



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editor's Note

Well, end of April already and Easter has been and gone. Please let me know by email if you would like the newsletter emailed to you. Please accept my apologies if your item hasn't made it into this month's newsletter. I will add to May's.

Please contact me at: swin28.ss@gmail.com, 10 Radstock Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath, BA3 2AJ, 01761 415517.

Sacha Swinden-Pride

Wessex Stationary Engine Club

Chairman's Report, January/February 2019

Our meeting on the evening of March 25th turned into a near disaster, our speaker for the evening did not appear. Kevin Phillips helped save the evening by giving us an insight into his working life in the engineering field and by bringing along a piece of Douglas Motorcycle history, this being a very large gauge used in the factory back in the days when Douglas was part of the British motor cycle industry.

It was a great shame that Mr Billy Douglas did not get to the meeting, I did contact him by phone and I sent him a letter of confirmation before Christmas 2018. Whether or not this arrived I do not know, all I can say is that a great deal of post that was sent out around that time did not get to the addressee, these being the entry forms for our traders at the rally sent to Sacha, letters and forms sent to Swindon and Westbury. If I had not had phone calls from people that should have had letters and forms I would not have known, the club will have to try and re-book Mr Douglas sometime in the future.

The Club's bring and buy sale at Cranmore this time was a great success, with a good number of stalls and a good crowd of buyers with their money. I think all of the sellers went home with full pockets. I will admit I had a good day.

Now what really made it special was **THAT THE SUN SHONE ON US**. I cannot remember when this last happened. I have been near drowned, I have been frozen, but until Saturday 30th March never before sunburned. I hope everyone that came along had a good day and I look forward to our next sale in October.

By the time you read this our crank up at the White Horse Country Park will have come and gone, I hope that the sun will have shone on us, I will be out putting up posters around the area tomorrow Monday 1st April, April Fools day! Not only this but it is time to start advertising our main event, the club's rally at Semington. Now if you can help by displaying a poster or going around your local area with posters etc. please please give me a ring and I will get some to you very quickly. So please, if you can, as we need to attract as many people as possible. We need their money.

Now I would like to remind everyone that the new website is working well, I have had a large amount of entry forms returned to me that have been taken from the site, so please remember it is there for you the club member to make use of, adverts, photographs, etc. For more info or help contact Ted Edwards and I am sure that he will help.

I have over the years restored many engines, and at Gordon's Whaddon Lane crank up I had my latest restoration project, one Stuart Sandhurst. It ran but I could not slow it down, so it was back to the workshop to investigate why this was happening. Now the most logical step was to take a long hard look at the carburettor. After poking and prying for a while hello hello what wally has been at this then? What did I find? Someone in the dim and distant past had fitted the wrong throttle stop screw; it would not allow the slide to fall, although the needle could enter the jet this only allowed air to rush into the intake and draw in more fuel, correct screw fitted..... problem sorted,

Well let's see what next month brings, so that's all for now.

Eric Gay, Chairman

Club Events

Sunday 12 th May	Crank up & Vintage Day, Tuckers Grave Inn, Nr Norton St Philip A366, 10 am – 4.30pm E-Forms & Details 01225 754374
Monday 20 th May	C/N Mr Mike Chipperfield one week early due to bank holiday
Sunday 2 nd June	Wedmore Crank Up & Vintage Day, Sweets Tea Rooms & Museum, West Hay, Nr Wedmore, BS28 4UE, B3151, 01749 674402
Saturday 15 th Sun 16 th June	Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show, A361 Trowbridge to Devizes Road, at Semington, E/Forms & Details 01225 754374 or 01274 398210, 07796 162775
Monday 24 th June	C/N Mr Roy Ackrill, from Gutenberg to Gates (early printing)
Sunday 28 th July	Crank up & Vintage Day, The Somerset Arms, Maiden Bradley, Somerset, Nr Frome. E/Forms & Details 01225 754374
Monday 29 th July	C/N Mr Barry Williamson. A Bristol soldier of the Great War
Monday 19 th August	C/N Terry Williams (Light Infantry) talking about the Poppy of Honour WWI, (arranged by Steve Pride)
Monday 30 th September	C/N Mr Terry Merrit Smith, Ration Books to Rock and Roll.
Saturday 5 th October	Cranmore Vintage Sale, A361, Frome to Shepton Mallet Road, 01225 754374, 9am onwards.
Monday 28 th October	C/N Model Evening I/C Steam, Boats, Meccano, Etc. Anything you like, Prize for best model or display.
Monday 25 th November	C/N The Wessex Quiz Night

Item for Sale

Free standing awning, medium size suitable for caravan or motor home £75.00

Contact Mrs Dot Watts, Weston-super-mare, Tel: 01934 622875 for further details.

Letter from Brian Verrall

By now most club members will know I have stood down from being motor cycle steward and rally committee. This is due to health problems, which has curtailed my hands on involvement on the rally field, helping setting up and breaking down of the event.

My replacement for the motor cycle section is Liz Harrison whom I welcome to the club, I'm sure she will be able to carry on where I left off, and for advice Liz, I'm on the end of the phone.

Since standing down, the rally committee and the main committee have presented me with a commemorative shield and wrist watch which I must admit was one hell of a surprise, Thank You very much. I must have done something right!!

All being well I shall still continue to rally as an exhibitor so you haven't see the last of me yet.

Brian Verrall

The Whaddon Lane crank up on 17 March.

Well, what a difference a day makes! After storm Gareth that brought the gales and torrential rains, St Patrick's day gave us bright sunshine for the WSEC crank up at Whaddon Farm, Hilperton; there was an excellent turnout of 24 engines. Most were from the local area but members from further afield included Don Cutler from Shaftesbury with his 1918 International 3HP, Richard Cook with his Norman T300 and pump from Street, John Thorne from Bridgewater with his 1922 Frank Hartop AB 11¼hp restored by his late father and David Lacey with his 1915 Crossley gas engine from Wellington. Hopefully Roy Sandford will get his newly purchased International 3hp kerosene engine going for the next crank up!

It was also the first outing for new member Frank Romaine with his Lister D and pump from Potterne. Frank is a very keen photographer and provided Ted with pictures from the day.

Hopefully there will be an equally good turnout for the next crank up at The Tucker's Grave Inn on the A366 near Norton St Philip, BA3 5XF on Sunday 12 May.

It was especially good to see Robin and Jackie with their scale model Robinson hot air engine and Don, Chris and William with their Gardner 2½hp spirit engine.

As before, Paula and Gordon put an awful lot of effort into making the day a great success. Gordon's vegetable soup and Paula's leek and potato soup was welcomed to warm up the cold fingers, and the ladies provided enough cakes to keep us going all day. Paula's legendary apple crumble and custard was as popular as ever. Tea and coffee flowed as freely as the eager conversation between members around the engines while Paula's band of helpers did a sterling job.

Thank you to all who contributed to the raffle, and to Carol for selling the tickets. Money raised by the raffle and donations amounted to £147.26 which has been given to and acknowledged by The Alzheimer's Society.

Gordon and Paula are planning a repeat of this year's successful mince pie crank up on 29 December 2019. I know it's rather advance notice but please make a note of Gordon's telephone number 01225 755448. There will be a raffle and once again all proceeds will be given to The Alzheimer's Society.

Anne Kempson

You are invited to bring an engine (or something interesting!) to Wedmore Crank-up- and Vintage Day on Sunday 2nd June.

The venue is Sweets Tea Rooms and Museum, West Hay, Nr Wedmore, Somerset, BA6 9TH

Gates open 9am. No Entry forms required but please bring your insurance. Entrance is free but donations gratefully received for the Alzheimer's Society.

For more info ring: Herb Gane on 01749 674402, Brian Coles on 01749 677297

Westbury Transport and Vintage Gathering 27/28 April

Situated midway between Westbury and Bratton this event has for many years now been a popular rally, not just for us but for many WSEC members. We thought it would be a good idea to travel over and get our exhibit set up on Friday afternoon as many do, and prepare for our first night this year in our van. What we hadn't bargained for was storm Hannah sweeping up through the West Country with mighty vigour. The wind noise during the night was deafening and with the van continually rocking I don't think many on site got a good night's sleep. Saturday morning came and peering out of the window I could see one wrecked stall, then venturing outside to view our exhibit the front sheets and wood porch roof was wrecked, but fortunately all could be put right. The High winds continued all through Saturday morning making it impossible for us to run our exhibit, and I would say at two pm with almost zero public on site we decided to return home, which for us was only a 15 minute drive. But what a different picture on Sunday, no winds and glorious sunshine and with the missing exhibitors from Saturday back on the field the event had returned to its normal support exhibit wise and visiting public. Our S.E Line had some nice machines to view, and next to us were John and Shirley with a small Amanco driving a neat vertical two piston water pump, and Don always recognisable with his windmill spinning round had a very tiny engine that he had done a lot of work on to get it running, including finding a magneto and carburettor to fit, and he would like to know the make. So if you can help please do.

Don's mate Nigel was missing this year owing to problems with his van, so get them sorted soon Nige, you were missed. It was nice to have a chat with Ted, our new Club Secretary, who made his first visit to the show as a viewer and I just had to pass on my compliments as to what a good job he is doing in particular with the club website, and not to embarrass him these are not just my thoughts. To wind up my ramblings I must say a big thank you to Keith Miller for laying the show on, not be too dismayed regarding the gales on Saturday, and I hope he can lay it all on again next year.

Robin.

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

Last date for submission in the May Newsletter is Tuesday 21st May 2019
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