



CRANKING



Issue 9/17

Nov-17

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editors Note

Two inclusions with this months newsletter :-

A) Membership Renewal Forms for 2018 - All memberships are due to be renewed in January, we have managed to keep the price of membership the same despite the rising postal costs.

Please ensure you enclose your SAE to get your card back in the quickest way.

B) The Annual Wessex Christmas Card - hope you all gave a good one- and thanks to Tom Randall for organising this every year.

I would like to wish an ex rally Committee member well , Geoff Davis who worked hard as the Commercial Steward (and other various duties !)

As well as having to have regular dialysis , he is now poorly with vertigo - so feel better soon.

Also to be mentioned is my girl partner in crime on the Club Committee our secretary Jackie, who is at this moment recovering from an operation. Get well soon Jackie I need to balance those testosterone levels out on our Tuesday monthly meetings !

Finally DON'T FORGET - Our PARTY 15TH DECEMBER Food is ordered and I am putting together some lovely hampers again for the raffle so come and have a festive natter.

Karen Gumm

Club Events 2017

KEY:- CN - CLUB NIGHT EV - EVENT
CN Held at Old Down Inn, Emborough

15th Dec CN Christmas Party at Old Down Inn

Club Events 2018

29th Jan CN - Battle of Rorks Drift by Mr Peter Lamb

26th Feb CN - Annual General Meeting

A good Visit

Highly recommended by Herb Gane is a visit to the

Radstock Museum
Waterloo Road
Radstock
BA3 3EP

Opening Times :- February to November

Tue - Fri 2-5pm
Sat 11am -5pm
Sun 2pm - 5pm
Dec - 3 special days see website

Prices :- Adult £ 6.00
Seniors £ 5.00
Ticket valid for a year

Website www.radstockmuseum.co.uk

Telephone :- 01761 437722

Social News

I have just had a chat with Christine, Don Roger's wife and she says Don is making progress at Bath's RUH. He is in his seventh week of being hospitalized and can now communicate with his visitors and is even telling William to remove the runner bean stocks from his garden, so he is getting there albeit in small steps that will lead to the bigger ones - so well done Don.

Robin Lambert

Chairman's Report - October 2017

This month has been a month of good and bad news. I will start with the bad news first.. It was at the committee meeting of the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show, that I heard the sad news that my old friend and long time club member Bill Coombs had passed away. I know that all Club members that knew Bill would , along with myself, want to send their heartfelt condolences to Vi and all the family at this very sad time.

It was also reported to me the very same evening that Don Rogers has suffered a very severe stroke and was very ill in hospital, to Christine and William, I know you would all want me to send our hope that Don makes a full recovery and our thoughts are with you at this time.

The third bad news came with the latest newsletter, that Karen our Newsletter Editor and Treasurer, due to her husband Phil's ill health and her own business commitments is unable to continue as the Newsletter editor. So from February 2018 The Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd will be in need of a new Editor . Without this post being filled it will be impossible for the Committee or myself to keep in touch with Club members. We the Committee have a great programme of events already planned for 2018, but if I cannot get them to you the club member, I will have no way of informing you of updates to future club events. I am now appealing to anyone that feels they can take on this task. As you can see as Karen has stated , she will give all the support she can to any volunteer and I am at the end of the phone to give any help I can. So if you would like to help your Club and its members please get in touch. In the words of the song ' we need somebody just anybody', please help so we can keep our club running and we the Committee can keep you the Club members informed of all club activities

Now on to what I hope is better news, as you may know the last event at Westbury Country Park suffered from poor attendance. I have been approached by West Wilts Society of Model Engineers in relation to holding our April event in conjunction with them and using the parking facilities adjacent to the Societies Club house, toilets and railway and workshop. They are willing to provide tea, coffee, biscuits and cake and I with a little help from my friends will do a BBQ. As soon as the date has been finalised you will be sent an entry form. I hope we will be able to attract some other vintage exhibits I could use someone to do some local advertising, posters etc around the local area, please help this is not an arduous task.

I know this is well in the future September 9th 2018, The West Wilts Society of Model Engineers **GALA DAY**- again we will be trying to attract more exhibits and entry forms will be sent out. Only 3 engines turned up in 2017. I know I was not there but I did have a good excuse, I had been ill for the previous 5 weeks. I just hope we can put together a good show of exhibits for 2018.

The meeting of the committee of the Wessex Midsummer Vintage show took place on October 11th. In 2017 we struggled for help, well after making lots of appeals the committee has grown and we now have a great committee of 15 good people to help run our 2018 event. I have already received a few entries for the event ranging from trade stands to steam exhibits for our working area. In 2018 the show will have a new layout with more vintage exhibits towards the entrance road way. The traders will be in a new position giving the public a better view of the show as they enter.

The Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd will be staged at the Old Down Inn on Monday 26th February 2018. Members wishing to join the Committee should inform the Secretary as soon as possible , so why not come and join us help run the Club.

As in my last report we need a Club photographer and reporter so as our events can be printed in the vintage press, Stationary Engine magazine, Vintage Spirit, Old Glory etc. Are you good with a camera ? If so why not put it to good use and become the Club photographer, just give me a call.

Now remember Christmas is just around the corner and if you want to be at the party now is the time to let me know. Please if I have rung you , let me know even if you are not able to attend.

On the 12th of October two committee members met with members of the Lavington Parish Council to discuss the re-starting of the Lavington Vintage Rally , (once run by John Kyte). I will let you all know how this progresses in the future, at the moment we hope this event might take place in July 2018.

Eric Gay - Chairman

Out and About with Robin and Jackie

Sedgemoor Rally 8/9th July - I was told this event was in danger of not going ahead as prior to the show a large group of Travellers had taken it upon themselves to park on the Rally site prior to the event, but fortunately they moved on and the weekend was able to take place. This Rally seems to get bigger each year but I thought the Stall Section was a little less than usual. Some nice exhibits were here in the stationary engine line including 2 brought along by Ed and John Thorn. It was nice to see past Wessex Chairman Ian Skuse back out exhibiting again after a long absence behind the ropes. I must say the weather here was a bit too hot for me but on occasions a welcoming breeze would come to my rescue off the Bristol Channel, which was only a few fields away.

Ducklington 22nd/23rd July - The picturesque village of Ducklington (complete with duck pond), is situated about a mile from Witney and just a few fields away from the Brize Norton air base. We have seen in recent years this event double in size. This year there were over 850 exhibits for the viewing public to see, including 250 stationary engines with this a special year hosting Listers in the H to R range. The Freshwater collection of 29 trucks were here once again and next year hopes to have Greengrass's lorry from the TV series Heartbeat. If you like aircraft this is the event for you as planes are in and out of Brize Norton all day long. We had a tremendous downpour during Saturday night which chopped up the Shows Exhibitor Entrance, with most needing a tug into the event Sunday morning but by going home time the days sunshine put the problem right and all left unheeded.

The Stithians Steam and Country Fair 18th/19th/20th August - Held at the Stithian Showground near Truro we have been coming to this event for a number of years now , although not always to this site, which the show was relocated to several years ago. It was known then as the St Agnes Steam Rally. Although a long haul (170 miles) it is a pleasant trip and we usually go down via Plymouth to take in the fantastic views over Brunel's Bridge at Saltash as we cross from Devon into Cornwall, (and there is no toll charge in this direction !). We then have a nice stop over at Trago Mills at Liskeard. Around 20 of our Club members make this annual pilgrimage bringing with them a nice selection of Exhibits and the Stationary engine section is well supported but has been reduced a bit in recent years. Our section steward Dave does his best to park us all together which is a great help if you want to wonder off and have a look around and can leave someone you know to keep an eye on your Exhibit. One again it was nice to meet up with Mike Jennings who relocated from Clutton to Cornwall with his late wife Eileen a few years ago. He looks very well and sends his best wishes back to all in our Club. Our Cornish Club member Kerwin Harris was kept busy back at his home after the show looking for all the bits and bobs to help us keep our machines in tip top order, well done Kerwin. If anyone has not exhibited here before the site is on a purpose built show ground, a bit like a mini Bath and West , with lots of facilities like a shop and showers. The weather over the three days was typically Cornish two dry and one wet but you get advance warning of the rain as this hill top site has views for miles, giving you ample time to get your wet weather gear on !

Over Wallop Vintage Day Sunday 27th August - This has to be one of our favourite one day events. Situated southwest of Andover and on the edge of the Salisbury Plain, this tranquil village event held on a local playing field has to be everyone's dream of a great day out. You can arrive the day before and set up your exhibit if you wish. You can explore the Village and try and find the shop (it's not easy!) and have a beer in the local pub , all within walking distance of the event. All Vintage classes are represented here with a giant car boot sale all day Sunday plus a club house doing roaring trade with refreshments. There is an unusual ring event with a vintage combine harvester doing a demonstration of how it all works and vintage tractors Swath, turning the long lines of straw that is later bailed up. Blessed with a very hot sunny day and masses of visitors we can't wait to do it all next year.

Robin and Jackie Lambert

SALES AND WANTED

Fuel Tanks and Crank Guards Made
Tel :- John Hedges 01635 268359 or
Mobile :- 07831 410473

Villers WX 11 1. 1/2HP - not on a trolley
2 Wolseley air cooled engines on trollies with
spare engine for each as spares.
Ruston Hornsby PB 1. 1/2 HP on trolley
Carburettors for Ruston's and Wolseleys
2 Stuart water pumps
1 Lister domestic water pump
Wolseley & Ruston bell pulleys
Phone Steve Morris on 0117 9504 167 for Prices

Spark Plugs

www.sparkplugs.co.uk

Tel :- 01244 679903

Starting Handles

Lister 2" Bore Part No :- 9/5124 £ 15.00

Lister 2" Bore Part No :- 9-5-24 No Pawl £ 10.00

Lister 2.1/4" Bore Part No :- 23-3452 £ 15.00

Petter 1.7/8" bore, stamped G:R £ 12.00

As a lot £ 40.00 , Buyer Collects

Phone Tom Randall 01761 418926

Midsomer Norton

WANTED :- Stuart Turner R3 Head Please phone Rob Champion on :-01275 892944

Ed - Apologies to Steve for getting the phone number wrong last time

Looking for a Christmas Present ?

A new book 'Mendip Engineering and the Mendip Car , An industrial Revolution in Chewton Mendip' written by our very own Club member and past president Tom Randall and published by the Radstock Museum. The book is in A4 format, paperback, 106 pages with 140 illustrations including many previously unpublished photographs, including Cutler's Green Iron Works built steam lorries, petrol-engined commercial vehicles and a two seater light car. The book also includes an account of their work for the WWI war effort. The book is priced at £ 12.95 and is available from the Radstock Museum shop either over the counter or by post - see the website, www.radstockmuseum.co.uk for details of postal costs and how to order. Robin tells me there was an excellent write up about it in the Frome Standard recently.

Our First Stationary Engine

In the early 70's at the Smart's showman's yard at Warminster, my husband Phil (a young tearaway then) started up and then took out a Lister 8 hp diesel stationary engine plus generator that ran their workshop and yard .This piece of machinery was transported to the old mill at Cranmore where it sat unloved in a shed in running waters until 2016. Lo and behold Phil had the opportunity to buy it back. It sat in Capps lane for a while being fiddled with , sworn at as it smoked (or smirked !) but would not go. So our friend Steve from Hetton-La-Hole in Sunderland offered to have a look at it - so on the back of a lorry it went for a long ride. Those canny ex-pit boys looked at it and within an hour had it up and running - so it may be on the circuit next year -that's if he can manage to pry it back off them as they have taken rather a fancy to it...!!!

Karen Gumm

Last Date for Submission in the December Newsletter Sunday 10th December 2017

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Committee Members :- Chairman E Gay, D Chair :- P Gear, Secretary :- J Coles, Treasurer :- K Gumm
President :- R Pike , H Gane, G Guley, G Sainsbury, B Coles, R Sanford, T Lawrence

*All information given will be as accurate as can be, for any errors or omission I apologise in advance for being human .
Please note that opinions expressed may or may not represent club policy.*

Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd Number 02916481