CRANKING

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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

With the rally season firmly with us, the weather is certainly keeping us on our toes – from Abbey Hill Rally at the end of April that looked to be a very wet one - which in fact turned out to be a very pleasant and quite dry event, the ground conditions, given the heavy rainfall they had the week leading up to the rally, were in great condition and had drained down very well.

The same cannot be said for the Three Okefords Rally which sadly had to be cancelled on the Sunday, every rally organiser's nightmare. The rain was just so heavy and localised, it just wasn't safe for the rally to carry on, what a tough call to make.

Hoping the weather perks up a little (I've been saying this for weeks….) for the events we all love and enjoy in June and beyond.

Please, if you haven't entered our Wessex Midsummer Show on the weekend of June 15th and 16th, it's not too late to do so, entry forms are available on the Club website to print off. We welcome all manner of exhibits, be it engines, cars, motorcycles, static displays……you name it, we will have it. See you around! *David*

CHAIRMANS REPORT

This month has been a busy one starting with the clubs crank up at the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers at the White Horse Country Park, Nr. Westbury. The event was well attended and the big surprise was when a lady and gentleman came all the way from Stoke on Trent, this must be a first time that we have attracted people form such a distance. They were very pleased that they had made the effort and really enjoyed the day. Early afternoon the dear lady came and asked me with a question, "How do I get to the White Horse?" My reply – "Well it is about a five mile walk" - I gave her full directions, fortified with hot dogs via the WSEC, the lady set off on her five mile walk saying "that's not far, I walk that distance quite a lot and further!"

I then saw her set out for her walk, returning a couple of hours later having walked there and back. They asked what other events the Club has for the rest of the year, they are unable to make the rally in June but are most interested in coming to Bradford-on-Avon, in September.

The dates for our rally at Bradford will be the 7th & 8th September, again this event will be held to raise funds for Dorothy House Hospice Care. An entry form is included with this issue and are also available via the web site, simply download them and return to the steward dealing with your type of exhibit.

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Desmond Compton, many of you who attended the event at Bradford last year may have met Des and if not, you would not have missed his wonderful collection of Nuffield tractors, with luck they will be on show at our Southwick rally in a few weeks. Des was 93 and one claim to fame was his ride to London on a powered bicycle very many years ago.

To Clive and all the family, the Club and myself would like to express our sincere condolences at this sad time.

On the Sunday after our Crank-Up at Westbury I loaded the Marshall traction engine into the trailer ready for an early start the next day, I was going to Woodgreen in the New Forest, collecting Pete & Nicky Cossen, on route. Apart from the rain showers and the engine not behaving itself too well, we had a nice day together there were some great models on display in the village hall along with tea, cakes and other food.But best of all was Nicky's home-made cake proper good that be.
This weekend just past it was off to Breamore House, down in deepest darkest Hampshire and what a great weekend it was meeting up with quite a few people I had not seen for quite a time.
Saturday was thronged with visitors all day long and I had many people to talk with a great many wanting to know how the hit and miss governors work on the Bamford, they went on their way knowing a little more than when they came. Sunday for some reason not so many people around but still a fair amount, I should think the takings made the organisers very happy, I look forward to my next visit to Breamore and I hope the sun shines on us all once again.
With the Club rally just a few weeks away may I ask if you can spare us just a couple of hours of your time to help set over the week before and a bit of help with thing like the pay gate would be very welcome, hope to see many of you there and I hope we all have a very enjoyable weekend.
Well I have just worked out that we have once again had twelve hours of continuous rain, I write this Tuesday 14th May, I hope that this dreadful weather gets better as I hope to be off to the Shillingstone event this weekend and I just hope it goes ahead.
Our meeting at the Old Down Inn at the end of this month will be a noggin and natter evening with free cheese & onion rolls, it's not often you get something for free, hope to see you there. *Eric Gay, Chairman WSEC*

CLUB DONATION

Earlier this year I was contacted by a member of the public who told me that her father-in-law, David Griffiths, who was an ex-member who had recently deceased and who had bequeathed his engine to us.
I collected it – a Lister D and generators on a somewhat strange trolley – and as I had no room to store it and the Salisbury sort-out was coming up, we decided (with the donor's acquiescence) that the fairest thing would be to sell it for club funds.
There wasn't a lot of interest on the day until it was bought by a club member for £350 and so was delivered on the way home, the money being put in the bank the following week.

CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

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*.

BRADFORD LEIGH VINTAGE WEEKEND
Saturday 7th September - Sunday 8th September
Bradford on Avon
BA15 2RW More info? Secretary@wessexsec.org

BRIAN VERRALL MEMORIAL CRANK UP

First of all I must apologise for the change of venue of our crank up from Sweets tea rooms to West Lydford. This was due to the ground conditions becoming unsuitable for us following recent wet weather.

Phil Harris and I inspected the ground and changed the venue at short notice, with lots of help from Ted Edwards.

Dave Lacey and Anthony Andrews relayed the message via our social media channels and got the message through to all club members, nobody turned up at Sweets (Hopefully!)

By 8.30am there was a long queue waiting to get on site. The yard soon filled up and we had close to 30 engines, not forgetting Ken Barnett with his lovely oil can display plus a half size Clayton Shuttleworth Steamer brought along by Melvin Stone from Langport.
We had engines from Wiltshire, Somerset and Dorset, the biggest being Dave Lacey's Gardner 4VT surface ignition diesel engine down to Dan and Vicky Cheeseman's half-size model New Holland engine.

A good cross-section of engines representing manufacturers from Great Britain, America and France, British engines being Lister, Petter, Bamford, Wolseley, Ruston, Hornsby, Blackstone and National Gas. French manufacturers were Bernard, Moteur Japy and DeBucy-Ceres. American manufacturers featured Waterloo, Hercules, International Harvester, Pilter and Bates & Edmonds (and one dead bulldog)

The weather stayed fine and we had some local visitors. The teas and coffees, bread rolls plus Jo-Annes drizzle cake all went down very well.
All too soon the day was over and we managed to raise £315 for the Alzheimer's Society.

The one person missing from this year's crank-up was the late Brian Verrall. Brian held many posts in the Club over the years, including President, Chairman and the commentator at many of Wessex Stationary Engine Club events.

He was always one to help and advise, as you see we have dedicated this crank up to his memory. Thanks to all those who attended a great day. *Herb Gane*

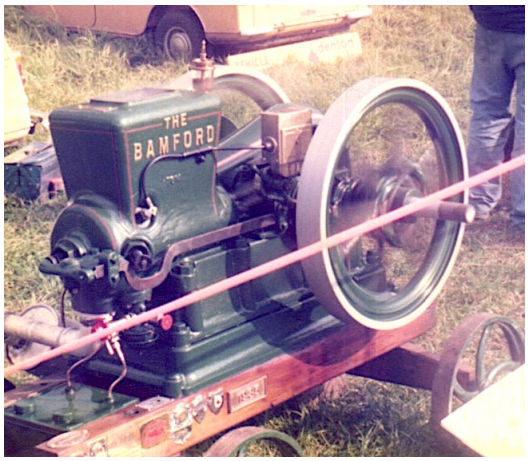
CLUB MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE Kohler petrol generator 6.25hp, 4kVA Markon alternator, ex Roger Pike – offers invited to Linda on 07814 619846

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
Contributions to: David Lacey, 8 Dyers Close, West Buckland, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 9JU or (preferably) by email
editor@wessexsec.org

Deadline for copy submissions is always 20th of the month