

THE MONTHLY MEETING, 26th. January, 1981.

The first monthly meeting of 1981 started the W.S.E.C. year off well. A record attendance of about seventy persons caused a seating problem, but lessened the cost of posting the newsletters considerably!

The speaker was Mr. Bob Hoddinot of The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, who gave a most interesting talk on the history of the canal, the aims of the Trust and its work during restoration. He then showed some excellent cine film of the progress made in restoration, after which he answered questions from the audience, many of which were concerned with the canal's ultimate place in the environment.

During the interval, Herb Gane ran the raffle, but unfortunately the high attendance caused him to run out of tickets. Rod Dring presented the lady-landlord of the Old Down Inn with a framed 'Lyn Castell' print of a Fordson Major tractor, in recognition of the Inn's hospitality to our Club, which she blushinglly accepted with profuse thanks.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to a trial run of the Club's epidiascope. This instrument was recently purchased with a view to projecting any Club Member's pictures, as opposed to slides, to form an interesting 'engine' evening from time to time. Tom Randall, (with considerable help from Eric Brain) has put it into working order and this was its debut. Tom showed many period pictures of makes of engines long forgotten, and demonstrated the usefulness of the machine. During the show however, a newly installed glass screen cracked, due to the build-up of heat, which was partly anticipated. The next move will be to fit a cooling fan to the machine to keep the projected material from distorting from the heat generated by the 300 watt projector bulb. It is hoped that this will be successfully fitted in time for the April meeting.

Finally, Herb made the draw and among the prize-winners were:- Mrs.D.Rogers, a pot plant; Eric Brain, a steel tape-rule; Bill Foster, Rob Lambert, Roy Cox and Mr.Scudamore, all of whom won desk diaries.

During the evening our Treasurer, Stuart Ashman and his wife Jan collected 1981 subscriptions WHICH ARE NOW DUE. Please note that the 1981 subscription includes Public Liability Insurance Cover for up to £250,000 which is now a necessity for all rallies. Remember that if you have not yet renewed your subscription, any claim on the insurance will be invalidated, and also this will be your last newsletter!

Emerson Brantingham.

SUBSCRIPTIONS should be sent NOW to Stuart Ashman, Moorledge Farm Cottage, Knowle Hill, Chew Magna, Bristol.

£4.00 Joint Membership (husband & wife, fiancé, etc!)

£3.50 Single Membership.

£1.00 Junior Membership.(under 16 years of age.)

Please make your cheque/P.O. payable to 'The Wessex Stationary Engine Club.'

W.S.E.C. DINNER & DANCE.

When the 13th. of a month falls on a Friday many people feel that it might be safer to stay at home, but when the 13th. fell on a Saturday in December, Members, friends and associates of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club threw caution to the winds and gathered in record numbers for the Annual Dinner at the Portway Hotel, Frome, determined to forget the trials and tribulations of Christmas shopping and relax in the friendly, festive atmosphere.

One might have thought that catering for such large numbers may have presented even the professionals with problems, but the feast which was produced gave no hint of hidden pressures in the kitchen and brought no requests for volunteers to wash up afterwards.

However, the splendid spread was not without its surprises when the Head Chef added a personal touch in the form of a colourful and most appetising gateau immortalising - at least temporarily - a steam engine. The slight inaccuracy, far from upsetting anyone, provided a source of amusement and the unexpected gesture was much appreciated.

The after-dinner speakers highlighted several amusing incidents which proved that rallies can be fun in fair weather or foul, and as interest in the Club and its activities continues to grow and its reputation becomes more widely known, there is little doubt that it can look ahead to a flourishing future.

Angela Tucker.

Thankyou, Mrs.Tucker, for your welcome contribution to the newsletter. Incidentally, we were the largest number ever catered for in one sitting by The Portway. Another 'first' for the Club!

1981 RALLY DATES.

- MARCH 29 HARBRIDGE RALLY, near Fordingbridge, Hants.
 APRIL 11/12 CRICKET St. THOMAS RALLY, near Chard, Somerset.
 APRIL 19/20 WESTON ZOYLAND PUMPING STATION RALLY. A small, informal rally - room for around 25 engines. Plaques will be given. Entries (no forms) to Diana Emery, 'Odstax', Wells Road, Hallatrow, Bristol. Please give this event your full support.
 APRIL 19/20 DART VALLEY RAILWAY RALLY, Buckfastleigh, Devon. Contact Mr. R. Villis.
 MAY 2/3/4 34, Waterleat Road, Paignton, Devon. Tel: Paignton 557447. Entries close March 20.
 MAY 3 WHEELS OF YESTERYEAR, Battersea Park, London. Contact Ted Wright, 34, Elborough Street, Southfields, London SW18.
 MAY 3 HAWKCHURCH STATIONARY ENGINE RALLY, near Axminster. Contact Wally Hull, Courshay, Hawkchurch, Axminster, Devon.
 MAY 4 MAY DAY FAIR, Nailsea Comprehensive School, Nailsea, near Bristol. Scouts fund-raising event. Plaques. Contact David P. Smith, 22, The Bramleys, Nailsea, Avon.
 MAY 16 STOCKBRIDGE SALE. Pearson's annual sale of vintage vehicles, machinery, etc.
 MAY 16/17 SOUTH BRISTOL RALLY. Entry form with this newsletter.
 MAY 24/25 MARKET LAVINGTON RALLY. Entries to John Kyte, 10, High Street, Market Lavington.
 MAY 25 MECCARI RALLY. Melksham Chamber of Commerce Festival. Engine & tractor entries to Bill Foster, Fourways, Sandley, Gillingham, Dorset.
 MAY 30/31 ABERGAVENNY RALLY.
 JUNE 13/14 HOLTEN STEAM RALLY, near Oxford.
 JUNE 13/14 CAMERTON RALLY. Entry forms from Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road. Midsomer Norton, Bath. Entries probably limited to about 50 engines.
 JUNE 20/21 THE SECOND GREAT WORKING OF STATIONARY ENGINES AT LONGLEAT. If you have not sent your official entry form in yet, you are probably too late!
 JULY 4/5 HEDDINGTON & STOCKLEY RALLY, near Calne, Wilts. Contact Mr. G. Hyde, 34, Goatacre, Calne, Wilts.
 JULY 11/12 WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB RALLY, Yatton Rugby Club, Yatton, Bristol. Entry form with this newsletter. Plaques. Open to non-members. Entries close 1 June.
 JULY 11/12 POOL NORTH SCOUTS GROUP STEAM RALLY, Lytchett Matravers, Pool, Dorset. Contact B. R. Wilcox, 99, Wimborne Rd., Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset.
 JULY 18/19 BICTON STEAM 81, Yettington, East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. Contact J. Crawley, Field House, Turvey, Bedford. MK43 8DU
 JULY 24/25/26 NETLEY MARSH RALLY. Contact D. Burdle. Fernbank Cottage, Ringwood Road, Netley Marsh, Southampton.
 JULY 25/26 MORE WHEELS AT LONGLEAT. In aid of Dr. Barnardo's, 431, Bromley Road, Downham, Bromley, Kent.
 JULY 25/26 ROSS-ON-WYE Rally, Much Marcle. Contact Mrs. E. A. Powell, Wallwyn Court, Much Marcle, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2L.
 AUGUST 1/2 ALDERHOLT STEAM RALLY, Plumley Farm, Somerley, Hants. Contact R. C. Hood, Fernlea, Camel Green, Alderholt, Fordingbridge, Hants.
 AUGUST 8/9 DEVIZES STATIONARY ENGINE RALLY. Contact P. Steele, 'Tugela' Wick Lane, Devizes.
 AUGUST 15/16 WEST OF ENGLAND STEAM ENGINE SOCIETY RALLY, Silverwell Farm, St. Agnes, Cornwall. Contact W. L. F. Carne 87, Roskear Rd., Camborne, Cornwall.
 AUGUST 22/23 FAIRFORD TRACTION ENGINE RALLY & SHOW, Fairford, Glos. Contact A. J. R. New, 9, The Plies, Fairford, Glos.
 AUGUST 30/31 NESTON PARK RALLY, ATWORTH. Wiltshire group of the N. V. T. E. C. Contact G. Escott, 21, Forest Road, Melksham, Wilts.
 AUGUST 15/16 SOMERSET TRACTION ENGINE RALLY, Langport. Contact S. Blackew, 2, Westport Lane, Isle Brewers, Taunton, Somerset.
 SEPT. 13 SCIENCE MUSEUM RALLY, WROUGHTON, near Swindon, Wilts.
 SEPT. 27/28 SODBURY VALE PLOUGHING MATCH & RALLY.
 OCTOBER 11 WILTS AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY RALLY, & PLOUGHING MATCH.

LATE ENTRY:-

- MAY 15/16 GLOUCESTERSHIRE VINTAGE MOTOR TRANSPORT CLUB RALLY. Contact D. Haines, Bulley Close, Churcham, Glos. Closing date March 30.
 OCTOBER 3/4 John Kyte's Garden Rally.

If we have missed any that YOU know about, then please let US know. Send all your dates, adverts and news items to Editor Tom Randall - address in the above list.

WANTED For INTERNATIONAL Model M. 3hp. About 1925. Breather for crankcase, Governor Yoke, or complete governor, Crankcase hand-hole Cover & Clamp. Contact G. C. Escott, 21, Forest Road, Melksham, Wilts. Tel:- Melksham (0225) 704969.

WANTED LISTER R TYPE.) P. A. Steele, Tel;
 FOR SALE PAIR OF WOLSELEY SHEARING RUNNERS, or swap for Lister runners) Devizes 4820.

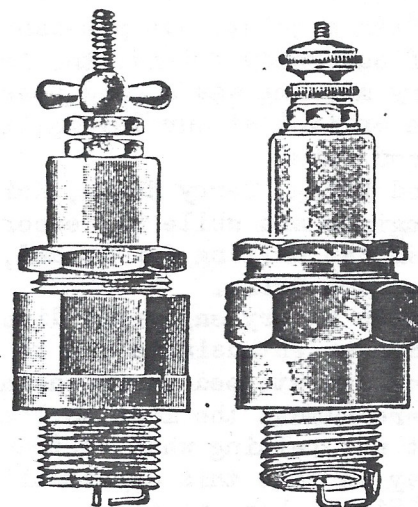
WANTED INFORMATION on Villiers 2-STROKE engines (No. WAH 2153) about 1936. P. R. Holloway, Meadowside, Halfway, Chilthorne Damer, Yeovil, Som. Tel: Ilchester 840370.

WANTED WICO A TYPE Magneto with drive & mounting plate for Wolseley WD1 smooth hopper Desperate for completion of engine! John Edwards, The Old Bakery, Barford Road, Saxton, Bridgwater, Somerset.

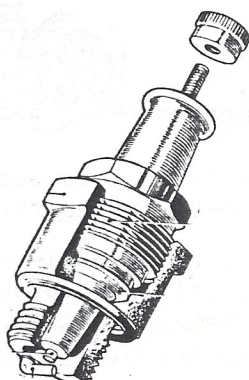
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THE RIGHT SPARK PLUG.

It was, I remember, The year of the first Beaulieu Rally and in those days, time seemed to stand still at Lodge Wood Farm and I could actually contemplate a holiday of 'engine-tinkering' at home. A friend from Sussex came to stay with us for a few days and, like all good friends, he brought an engine with him for the duration. The engine, a Crossley PCH6, of 3½h.p. (that is the horizontal open crank version with two side shafts, the C stands for Compressor.) had undergone a massive restoration since being found up-side-down on a scrapheap! It would start and run quite well, but refused to tick over cleanly and failed to respond to the throttle when a working load was applied. The magneto, a Hills, had just returned from an expensive, but rejuvenating holiday in Swindon (costing £32 even in those days) and had still to be fitted to the engine. So, the engine was unloaded, the magneto quickly installed, the fuel, water and oil added to the appropriate quarters and the starting handle swung. It soon became obvious that the fault still remained, but after studying the problem for a while, we realised that the trouble appeared after the switch to paraffin. The symptoms being, fluffy exhaust note and more smoke than there should be and any applied load brought the engine to a quick standstill.



—Ignition Sparking Plugs.



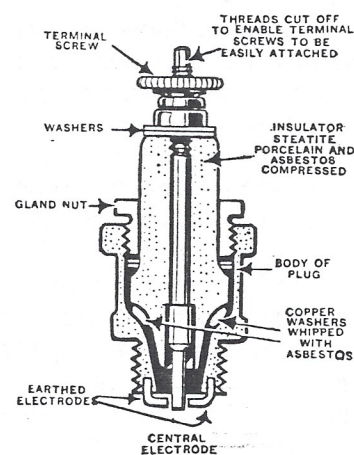
Sectional view of
"Wico" sparking plug.

The carburettor - quite complex on this type of engine - was stripped and rebuilt, the magneto removed, tested and re-fitted - several times, the paraffin tank was drained and refilled with a fresh brew, and we even tested the compression using an adapted motor vehicle tester. The owner had brought a brand new box of Champion spark-plugs and worked through about 8 of them just in case one was faulty, but still to no avail. We arrived at the 'cup-of-tea' stage and sat looking at the green and black problem. If looks could kill, it would have started all by itself! So, what was the fault? As a last resort, I picked up a vintage mica spark plug from my bench, fitted it to the engine and to our amazement instantly cured the problem! The exhaust note was very crisp, the exhaust clean, and the pick-up better than the owner had ever seen. So an old mica K.L.G. spark-plug was the answer.

It is worth remembering that paraffin or 'oily' engines need what is known as a HOT, or SOFT sparking plug. This

type of plug has a high heat insulator (the insulator does not extend right down to the points) giving minimal heat dissipation so that, when in action, the points burn up any soot or oily deposits. Conversely, high compression engines require a HARD or COLD sparking plug. I have seen a number of Petter M Types being rallied using very cold plugs, even K-9's, no wonder they won't run under no-load conditions!

As a final comment it is worth mentioning that certain high performance motor cars are very susceptible to plug types. The D.O.H.C. Alfa Romeo range can only take the 4-electrode Golden Lodge - a good medium-soft plug since the engines tend to be oily. So, sure as a certain British plug is fitted, drama strikes in the form of a matching set of four (four cylinder engine) holes in the piston crowns. I have numerous examples of these on display at work, a visual aid for unbelievers! So, if your plugs tend to oil up, fit the next 'hotter' (SOFTER) type.



Sectional diagram of a sparking plug

David W. Edgington.

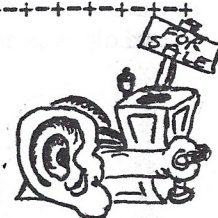
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| FOR SALE | RUSTON HORNSBY PB 1½h.p. £25.) Dereck Maybee. |
| WANTED | SAW BENCH, maximum 24" diameter.) Tel:- Blagdon 62795. |
| WANTED | FELLOWES MAGNETO, high magnet type, any condition, to complete restoration. A.Gwillam, Stanedge, 9, South View, Addington, Liskeard, Cornwall. |
| FOR SALE | LISTER A Type, 1925, tank cooled, twin flywheels, original condition, complete. LISTER A Type, 1939, hopper cooled, restored. SPARES for Lister A Type; hopper head c/w valves, piston, crankshaft. SPARES for Lister D Type, various. Sensible offers to Terry Filby, Nailsea 854053 |
| FOR SALE | Modern Oil Engines, 1950, Caxton Press, 3 volumes, pictures of Rustons, Crossleys, etc. £20 o.n.o. Terry Filby, Nailsea 854053. |

It was raining when we thanked our hosts for inviting us and making our day so enjoyable. May we take this opportunity to wish all our rally friends a very happy and prosperous 1981. We hope to see you on February 23rd. at our Club's Annual General Meeting.

Rene & Len Fry.

ENGINEERS.

I hear that the CMVTEPCBVGs held its annual jumble sale last Saturday in the Low Tension Street Mission Hall, Magley, and raised the magnificent sum of £2.43 towards Club funds. "Not quite as well as we had expected," said Club Chairman, Rod Drain, "but our lot are such a right bunch of magpies that asking for jumble is like asking them to give all their worldly possessions and in many cases amounts to the same thing! I don't think we'll bother next year." Refreshments, in the form of hot Listerine and biscuits, were served during the sale.



Market Trends. In a recent conversation with Ed Bolinder of Bolinder Bros., the well-known international engine dealers, I learned that, whilst the home market is still reasonably buoyant as far as 'blue chip' engines are concerned, export prices are being drastically affected by the high value of the pound and the ever sparse imports from the U.S. have virtually dried up with the Yanks reluctant to sell with the dollar at such a low ebb. Europe, too offers little consolation with recent changes in EEC regulations relating to the movement of engines between member countries resulting in markets being swamped with cheap and often non-running French engines. France finds itself currently accused of taking advantage of the new rules by dumping its engine surplus, created by years of government subsidised hoarding on the part of astute, garlic chewing French brokers, on a keen but unsuspecting enthusiasts market. Even the Dutch, who are relative new-comers to the engine market and have been buying almost frantically in recent years to replenish their war diminished stocks, are noticeably tiring of the flood of French engines.

For a brief summary of market trends, horizontals continue to rise at a greater rate than verticals, but whilst inflation continues to push prices up, the volume of the market is several points down against this time last year. At the lower end of the verticals market, there is little change, with D's still changing hands as low as £15 and A1's much the same, although WD's have tended to rise slightly against the rest.

Next month. "Is there really a threat from the Far East?"

Jethro Tool.

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CLUB EVENTS.

MARCH 30	ENGINE DRIVE. For those of you who think that a beetle drive is a rally for old Volkswagen owners, this event will only confirm your insanity!
APRIL 27	THE EPIDIASCOPE ENTERTAINS (Hopefully!) Words and music by Tom Randall.
MAY	A visit to Eastwood Farm, on Mendip, is still at the arranging stage - date still to be fixed due to clash with Bank Holiday.
JUNE 29	ANNUAL CRANK-UP at the Old Down Inn - whatever the weather!

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WHY NOT GIVE YOUR ENGINE THE RIGHT FINISHING TOUCH? LINING OUT IN PAINT AND GOLD LEAF, AND ALL SIGN-WRITING CARRIED OUT TO YOU PRECISE SPECIFICATIONS. Contact:- TERRY PINNELL. 4, Dorothy Walk, Warminster, Wilts. Tel:- Warminster 215289.

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WANTED VALVES & GUIDES for 5h.p. Lister L Type, for urgent restoration before Longleat! Eric Brain - Temple Cloud 52633 or Alan Tucker - Temple Cloud 52598.

FOR SALE 1977MGB TOURER.Red.Approx 30,000 miles. Tow bar, Tonneau Cover, Radio Cassette etc.
Offers around £3000. Jane Cooper, 19, Eagle Rd., Northend, Batheaston.
Tel:- Bath 859536.