



CRANKING



Issue 7/17

Jul-17

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Out and About

Starting off with Selwood Rally (27/28/29th May) we entered the Rally site approx half an hour before the official arrival time to what seemed to be a frosty reception from the Steward on the entrance , (You don't offload or park up until you have seen your section steward), so forgetting about the usual greetings like nice to see you both, have a great weekend and thanks for supporting our event, I enquired where is the steward and was told he was right across the opposite end of the field and most likely in the car park. Looking at the S.E. line that was already filling up we just moved in with the rest who had already made the wasted journey to find the steward and were sent all the way back to where they started ! I did hear from one well known exhibitor who had to work on the Saturday morning but made the effort and travelled some 30 miles to get to site at lunch time only to be refused

admission as no movement was allowed on site unless of course you were a Steam engine, Tractor , Vintage car lorry etc. I would have thought a person in a reflective jacket walking on in front of this small van waving a red flag, shouting beware would have been a sensible conclusion to the situation, So now having got that off my chest the event passed by quite well, all groups well supported but the stall area I would think was a bit down on previous years. The Saturday Boot Sale just outside the Show was well under way with around 60 boots and stalls to browse but the Monday boots had only half a dozen, no doubt they had heard the weather forecast which more or less put paid to the Rally as the skies fell in with no sign of the rain abating. Most of the Exhibitors started packing up. To wind up then we enjoyed our few days here , we did miss the little lady who always used to come round in the mornings shouting (papers , Milk) which saved us a long walk into the village. I did notice a lot of the regular Stewards missing this year which may have put this Event under some pressure

20th and 21st May saw us at the Shillingstone Rally and not far from Blandford Forum. It is a shame this event has a date clash with Castle Combe as both are always enjoyable events , although I must say it is always cold at Castle Combe even on a sunny day. The Organisers must have had a difficult decision to go ahead with this event as many days of a hard rain fell on the site prior to the show and the steep range of hills to the rear of the Showground meant the water had to pass right through the site but there was no problem moving around whatsoever. The S.E. lines were back in their usual location at the lower end of the Showground and not too far from the entrance, as last year we were further up the hillside having changed places with the Stall section. Simon our engine steward did a first class job looking after us all as always and it was nice to see his young family proudly displaying a fine working display of milking equipment. The tractors pullers were busy at the top of the site doing their stuff but I think they had a problem with the Sledge for a while, when it looked like a wire rope broke. Some nice 60's music from the Beer Tent drifted across the site Fri and Sat evening and for those of us who go to roost early it was nice listening. We had an enjoyable time and can't wait to do it again.

Club Events 2017

KEY:- CN - CLUB NIGHT EV - EVENT

CN Held at Old Down Inn, Emborough

July 31st	CN Mr John Blackford -A talk on engineering models etc.
Aug 21st	CN Fractional HP Engines bring yours along and tell us about it.
Sept 10th	Model Engineering & Railway Gala- White Horse Country Park
Sept 25th	CN Stuart Burroughs - Stationary Engines made in the Bath area
Oct 7th	EV Cranmore Vintage Sale
Oct 30th	CN Presentation of John Padmore the engineer - Mr Tony Coverdale.
Nov 27th	CN Photographic and Digital Image Evening - Bring your own images
Dec-17	To Be Announced

Robin and Jackie Lambert

Chairman's Report - June 2017

They say time flies when one is enjoying themselves, well it does not seem a year ago when we had the last rally at Semington.

This years event seemed to be on top of us all before we knew what was happening. I must admit I had a few sleepless nights leading up to this years event. We had a lot of rain and it was touch or go whether or not the grass could be cut, it was just sheer luck that on the Friday prior to the rally week it turned dry , grass cut on Friday, wilt Saturday, baled Sunday and cleared on the Monday. I started doing a bit on the Tuesday, seeing the land owner so as the entrance gate would be unlocked for us the next day, then it was a case of out with the strimmer and cut the grass away from the exhibitors gate way. As I did this I was approached by a jobs worth from the local council, 'you will have to remove that sign'. My reply was WHY as it is not on the highway and it has been in place for around six months, a small board advertising the rally set back in the farm gateway. The answer I gave him put him right off his stroke and he left without another word. Wednesday saw us start in earnest with help from Roy and his good friend from Potterne, along with Roy's van we loaded and transported all our materials from the store at Gordon's farm to the site. Meanwhile others on the team started to erect the Marquee that we had been kindly loaned by Tony Carter, while we started to lay out the stakes for engine pens, ring and working area. Work progressed at a great rate and my sincere thanks goes to all those that gave of their time to help us. Without you we would not be able to stage this event, your help is greatly appreciated not only by me but by all the organising committee.

This years show was the largest and best we have ever staged, engine entries alone numbered over 100, Brian with his motorcycles put on our best selection yet, not only as static exhibits but with demonstrations each day by grass track racing machines and speedway bikes. Our cars , commercials and tractors helped fill the site to capacity, my thanks goes to Tony for all his hard work not only before the event but during it as well. Gary did us proud once again with his working section, right down to a cobblers shop, and the chain saw carver has made us a carving of a fox for us to auction. Paula and Gordon put on a great display of poultry but not only that they both worked their socks off helping with no end of tasks throughout the weekend and afterwards as well with all the clearing up and other hundred and one jobs there were to do. The West Wilts Society of Model Engineers brought along their portable railway track, set this up and gave children young and old (!) rides throughout the weekend. Something new we did for the children this year that went down very well was the great sweet grab in the display ring, Andy Gale drove round the ring in one of his miniature landrover scattering bags of sweets , when this was done we let the children run riot collecting as many bags as they could, very small children were not left out as I made sure that they left with a few bags of sweets, as we did not want any of them to be disappointed. This was such an attraction that we were given a donation towards the sweets for 2018.

Our new entertainers this year were Mustang Sally, a 5 piece group and did they do us proud, not only on Saturday evening but throughout the day on Saturday and up until Sunday lunchtime. They went down a storm and will be returning in 2018.

Our steam exhibits this year were up on years past with over 20 miniature engines booked in and 17 of those turning up. Our full size entry should have been 5 but we were let down at the last minute when I had a phone message on the Friday saying that 2 of the engines could not come. I wish people would not leave it until the last minute to let us know, as this does not give us time to find other exhibits to take their place and their attendance had also been advertised. One punter got very cross about this but it was not the fault of us the organising committee. Alan Sparks was going to bring along the 'Masterpiece' but the engine developed injector problems and if one cannot get water into the boiler things can go bang, but Alan did not let us down as he brought his heavy haulage engine, that has not been out to an event for many years. We were very privileged to have this engine with us and my sincere thanks goes to Alan for bringing this along to Semington.

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Chairman's Report - June 2017 continued

Paul Trickey once again gave us his support bringing his foster engine all the way from Poole.

With the weather being so kind we had a great weekend and to all who helped us, to all our exhibitors as without them we would not have a show and to all those who worked on the gate, to our Karen for not only buying all the raffle prizes but for the lovely way she packed them for us, thank you one and all and may we do it all again over the weekend of June 16th & 17th 2018.

Moving on from our Rally to our evening meetings at the Old Down Inn Emborough. It has been great to see so many of you supporting our evenings, I was most worried when 3 meetings ago we only had 10 people at our evening event, but the last meeting was well attended. So I thank you all for your support and our next meeting at the end of July will be by John Blackford giving us a talk on his life in engineering.

I did ask if anyone would be interested in a drive yourself outing to the American museum at Claverton, I had no response so I will try and come up with some other event or outing, or if you have any suggestions please let me know.

Eric Gay - Chairman

Wedmore Vintage Day and Crank Up

Sunday 7th May sees us with a new venue for a crank up. It was held at the Sweets Tea Rooms and Peat Science Museum, near Wedmore. The event came about after a chance meeting between Chairman Eric and Merv Sweet. Bryan Coles and myself were deputised to get the ball rolling, with a 1 day event for stationary engines. After a site visit we found it to be an excellent venue with refreshments, toilets and a large field all available.

We were not sure what support we would get but on the day the engine men started to arrive at 8am By 10am some 23 or 24 machines were set up and running. These ranged from Ted Durbin's 1.5hp Lister D and water pumps to Pete Gear's 7.5hp Blackstone (a large engine to bring from Trowbridge !)

There was a very good cross section of engines including a rare 'bean can' Perkin brought by John Thorne and an 'ideal' engine which I had never seen before brought by Glen James, Simon Coles brought a Debucy-Ceres, a French engine and Ed Thorne brought a small Hartop engine. We had a Petler Light from Roger Pike, an Amanco and bilge pump from Roger Allen, Z Rushton from Dave Foxwell, Bryan Coles brought a Ruston-Hornsby and a Crossley. Gordon Guley was there with his big Lister L, Don Rogers brought the late Bill Appleby's 5hp Victoria , which was nice to see rallying again.

New member Angus Payne brought a Lister C.S.2 cold start 2 cylinder engine which ran like clockwork. There were many other interesting engines, too numerous to mention. We also had an exhibition of old oil cans brought by Ken Barnett. Members of the South Somerset Agricultural Preservation club came along to support us, as did members of the Vintage Motorcycle Club. Mike and Chris Chipperfield brought their Triumph Model H and Coventry Eagle bikes , whilst other members brought a nice James and another 1920's Triumph H.

At about 11 o'clock we had a surprise visit from the Yeovil Mini Maniacs with 6 classic minis - who 'just happened to be passing' and stayed most of the day - thank you.

Many thanks to Carol Phillips and her helpers that ran the raffle with all prizes donated by members. The public also gave donations and a grand total of £ 150.00 was passed to the Alzheimer's Society. Thanks also to Sweets Tea Rooms for refreshments and the venue, if we have missed anyone out we apologise, The sun shone and it was agreed to try and do it all again next year. On behalf of Bryan and Jackie Coles and ourselves we would like to thank everyone who supported us.

Herb & Wendy Gane

SALES AND WANTED

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

Spark Plugs
www.sparkplugs.co.uk
Tel :- 01244 679903

Approx 40 gallons of vaporizing oil - proper Kerosene
not DIY made up. Please contact :-
Andrew Howard - deeleighfrc@yahoo.co.uk

Wanted :- John Deere Model E engine, any
condition considered. Please contact Craig on
Tel :- 07867 501171 or craig.savage@neurologic.net

Wanted :- Parts for a Bamford No 0 Corn Mill
or even a scrap mill Please Call Eric :- 01225 754374

Wanted - Exhibitors for Wiltshire Event - Steam &
Vintage Weekend - Swindon and Cricklade Railway
on 12th & 13th August 2017, Contact Phil Webb on
01793 827202 for more information.

Lucas SRI Magneto x 2 - £ 45.00 each
Hovis top magneto - £ 45.00
2 x Lister D £ 100.00 each
Contact Matthew Hodges :- 01747 870516
Evenings only please

Amanco Igniters O/H, rebuilt and repaired, also
new petrol and Pet/Paraf. Sets of Amanco springs,
inlet, exhaust and ignitor set of 3.
RS1 magnetos and cases if yours are broken or
corroded. I also have an assortment of instruction
books, leaflets etc. for numerous engines too many
to list.
For details on all the above please call Kerwin
Harris on 01872 273388 (Cornwall - furthest
member award what !! - Ed)

Social News

So whose on the not well list at the moment. Kevin Phillips has had his fair share of in and out of hospital but looked well when I last saw him, no doubt owing to all the tlc showered on him by Carol. I had a chat on the phone the other night with Arthur Smith, mainly to ask how Liz was, he told me she is still poorly so we all wish her well, its bad enough being off colour during winter time but in the summer even worse. I bumped into Bill Coombs the other day as he was on his way out of Frome hospital, his mobility was very slow but he had a smile on his face as he told me he sleeps most of the day and night but is being well looked after by Violet. Friend of Wessex Mo Dukes has had a pacemaker fitted and said goodbye to his camper van but is still getting around with Glad to see his old mates, courtesy of his son doing the driving, so well done Mo.

Many of our Club Members will have fond memories of their early Rallying days at Stourpaine Bushes (now called the Dorset Steam Fair). At that time our S.E. steward was Bill Foster, well I bumped into Bill's daughter Brenda in Sainsbury's and asked after her Dad. She told me he is doing fine and going on well in his 96th year ! So well done Bill you will soon be getting your telegram from Liz and Phil, keep taking the tablets !

Robin Lambert

Last Date for Submission in the August Newsletter Sunday 6th August 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