CRANKING

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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

Will it ever stop raining?? We seem to have suffered months on end of rain, which has seen the cancellation of many events due to sodden/flooded ground…..it all started back in October with the cancellation of a local crank-up in Dorset which a few of us were looking forward to.

Hopefully with the 2024 rally season just around the corner, things will get better and we can hopefully see some blue skies and sunshine, I think many of us have forgotten what a warm, sunny and dry day feels like.

Abbey Hill kicks the season off, entrants recently got their entries confirmed, it's always a nice event to catch up with friends and acquaintances on the rally field for the first time in many months, seeing what everyone has been playing with over the winter months.

Please see the events listing in this issue for upcoming Club events – members and committee work tirelessly to put these events on, so please do try and support them if you can. *David*

CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club took place on Monday 29th of February, the meeting was not very well attended but better than some of our recent evening meetings at the Old Down Inn.

The committee was re-elected as all serving members were prepared to stand again and keep the club up and running. We still desperately need a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer, someone just to keep an up-to-date record of month to month income and expenditure, not a daunting task - we must have someone in the Club that could take on this task, if you would like a go, please give me a call.

The club has run now for several months with no Vice Chairman and I hate to say this but I won't be around for ever, it is not that an arduous a task; I did it many years ago, so again, if you would like to have this position or give it a try again give me a call, you will get all the support and help you need from me.

We have now a calendar of events and meetings at the Old Down Inn for 2024 - it has taken longer than usual to get this together this year but I hope you will enjoy and take part in the club activities in 2024. Club events are listed in this issue, Club Nights are all on the website.

Unfortunately the crank up at the White Horse Country Park has had to be rearranged, it was to be held on the 6th April but the ground is unfit to use due to the rain we have had over the months. I inspected this on Friday the 12th March, in many places the water was around 3" deep and some parts of the area we use were ankle deep in mud, if we damaged the surface

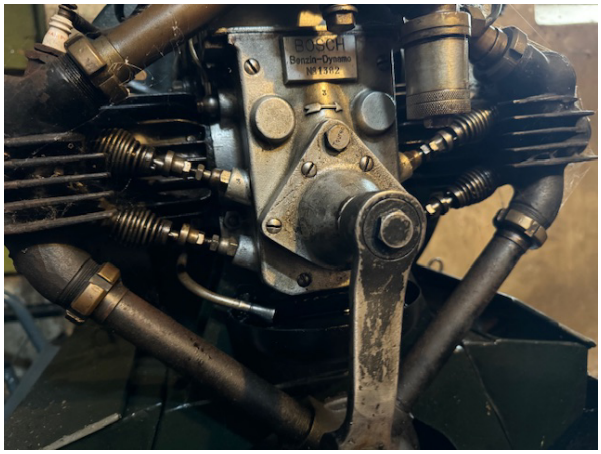
the Club would be faced with a bill for repairs and reinstatement, so the new date should be 4th May, I have yet to finalise this with The West Wilts Society Of Model Engineers.
This I hope will be finalised today the 18th March. Now all of you with this modern technology, keep a look out on our Facebook page and those of you without, the new date will be in the next issue of Cranking.

Now on Friday the 12th I had some very sad news, I do not know how many members remember Keith Sheppard, he was a valued member of the Wessex Committee for several years and a very good friend of mine and others in the club.
Keith sadly passed away a few days ago after a long fight with the dreaded cancer. Keith was cared for by Dorothy House, at their hospice in Winsley Nr. Bradford on Avon.
His cremation will be at Semington on the 28th of March. To all Keith's family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

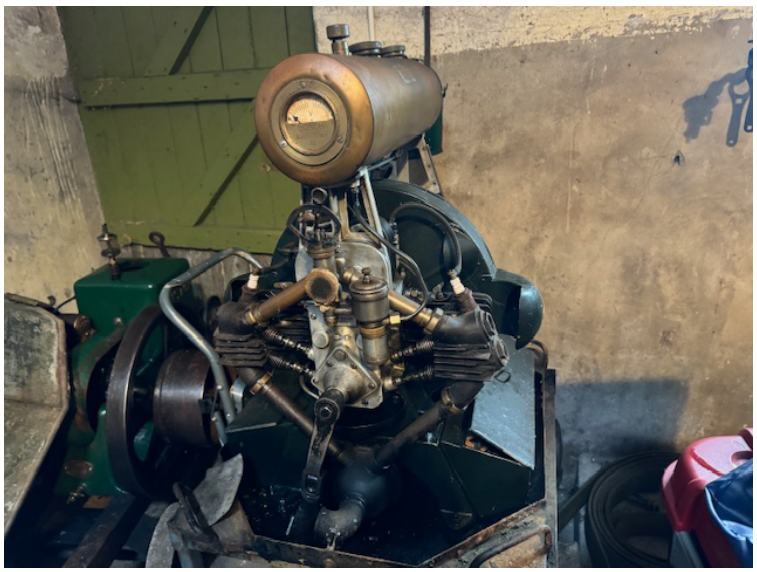
The sale at Cranmore earlier this month was a huge deal better than the disaster of the one before. We had a great deal more sellers with some fine engines and other spares including magnetos, tools, light fittings and one seller with a large selection
of brass nuts and bolts, all brand new and in plastic bags, one buyer bought the lot!
I had quite a good day selling an amount of spares and other bit from the late Andy Gales collection, this will help Shirley reduce the huge amount of parts that Andy had collected over the years.
Myself, I did well going home with a pocket much fuller than when I arrived, so I had nothing to complain about.

Well that's all this month, take care keep well and may you all have a great year with lots of good events to attend and remember the best of all will be at Southwick over the weekend of June 15th & 16th *Eric Gay*

BOSCH BENZINE CHARGING SET



Whilst visiting a fellow engine collector up North recently I spotted a galvanised cover over what I assumed to be an engine – it was beautifully crafted and rivetted.



Upon carefully removing it I saw something I'd never seen before – a WW1 Bosch Benzine generating engine. No-one will know for sure but this one was rumoured to have come from a downed Zeppelin. Beautifully made, the voltmeter in the end of the fuel tank was a nice touch.

CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

SPRING CRANK-UP

Saturday April 6th - 10am - 4pm - Spring Crank-Up at Lilley's Cider, Rosewood Farm, Bunns Lane, Frome, Somerset BA11 5ES

SWEETS CRANK-UP

Sunday April 21st 9am - 4pm
Once again we visit Sweets Tea Rooms and Museum. Always good food and drink to be had, and a visit to the museum is always worthwhile (especially if it's raining!).
Please don't arrive early to avoid queuing on the main road.
Where? Sweets Tea Rooms, Blakeway, Wedmore, Somerset BS28 4UE
If the weather is inclement then there may be a late venue change, we will do our best to inform you of any changes in good time.
If you wish to attend, could you please contact Herb or Wendy Gane 01749 674402 or 07836 34928 so that I have an idea of numbers and I can contact you if things change. *Herb Gane*

WESTBURY CRANK-UP – May 4th - White Horse Country Park, Westbury BA13 4LX

WESSEX MIDSUMMER VINTAGE SHOW

Saturday June 15th @ 10:00 am – Sunday June 16th @ 4:30 pm
Greenhill Farm, Bradley Road, Southwick, Wiltshire BA14 9RH
Entry forms available on the Club website and previously sent out with *Cranking*.

DAVE LACEY'S TARMONKEY ENGINE COLLECTION OPEN DAY

Thank you to everyone who came along to my Open Day in late February. Despite the awful weather forecast, I had over 130 people arrive and enjoy a day of seeing the engines out and running, with a good contingent of visiting engines that a rally would have been very pleased to have had in attendance.

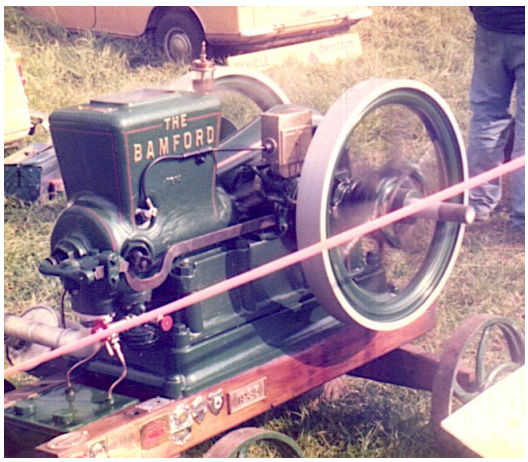
There seemed to be quite a brisk trade in engines and parts! I had people travel from Cornwall, Newbury, Essex, North Devon, Crediton, Poole to name a few.
We put on a nice spread of food, my god can you lot put some food away!! (I was warned though…) We had a collection in aid of the Air Ambulance, the results I will get to know of soon.

It was a huge amount of work to put the event on – I think I had 45 engines out and running with only one 'casualty' but well worth it to see so many familiar faces on the day. Due to the weather, many of the engines had to be indoors in the warehouse area so it was smokier than I would have liked, but the weather forced our hand somewhat. By 3pm the heavens really opened and most of us packed up by then, it was really nice to see some really well organised people with shelters who stayed mainly dry.

Next year I'll try to avoid a date clash with the Malvern Show, which I knew a couple of members had to attend – and I'll also put in an order for some dry weather too!
Dave Lacey

CLUB MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE Lister 3hp J type petrol engine in superb condition mounted on oak trolley and ready to rally, fitted with flick magneto. £700.00 ovno.
FOR SALE Large twin ram Godwin water pump on trolley in good order
FREE TO A GOOD HOME one Lister L type in need of total rebuild some parts missing but would make a good project. First contact Eric Gay 01225 754374



FOR SALE Bamford 4hp open crank engine, 1934. Wico magneto. 1970s restoration, as featured in Stationary Engine magazine. Rallied extensively up to 1998. Mounted on a steerable 4-wheel trolley. Original starting handle. Non-original fuel tank & exhaust. Original Bamford manual included. Dry storage for over 20 years. Photographed for Mayfair magazine in 1979. £975. View by appointment only. Tom Randall, Midsomer Norton. 07856 730612

FOR SALE Bamford 0 size corn mill nice condition, will haggle at around £200
WANTED small butter churn in good condition or anything small and interesting to be driven by my 1½ hp Alamo. Give Eric a ring on 01225 754374

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the committee or its members. Although the greatest care is taken in compiling this newsletter, the editor takes no responsibility for any errors or omissions
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Deadline for copy submissions is always 20th of the month