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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMANS REPORT

We are now well into the 2025 rally season, I have already got into gear and visited my first few events starting with Keith & Will Millers show at Top Field Bratton, this is always a very nice way to start the years events, a nice friendly show more like they were way back in the early eighties. If you have not been along to Bratton put a note in the diary for 2026 and come along.

Next stop was the Lambourn Show on Sunday the 4th May, I have been going to Lambourn for more times than I can remember, a wonderful one day show where they get huge amounts of people through the gate, they had a few more engines than last year but there is still room for more so again if you have never exhibited at Lambourn you have missed out on a very good event, I took my friend and long time club member Bob Hallam with me and he had never been before, he thought it was a great day out and really enjoyed the day.

The next event that I took Bob to was the show at Thruxton. Over the weekend of the 10th & 11th May, what a wonderful site with great views and wonderfully flat with grass cut better than my lawn. Toilet block supplied by the Thruxton race track, only one trouble I was the only stationary engine on site....no ropes, no barriers of any sort, we spoke to three people over the Saturday and one could walk around the complete event in just over half an hour. We shut the Petter lighting set down at around 2.30, it was a waste of fuel as no one came to take a look as the number of visitors were very low to say the least.

We were asked if we were going to return on the Sunday, I think the marshal was quite taken aback when I made my reply. I spent the Sunday working on my latest restoration project, namely my Bamford tulip top of around 1921, I must write to the Bamford dating service as advertised in the new old oil and gas engine magazine.

It's got to be before 1923 as it is fitted with low tension hit and miss governing and this was changed in 1923 in favour of a Hills magneto. Oh....what a disaster more engines back at the works than out in engine land doing their job of work, then Bamford's fitted, in my opinion another poor type of magneto, the dreaded Wico EK, I only ever had one engine with one fitted I did not like it, I will say no more.

I am writing this report on the day after returning from the Three Okefords rally, I have been going to this event for a great number of years and it has always been a splendid event and one I would not miss. I did make a mistake this year....I was talked into going on the Friday, this I did, well that was alright until the evening, the show had live music, nothing wrong with that I hear you say, well the band stopped around 11.30/midnight, then would you believe they started a disco that got louder and louder at 12.45am got out of bed, put on my shoes and went for a walk around the site....the dammed so called music did not stop until after 1.30 in the morning, what fool arranged this stupidity I do not know but I would love to meet him or her. I had no more than three hours sleep if I had that.

On the Saturday I was far from the only one complaining bitterly about the dreadful noise, one dear lady asked me if we had live music at Southwick, when I said yes, she told me that she would not attend as a exhibitor, but I pacified her by saying it will be over by around 11.30pm so I hope she will attend with her vintage caravan.

My next excitement will be the show at Durrington on the 24th & 25th, I hope the sun will keep shining, but they do say it is going to rain over the bank holiday weekend - I live in hope that they are wrong and that John Todd has a good weekend.

Now it is not long before it will be the Wessex main event of the year, our vintage rally at Southwick over the weekend of June 14th & 15th so nice club members please do come and join us over the weekend and if you can possibly give us a little of your time to help out with a few little jobs over the weekend we will be forever in your debt.

We the committee are not happy that West Bay have stolen our weekend to put on their event; I have made it known to them that we are annoyed to say the least, that after having used this date for over 25 years that they have had the stupidity to steal our show date I very much hope that this does not happen in future years.

The club event at Bradford on Avon will be staged over the weekend of September 6th & 7th and again this will be staged to help raise funds for Dorothy House Hospice Care, this is a most worthy cause.

So please enter this event, forms are on the club web site, from me or any member of the committee. In the coming year all the club forms will be via the web site, for as you will all know by now, postage is again being increased with a second class Stamp being over nearly £1, sending everything out by post will be far too costly, myself alone I send out well in excess of 150 entry forms plus letters to perspective exhibitors and much more. We cannot keep meeting these costs, so I for one have to come into the modern age and join the internet age, wish me luck I feel I am going to need it.

This will be done once the boss returns from Sweden in October so I still have a little time to buck up courage to face the wonders of the computer age.

Well that's enough of my waffle for this month so I hope you all have a good time at the shows and events you have planned. *Eric Gay, WSEC Chairman*

ABBEY HILL STEAM RALLY



I wasn't too fussed about going to Abbey Hill this year, but as usual, I couldn't resist and entered an engine.

It was too good an opportunity for the twin Petter S Type engine to give it it's maiden outing at a Yeovil show – so that's what I took along.

I could only attend the Saturday as I was elsewhere on the Sunday and Monday but it was good to be left a decent space on the line to be able to drop off the lump of an engine it is, with no steering, where it comes off the trailer is where it stays, there is simply no moving it after.

Soon we had it levelled up and ready to start, as the blowtorches roared away a small crowd gathered.....as they do! A few winds on the lubricator drive, top up the oil wells and give everything a squirt of oil and it was time to give her a shot of air. NOPE! She wasn't having anything first time.....but after a couple of goes, away it went and steadied down to a slow idle. This was it's first run with a water tank – albeit too small for continuous running, it gave the engine time to get a good bit of heat into it and run for a good while. Adjustment of the top water pipe is needed to suit the tank, so I'll do that and try it again.

A few jobs to do after a few hours running, I do need to adjust the Madison-Kipp oiler as I think it is over-oiling the cylinders slightly, my sincere apologies must go to Mark Langmead and Pete Gear for giving their vehicles a slight covering of 'Petter rain'!!

All in all, I was very happy with how it performed.

Talking to the steward (who did a great job) I think there were 193 engines entered and 188 were on site – it was nice to see most of the field taken up with engines of all sorts running. Next year we need to get the lighting display along the road back, this was always good in previous years, so if you've got a lighting set, I think you'd be very welcome next year. *David*

WESTONZOYLAND PUMPING STATION – STEAM ON THE LEVELS

The weekend of 17th & 18th May saw many Club members take their prized exhibits to Steam on the Levels at the Westonzoyland Pumping station. A great 2 day event comprising of stationary engines, tractors, classic cars, some motorcycles, many tractors and of course, some steam – both full size and miniature.

I turned up at 4pm on Friday to find most of the stationary engine line full, with only perhaps 2 gaps left!! The fine weather must have prompted many to take the day off on Friday and get there early!



I soon found a spot, the ground was a bit uneven as it is an equestrian field used by kind permission of the landowner, so we mustn't be ungrateful! I'm glad I took relatively small engines to this one, namely a Spec 11 Lister D and an early Ruston and Hornsby AP.

I think there were around 30 engines there, a very varied display from American open crank engines, continental engines such as Lorenz and probably the star of the show, Adam Troake's huge Ruston 6HXR engine that came out of the nearby Saltmoor pumping station.

David



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

ROGER PIKE MEMORIAL RALLY

The Roger Pike Memorial Rally takes place on Saturday 20th September at the East Somerset Railway, Cranmore Station, Shepton Mallet BA4 4QP with arrivals from 8am.

Will your exhibit win the coveted Roger Pike Memorial Cup? Bring along your shiniest and best engine, get that Brasso out and see what happens.

No need to book in, just turn up and we'll have a great day as we always do at this fab location. *Linda*

SWEETS TEA ROOMS – CRANK UP

The Wedmore Crank-Up at Sweets Tea Rooms will take place on Saturday 31st May - 9am to 4pm. Please use postcode BS28 4UE to find us, it's really easy to get to.

Please do not arrive before 8.30 as the gates will not be open.

Entrance is free, all donations to the Alzheimer's Society. No need to book in - open to non-club members too.

You can bring your engine, old motorcycle, old car or tractor etc. or just come in for a look round. Refreshments can be purchased from the tea rooms as usual.

If you need more information ring Herb on 01749 674402 or if we don't pick up please leave a message. We look forward to seeing you all on the day. *Herb Gane*

FOR SALE

1913 Gilson 1¾ hp

Lister D 1½ hp

1934 Petter M 4 hp with generator

Petter M 2 hp with Lister Water pump

1922 International M 3 hp Low Tension

Root & Vandervort 2 hp

Ruston & Hornsby PB 1½ hp – 2¼ hp

1914 Amanco Hired Man with Amanco pump

No 2 Climax pump

Majestic Canadian import via Avonmouth corn mill, quite rare

Bentall chaff cutter

if interested please ring for details 01761 471461 (Timsbury, Bath area) *Phil Marshall*

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. £150 ono Please contact 01934 852670

Gerald Atherton

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

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