



# CRANKING



Issue No: 1/12

Jan 2020

## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### Editor's Note

Happy New Year, and time to remind you to renew your membership or this is the last newsletter you will get. A reminder, too, that you will need to be paid-up if you wish to vote at the AGM next month.

Thanks to a kind club member I now have a copy of every newsletter from the present back to 1982, and they are now being scanned and uploaded to the website, and are available in the newsletter archive. Please let me know if there are any articles you think you or your fellow members would like to see again and I'll try and fit them in.

### A Steam Apprentice

I first got into stationary engines when I was little, but then started to become more interested in them as time went on. I first saw a steam engine when I was about 18 months old and it was a Burrell traction engine owned by a man named Collin Hatch. When I was about 3 1/2 years old, I had my first real introduction into steam. It's name was Vera May (a small roller). This was at Netley Marsh and I soon thought that I was going to have one when I was older. I was about 10 when I decided to join the Steam Apprentices. They were very welcoming and the first steam engine that I worked on was a miniature Burrell, which was called Lady Sylvia, and I worked alongside other new members of the young Steam Apprentice Club. This was when I got really introduced into steam and started working a lot with a man named Chris Wood and his Mann Patching Roller. After this then he introduced me to a few other people in the steam world. Thanks to this, I have now got quite a few contacts with steam engine owners. However, before all of this, my love for all engines came from helping and restoring engines with my dad and he also bought me a Lister D and a Fuller And Johnson. Since I was about 18 months old, I started to go to a massive rally called Great Dorset and is one of my favourite rallies to go to during the season.

Since my early days, I have worked on many different engines, it has given me lots of experience. I am going to take my steam operators ticket in May 2020 hopefully.

**Tommy Gear**

12 years old.

### Wanted

I am looking for a small single cylinder engine to improve or restore?  
Please contact **Paul** on , **07769720122**

## **Chairman's Report, January 2020**

Well here we are at the start of another year. What will 2020 have in store for us? maybe it's better not to know, but I guess you will all want to know what we have planned within the club for all the year for you, the club members.

Once again we have a full programme of events planned and very nearly a full list of evening meetings at the Old Down Inn. I have supplied Maxine with a list of dates of evening & Committee meetings. You will get a full calendar of all that is happening when you renew your membership.

The committee of the club and the rally need more members to help run all our events and to plan for the future of the club, one thing we desperately need is someone to become Editor of the newsletter. Ted at the moment is doing a great job but this is only temporary, no-one can do everything that is needed to keep the Wessex at the forefront of the stationary engine movement, so why not give the editorship a try. I did it for a short while, it is not rocket science or believe me I would not have done it, so someone please come forward and help.

Now I have become involved in the restoration/overhaul of a miniature traction engine, I know it's steam and we are internal combustion oriented but what I want to say is we have all heard the saying "buyer beware" and how true this saying is, so no matter what is offered to you in the way of a restoration project look very well before you leap into the unknown.

When you get to read this it will be well into 2020 and the crank-up at Gordon's farm will be over. It was again a great day as anyone that attended will tell you, it was great to see so many club members and visitors at the event, it was a shame that I could not exhibit this year (transport problems), never mind, better luck in 2020. Paula - I got crumble withdrawal syndrome, I must go and get another of me pills. Never mind. I will try to get over it when we have the Vintage Day at the White Horse Country Park with the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers, all those hot dogs and bacon rolls! So don't forget Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

But before then don't forget we have the bring and buy sale at Cranmore on March 7<sup>th</sup>, (East Somerset Steam Railway) A361 Frome to Shepton Mallet road, and our new venture the Wessex Stationary Engine Club & Jim's Jumble sale at Standerwick (Frome Market) BA11 2PQ on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Full details: 07751 918283 or 07972 433890. Hope to see you all there making lots and lots of lovely money.

**Eric Gay**

## **Mince Pie Crank up at Whaddon Farm on 29 December 2019**

This post-Christmas event held by Gordon and Paula Guley is becoming more popular year on year, this time attracting some twenty stationary engines. No matter the weather the large covered barn makes it an ideal venue for this gathering.

Paula's barn kitchen looked very festive with its fairy lights and tinsel and everyone was kept well supplied with tea, coffee and an assortment of lovely home cooked cakes. Vegetable soup warmed up cold hands and once again Paula's legendary apple crumble and custard went down a storm, ably served by her assistants Sue and Debbie.

The raffle was very well supported raising £114 for Alzheimer's Support, and the donations bucket a further £80.82

The next crank up at Whaddon Farm will be held on Sunday 15 March

**Anne**

**Paula & Gordon's Mince Pie Crank up.  
Held at Whaddon Farm Hilperton Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December.**

For us as it was just to be a flying visit to wish our old friends a Happy New Year and it was nice to see around twenty engines all happily ticking over in the huge barn. Just inside the doorway Peter had his large Hornsby Engine running nicely and just up from him in the line up was Linda and Roger with their tiny Leek Engine which was most likely the smallest machine there, and it was of a particular interest to me as we have recently acquired an identical one, and chatting to Roger and Brian who was also intrigued with the cylinder head conversion it all looked rather intricate as mine looked bog standard and it ran very smoothly. Next in the line were Don, Christine and Will with their little blue Gardner, as always running nicely, and having a chat with Don he tells me he is getting along fine and he really did look comfy in his chair snuggled up to a large thick blanket.

Making my way to the refreshment area John had come all the way up from Bridgwater and was busy chatting so as I didn't want to interrupt I carried on to the tea room and said my hellos to Roy, Jen, Pearl, Herbie, two Steve's and Wendy, who was tucking into a dish of delicious looking crumble. Paula was busy going around selling raffle tickets, I was looking for Richard and Ann and having found Ann first I wanted to offload a few Strawberry plants, so got them out of the Van for her and thought while we were outside the barn quietly make our way back to Frome. I never got the chance to view all that was there but the event was very well supported, and well done to Gordon, Paula and all their helpers.

Happy New year to All.

**Robin.**

**Another Look at the Mince Pie Crank-up**

From the technical point of view there was much to recommend this year's crank-up, with many different types and ages of engine. Pete had his splendid Hornsby L type hot bulb engine, occasionally driving a pump next to Tommy's Amanco, which was being a bit fractious, and by way of contrast Don and Christine had their little Gardner, also looking very smart and going strong, and Roger's Leek was going well too. The rest of that side was made up of John's Harrop and Ash's rebadged Japy, plus Gordon's collection of Listers and Wolseleys.

By complete coincidence all the engines with lighting were on one side of the barn. Chris had his very tidy Lister D with a dynamo next to Richard's anonymous genset and very nice Alco. Don had a very smart Bamford next to Nigel's Lister A and Ted's Bernard W1, both with lights. Further along Roger's Norman was giving its usual bright display, and all in all that area of the barn was extremely well lit!

The rest of that side of the barn was taken up with a couple of large engines; Andy's Ruston and pump and Frank's Ruston, while the middle ground was inhabited by a somewhat unusual and very pretty (if I'm allowed to use that word) Slavia owned by Jez, plus an equally well-prepared Fowler and Ruston. I'm sorry, I lost my notes so I can't credit the owner of these engines, but they are a credit to you anyway. I apologise if I've left anyone else out, I blame my age!

Overall the standard of preparation was very high, and there was a real mixture of makes and models. For those who haven't yet been to one of Gordon and Paula's crank-ups I can assure you that it's well worth dragging yourself out on a chilly morning to see that selection of engines, scoff some good food and maybe even win something in the raffle!

**Ted**

## Club Calendar 2020

|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January                  | C/N Mr John Rossiter. Robey Pumping Engine of Shepton Mallet                                                                                            |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February                 | C/N <b>Annual General Meeting</b>                                                                                                                       |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March                   | Bring & Buy Sale, Cranmore. East Somerset Railway. BA4 4QP                                                                                              |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March                    | Crank-up. Whaddon Farm, Hilperton, Trowbridge. BA14 6NR Details 07786 542782                                                                            |
| Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March                  | Wessex Autojumble and Sale. Frome Livestock Market, Standerwick. BA11 2PQ Details 07751 918283 or 07972 433890                                          |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April                    | White Horse Park Vintage Day with WWSME. BA13 4LX 10 - 4.30<br>Details and entry forms 01225 754374                                                     |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April                    | C/N TBA                                                                                                                                                 |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May                      | Crank up & Vintage Day. Tuckers Grave Inn, Norton st Philip. BA3 5XF<br>Details & Entry Forms 01225 754374. Camping available 07976 897743              |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May                      | C/N Terry Merritt Smith. Ration Books to Rock & Roll<br>(One week early due to Bank Holiday)                                                            |
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June                    | Wedmore Crank up & Vintage Day. Sweets Tea Rooms & Museum. BA6 9TH Details<br>Herb or Brian 01749 674402/01749 677297. Please note: Saturday this year. |
| Weekend 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> June | The Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show. Semington Nr Trowbridge. BA14 6JF Entry<br>Forms & Details 01225 754374 or 07751 918283                              |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June                     | C/N Barry Williams. The Grand Tour. Talk and film                                                                                                       |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> July                     | C/N Guess the Object Evening. Bring along anything old, odd or interesting. Prize for<br>the one who gets most correct.                                 |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> August                   | C/N Ted Edwards. The Manx Grand Prix/Classic TT<br>(One week early due to Bank Holiday)                                                                 |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September                | Model Evening. Internal combustion, steam, electric, clockwork or anything you would<br>like to bring. Prize for the best model etc.                    |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October                  | C/N Keith Sheppard. Alfred Prestwich and his amazing J.A.P. business empire                                                                             |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November                 | C/N Quiz Night with Anne Kempson, with supper!                                                                                                          |

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: Ted Edwards, 26 Cranmore View, Frome. BA11 4DT or (preferably) [editor@wessexsec.org](mailto:editor@wessexsec.org)

**Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**