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CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

You could call it the season opening event and if you were not there then you certainly missed a very good day.....what am I talking about? Well the crank up at Whaddon Lane Farm, staged by Gordon and his team of girls doing a great job in keeping us fed and watered (cake, apple crumble, apple and plum crumble, tea and much more!) So to the girls, Gordon and Paula thank you for another great day at Whaddon.

I did count the engines that were up and running by late morning the total was thirty; this must be a record for the event at Whaddon.

Gordon is planning another event later in the year possibly in the field with a BBQ and evening light up with engines driving dynamos and generators....watch this space for more details in the future.

The next outside event will be the Crank up and Vintage day at The White Horse Country Park, with the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers. This will take place on April 5th with the usual BBQ free to all exhibitors.....where else would you get such an offer?!

So put the date in the diary and turn up at the White Horse Country Park, just off the A350 Westbury to Trowbridge Road, BA13 4LX

Then not long after the White Horse Country Park event do not forget the event run at Top Field, Bratton by Keith & Will Miller. They have been running this event for many years and I can remember when it was at Westbury football ground, so please get that engine or any other vintage exhibit up and running and please give your support to The Westbury Transport & Vintage Gathering over the weekend of April 26th & 27th, I hope to see you there, Postcode BA13 4TT details or call 01373 864166.

Now we all know how prices of items have increased of late, I wanted some paint for the miniature traction engine, only a litre of undercoat.....luckily I had the Crimson Lake gloss. An order was placed for what I wanted, the last price I paid was £27.50...this time the price had risen to £37.50 and by the time I had paid carriage and VAT I had a bill of just over £60!!

When the engine is finished I must make sure it never primes again, that is what destroyed the paint finish on the boiler cladding, it is possibly better to stick to stationary engines as they don't have boilers!

By the time you read this our sale at Cranmore will be over and I am sure you will all be sat at home counting all that lovely money you made at the sale and wondering what to spend it on. I am sure you find something, if you are anything like me you keep saying I have enough engines, parts, general bits and bobs and junk that you cannot bear to part with, but I am

going to sort out some goodies to take along and hope to sell, just so I can maybe buy more goodies to fill the space in the workshop.

Now I have asked before if there is anyone that may be willing to help the committee of the Midsummer Vintage Show, oh how we need someone to take on the job of commercial vehicle steward, please give it some thought and if you feel you may be able to help us do please give me a call 01225 754374.

Plans are going ahead for our two day event at Bradford Leigh, Bradford on Avon over the Weekend of September 6th & 7th, this event is staged to help raise funds for Dorothy House Hospice and entry forms are now available from me and very soon downloadable from the clubs website.

With the ever rising price of postage we have to find ways of reducing our postage costs, if you have entered the Midsummer Vintage Show you will receive an entry form with your entry pass, also they will be with me at Westbury and many other events throughout the coming months, if all else fails give me a call and I will be pleased to add you to the list of exhibitors.

The next exciting thing in the Club calendar will be the AGM, to be held on the last Monday of the month, this being the 31st March - I do so very much hope we get a good turn out of Club members for this meeting, for it is a chance for YOU to have your say and to voice your opinion on anything you think matters to the club....you can have your say in AOB before the close of the meeting.

Well that's it for another month remember our newsletter is for you the Club member so if you have something to say or need help or advice put a bit in the newsletter we are all here to help each other. Oh....I had better raid the piggy bank for some money for a stamp so I can send this to David.

Eric Gay, WSEC Chairman

WHADDON FARM SPRING CRANK UP

To all that attended, thank you very much for making it such a successful and enjoyable day. The weather was kind to us, many engines were outdoors, only the lighting sets were indoors which gave a lovely atmosphere.

Between you all we succeeded in raising £306.58 from donations and the raffle to the Alzheimer's Society. Thank you! *Gordon & Paula*

DAVE LACEY TARMONKEY OPEN DAY/CRANK UP

Thank you to all Club members who got up extra-early on Sunday 23rd March to come to my Open Day/Crank Up event in Wellington. Some people travelling long distances, many staying locally. I had people come from Scotland, East Anglia, Lincolnshire. Oxford and Cornwall.

We had just shy of 100 engines on display and most of them running, around 50 of mine and some 50 visiting engines lining the estate roads and adjacent business forecourts, it was quite a spectacle.

Engines were started as soon as they were unloaded from their transport, perhaps a little too early for a Sunday morning but fortunately, I have great neighbours who are used to hearing engines running at strange hours. I'm not sure Ashley Humphries Japy backfiring at 8.45am was the best thing to happen though!!

The food proved very popular and pretty much everything went, my god you lot can eat!!! Many thanks to those who brought along home-made cakes, they proved very popular indeed! I must thank my hard-working wife for the lovely spread of food that took many hours to prepare.

We raised the wonderful sum of £618.88 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance which is a service any one of us could need (hopefully not though...) at any time. Thank you!



Members brought a wide range of engines along, star of the show must be the inverted Webster (*above*) owned by John Thorne, what an unusual engine it is and it runs so well.

(Above) The Petter S Twin drew a crowd as we started it for the first of many times! I think a few thought they were going to see something go wrong! *David*

CLUB MEETINGS SURVEY

It seems that since the lockdown people's behaviour seems to have changed and there is less appetite for going out in the evenings compared to pre-pandemic. To find out what you think I would appreciate a minute of your time to complete an online survey. Even if you live a long way away from HQ your opinion matters and you could help to shape the future of the club.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PK8ZG96>

VINTAGE DISPLAY AT HIGH LITTLETON VILLAGE FETE

We have been invited to display at High Littleton village fete on the 23rd August (Bank Holiday Saturday) 12pm to 5pm. Would anyone interested in attending please contact me as soon as possible, as I need to give an answer to the organisers. *Ted Edwards* 07751 918283

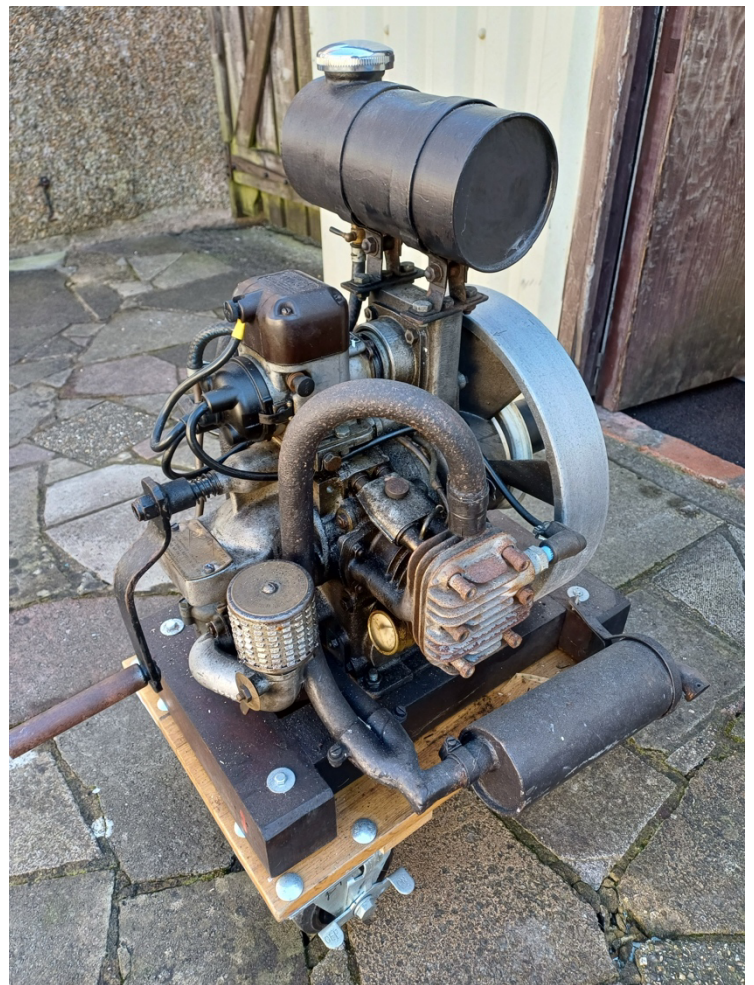
WEST LYDFORD CRANK-UP – Sunday 27th April 2025

Once again Herb has kindly offered the use of the yard at West Lydford TA11 7DL. Please let him know if you are coming as it proved extremely popular last time. Engines running from 10-4, arrival from 9am onwards, catering in attendance. Level hardstanding area, 30 or so engines capacity. Water and toilets available, donations to Alzheimer's as usual. There will be a raffle and any donated prizes would be welcome. Those bringing bigger engines, suggest avoid Wraxall Hill, from Cannards Grave, take the A371 to Castle Cary, then take the B3153 to Lydford traffic lights, back onto the A37 towards Shepton and second left. Any problems or questions please contact Herb Gane on 07836 349289

FOR SALE - Two wheel, braked, galvanised caravan chassis with jockey wheel and four corner jacks. Overall width including wheels 7' (2.1m), Overall length 18' (5.5m). Ideal for engine mounting or trailer conversion. Please contact 01934 852670 *Gerald Atherton*

FOR SALE:- Belt driven barley roller. Contact secretary@wessexsec.org or 07751 918283

FOR SALE I have two stationary engines for sale - Petter type A 2hp and a Norman T300 MK2, both non-runners would anyone from the club be interested? Located in Frome. Tel:- 07976 847872 Mark



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