtesy of Brian Munt, who produced a very cheeky red-headed ventriloquist's dummy. The poor little chap not only lost his trousers but his head kept falling off, (do you mean Brian or the Dummy?), causing many of the ladies to be reduced to tears; well, everyone had a good laugh! Well done Brian and Tony for a good evening. To deviate from the Rally slightly, this show is one where one meets a lot of our Club members who live too far away from our area to comfortably attend Club evening meetings and local events, but by chatting to them one can tell they are well informed of our events, and Club structure. This I believe proves what a good contact we have through our Newsletter, so all you "far-away members" do write in to our Newsletter Editor about the "goings-on" in your area, we really would like to hear from you.

Aster Master

NETLEY MARSH RALLY 1982

We arrived at about 11.00 on Saturday morning; there were a lot of our Wessex members already there. Some had arrived on Thursday.

After getting the engine started up, we got the tents up amongst cow-pats next to the field where the helicopter rides were. There was also a crane going up. Looking East, we could see the Q.E.2 in dock; looking West we saw the entire Rally field, (the Rally was run as a "task-force" event!). The lay-out was very big with dozens of trade stalls and side shows, fair, etc., as well as the engines, steam trains, cars and motorcycles.

I think the highlight of the afternoon for us kids was the visit of Worzel Gummidge who rode around shaking hands with people and giving lollypops to the children. The big lorry he was in stopped a long time by the Stationary Engines. I gave him a toot on our whistle and he gave us a wave. We all had a good view of him. In the evening, a hot-air balloon took off from the arena, it was a lovely sight. There was a pig-roast in the evening and some girls dancing.

Sunday was a lovely day and very hot in the afternoon. I think most of the Wessex mob took it in turns to go and talk to Tony, Mary and Reg, as an excuse to stand under their big umbrella in the shade. It was a smashing rally with something going on in the arena all day. The commentator was very good indeed, sounded like Terry Wogan(!) We all had a lovely weekend.

Jeremy Dring

C.L.I.C. Cancer & Lukaemia in Childhood Trust

Following collections made at the Club Rally at Yatton, W.S.E.C. member Derek Maybee received the following letter.

Dear Mr. Maybee and Friends,

Thank you for all your help with your collections for C.L.I.C. We are very grateful for all monies raised to help the families of children afflicted with the distressing diseases of Cancer and Lukaemia. Your two collecting boxes contained £44.66, a very worthwhile sum. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. M.G. Edwards (Committee Member for C.L.I.C.)

WESSEX BARBEQUE AND GARDEN PARTY - 19th JUNE 1982

This was a most successful and very enjoyable event, devised, provided and organised extremely well by Tony Jones of Trowbridge. The sun shone brightly for us as we braved the shopping traffic through Bath on this Saturday morning. However, the diabolical road surface through Batheaston soon shook our engine sheet loose. The decision to press on as we did not have far to go, was soon changed by the approach and subsequent scowl of a constable driving a Panda Car. A brief stop to re-secure our polythene and soon we were being welcomed by our genial host at Marsh Road. After a pleasant Fish & Chip lunch, John Emery and yours truly spent an hour or so trying to get my Ruston A.P.R. to run as well on paraffin as John's does on petrol - unsuccessfully too, I must add!, while Ann went off to help Mary Butler and Doreen Tilly with the onions for the evening Barbeque. While our Secretary sun-bathed at the bottom of the orchard, two Marlborough Pitts Special aircraft did a breath-taking aerobatic display overhead - yes, honestly!! - and then Ian Craddock demonstrated to us how noisy a Land Rover can be with a Perkins Diesel engine in. Gradually the garden filled with engines, disco, steam train rides, skittles and many of Tony's friends to a total of 140, I believe. However, none of all this activity and noise deterred a goldfinch sitting on a nest directly above the smoke of my engine; she sat so resolutely, perhaps she had succumbed to paraffin smoke poisoning! The Wessex ladies dispensed hot dog cooked by Reg Butler, who was Chef for the evening, many people coming back for more. During the evening, Kooky the Clown entertained adults and children alike, however, some enterprising person pinched his string of sausages during the festivities; the hot dogs never tasted quite the same afterwards! All too soon it became time to depart (some were incapable even to do that) after a very relaxing, enjoyable day. Thank you tony, for a generous gesture and all your very hard work.

E.B.

ORGANISER'S REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me with the Wessex Barbeque. They are as follows:-

Mr. Yates, the former, for the car par field, David, his son, for so professionally organising the disco, Kooky the Clown, for keeping us all amused, Paul Nesbitt, for his electrical work, Mr. & Mrs. Craddock and Ian, for loan of the straw bales and haulage and welding, Bill Appleby and Rob Lambert, for general help, Mary and Reg Butler for the cooking, and not least, Doreen Tilly, for crying all day peeling onions. Also Herb and Wendy Gane for running the Raffle, and all the many people who donated prizes. I would like to thank too all the Club ladies who helped in every way possible, and Messrs. Knees of Trowbridge for loaning all the trestle tables. I was really overwhelmed by the sheer team work of the general members who stayed behind overnight, their help clearing up on Sunday morning was invaluable to make this event the success it turned out to be. Perhaps next year we can have an even bigger event and run it over two days. I hope you all had a good evening at Marsh Road and hope you will help me to help those unfortunate children again next year. That evening we collected £145.00 for C.L.I.C., this alone has inspired me to repeat the venture. This figure has been further increased by collections at Lackham College Rally the following weekend, Wings & Wheels at Shepton Mallet on Sunday, etc., bringing the total donated to £160.00.

Tony Jones

OVERHEARD at Tony's Garden Party and Barbeque....."This REALLY puts a new meaning into 'keeping up with the Joneses'.....!"

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB RALLY, YATTON 1982

This was one of the best Club rallies yet: the weather though dull at times, was kind to us, none of that dreaded rain. We arrived on Saturday morning to find a few exhibitors already installed from Friday night. The numbers grew steadily during the morning and the field began to fill up around the perimeter. Eleven trade stands took up their places down through the middle of the field; this was a new feature of our Rally this year and seemed very successful. Also in the centre was Don Crane with his Teles Drag Saw busily cutting away at a log; plus a little further down were six tractors which included a very nice Field Marshall, also two vintage cars, one a 1930 long chassis Austin Seven Saloon, the other a 1926 Lea-Francis two seat tourer, both belonging to Mr. John Moore of Weston-Super-Mare.

Although I do not know the finer points of Stationary Engines, as I walk around looking at them, a number do catch my eye especially if they are nicely restored. First of all was Geoff Bryant's Petter 5 hp, very striking in its original red; next was the Ingeco owned by Cyril Meecham. Then, of course, was the large Blackstone of Phil Harris, which came so close to winning the Cranmore Cup; also very smart was the Fairbanks Bulldog restored by Herb Gane,

and featured in last month's Newsletter. The next three to draw my attention were A. Creber's Amanco Hired Man driving a paint mill, Mike Cannon's little Fairbanks Morse and Tangye Water Pump, and the Lister D of C. Lowther which was driving a Climax Water Pump. The last two, but by no means least, were Ivor Cox's Wolseley with Lister Water Pump, and, the baby of the all, the Hobbs of Mark Tilley. (I think that would fit nicely into the boot of my car, Mark!). Also to be seen among the line of engines were some very nice distractions, like the Club Stall and various other small stalls set up by exhibitors selling their own bits and pieces. Back to the more serious, a variety of old bicycles, seed drills tractor seats and engine plates made up a good miscellany of exhibits for a sole Engine Club Rally. It was nice too, to see some of our "faraway" members, and get the chance to talk to them, especially those who find the distance too great to attend Club meetings from Devon, Cornwall and remote parts of Wiltshire.

The Saturday evening social gathering was very informal. Exhibitors and their families began to gather at about 7.30 p.m. for a pint and a natter. After a few words from our Chairman, Ian Skuse, supper was served, and afterwards Eric and Mike Cannon organised the "Whiskey Roll-Up" which proved to be great fun, especially to young Neil Donnelly who actually hit the bottle twice but the coin rolled too far away. Sid Wilson also scored a hit, and so did Clive Sealey, who eventually became runner up. Many people suggested that Clive started a fund to buy a silencer for his Abtus engine with the second prize of 50p. Nevertheless, it was Mark Tilley who eventually won the bottle of whiskey. The light music played during the evening was by Richard Bagnell due largely to the efforts of Gerald Atherton, and Herb Gane raffled a variety of prizes, ranging from a bird table to a bottle of "Munt's Poison" (even HE didn't know what it was!).

Sunday dawned, not many early risers, but a few more engines arrived and by lunchtime we had a very good number of spectating public, which pleasantly surprised us. Even for those who still don't know a horizontal engine from a vertical, the highlight of the day was the judging of exhibits and after the judging slips had all been handed in, the winners were announced as follows:- Cranmore Cup (for the best horizontal engine) - John Emery, Ruston Hornsby 5 hp; Runner Up - Phil Harris, Blackstone. Stationary Engine Magazine Cup (for the best vertical engine) - Geoff Bryant, Petter 5 hp; Runner Up - Eric Brain, Japy Freres. Junior Shield (for best junior entry) - Ross Thomas, all the way from Truro in Cornwall, Villiers WXII; Runner Up - Lee Chandler, Petter M. The shield for the best visitors engine was won by Les Oldridge with a Ruston Hornsby A.P.E.

Herb then performed yet another of his now famous raffles, and then the plaques were handed out. Everyone began to pack up, the worst part of any rally, and make their way homeward after a very enjoyable and successful weekend.

The collecting boxes and treasure chest for C.L.I.C. revealed the sum of £42.46.

Many thanks to all those who helped at the Rally, preparing food, collecting empties, staying behind to pick up the litter, selling programmes, etc.

Jackie Lambert

THE EVENING MEETING, JULY 26th 1982

A fine sunny evening in an attractive hillside farm in Wiltshire was the venue for our July Club meeting, our host was farmer, John Forward; a well-known man in these parts for his preservation of all types of bygones, known as the Longhedge Collection. About 30-40 members and their families were present and John asked if we would like to look over his museum and outbuildings on our own or would we prefer a guided tour. We chose the latter and this proved to be the best, as many items we had never seen or heard of, or had any idea of what they had been used for. This was all explained to us when John adopted an Arthur Negus style approach, offering three uses for each exhibit and asking which did we think was the correct one? (Tom Randall must have done his homework as he was invariably correct - maybe he was just good at guessing....or more likely John Forward is a good customer of "Randall's Rubish"... Ed). A complete Blacksmith's Shop was en route, followed by a Wheelwright's Shop, both with all the tools, lathes, drills, and so on. We then moved into the large barn packed to overflowing with engines, mills, pumps and thousands of small items from spark plugs to bear-traps. Among the engines was a Lister Diesel which John said he would like to see running before the night was out. Our engineer, Bill Appleby, took up the challenge and ten minutes later the engine sprang into life, filling the barn with thick black smoke which drove us all the the other end! Bill then set about starting an old National Gas Diesel which caused a lot of interest as one doesn't see many of these around. Our tour lasted until dusk, when we thanked John for his hospitality and taking the trouble to explain everything to us. By then most of us had worked up a thirst so we all found our way to the Royal Oak at Corsley and discussed the evening over a pie and a pint. To sum up the evening - absolutely super.

Mrs. Bert Lamb

FOR SALE

Bosch Magneto type ZEI, good working order, anti-clockwise rotation, £10, Mark Tilly, 3 Tellcroft Close, Corsham, Chippenham, Tel. Corsham 712854.

1920 Fairbanks Morse, 3 hp. Z type, Fully restored. £325; Richmond & Chandler Chaff Cutter. £20; Lister Junior, 3 hp. 100% complete and original - good runner. £60 ono. Martyn Denham, Frome 62715 (evenings).

Lister 5 hp. 2L type, 1923, runner but needs a silencer and water tank. Mounted on a trolley. £55; Four 13" dia. x 4" wide spoked wheels on 22" wide axles, with handles. £8 Lister H2 Water Pump, in good order having been taken out of service only last year. £55 ono. Alan Sweet, 1 Arch Villas, Bread Street, Pilton. Tel. Pilton 586.

WANTED

Any information on Charging Set with ALCO Featherweight engine, handbook or diagrams or W.H.Y.? Martyn Denham as above.

NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all those who responded so well to last month's plea for material for your Newsletter. As a result we have a few items to carry forward to the September edition, but don't let that deter would-be writers! Don't forget, a permanent editor is urgently needed; this is the third of my three months "Save the Newsletter" stint!!! However, in the meantime, until someone comes forward please sent all articles, etc. as early as possible in the month following any Club meeting to Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol or telephone Temple Cloud 52633.

OVERHEARD at the Royal Oak, after the visit to Longhedge..... "Did you know that oysters are bi-sexual? - they make up their minds which they are at the time!!!". Nothing to do with engines but it proves (or otherwise) that great educational value a W.S.E.C. evening meeting has for us.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 4-5 Eighth Farm Working, Selwood Steam Prs.Soc., Seymours Court, Beckington, Frome, Somerset. 11.00 a.m. daily.
- Sept. 4-5 "Yesterdays Farming", Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.
- Sept. 11-12 Vintage Farm Working and Ploughing Match at Hyatts Wood Farm, Backwell. Details from J.R.T. Hodgson, 14 Union Street, Nailsea. Tel. Nailsea 857932.
- Sept. 12 Science Museum Open Day, Wroughton, Wilts. Open 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
- Sept. 19 "Farming Rescued", Long Ashton, Bristol. Entry forms from Mr. B. Gunningham, 33 Marshfield Road, Bedminster, Bristol 3.
- Sept. 25-26 Vintage Farm Working. Dinnisworth Farm, Pucclechurch, Bristol held by the Sodbury Vale Group N.V.T.E.C. Entry forms from Mrs. M. Maggs, 198 Badminton Road, Coalpit Heath, Bristol. Tel. Winterbourne 774656.
- Oct. 24 Steam Day, Dean Forest Railway, Lydney. Entry forms from John White, 59 Claverham Road, Yatton. Tel. Yatton 833879.

CLUB EVENTS

- Sept. 27 "Railway Miscellanea", an evening of steamy nostalgia, with the Rev.A.G. Newman.
- Oct. 25 "Film Night", Steam Rallies and Restoration by John Forward.
- Nov. 27 W.S.E.C. Dinner & Dance at the Masonic Hall, Frome, Somerset. Music this year is by Sirocco, a local band with something to suit all tastes.
- Nov. 29 "Kennet and Avon Canal", an illustrated talk by Bob Scudamore.
- Dec. 4 Jumble Sale, at St. Peters Church Hall, Westfield. This VERY important fund raising event is to finance the Dinner and Dance of the previous week. Show how much you appreciate the evening by coming along and bringing your jumble and bric-a-brac and help refill the Club's coffers. Doors open at 2.00 p.m. promptly.