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CRANKING

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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

It is really encouraging to see young faces out on the stationary engine line. Today I've spent a very pleasant day out today at a country show in Mid Devon, where the engine line organisers brought along their 10 year old grandson, James.

He took great delight in chatting to me about what he'd been doing on the farm and without asking he immediately helped me bang the stakes in and roll out the rope once everybody had arrived and got into position.

He sat with his grandmother (who will remain nameless but many will know her and her husband, from near Crediton in Devon) and tended to the engine they had brought along. We really need to support and encourage these youngsters, they are the future custodians of our prized exhibits, be it Listers, Petters, Crossleys or Hornsbys. Without fresh blood coming into the hobby, what will become of our prized engines we cherish? More often than not we are looked upon with disdain by passing youngsters, dragged along by their parents, hands covering their ears and breathing through their clothes because our engines 'stink'!

A big 'Thank you' to everyone who responded to my recent plea for more content for *Cranking*, I think you'll agree this issue is an interesting and varied read. *David*

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I have just been going over all the rallies I've attended this year, the count is up to eleven with one yet to go, so as you can see this year has been a busy one! I do not think I have ever attended so many shows before and a great many I have never attended before. If I was asked to say which one was the best it would be hard to say as I have enjoyed every one, a few that I can recommend, Stoke Row, Bloxham Steam & Country Fair, Breamore House Akroyd weekend and the Gloucester Extravaganza. The Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show of course outshone all the others well that was only to be expected!!

Now I am sat in my posh office, well the spare bedroom writing this report after making around 50 urgent phone calls to tell exhibitors & traders that the Vintage Gathering at Bradford Leigh, has had to be cancelled due to once again the weather gods hating me. The rain is still pouring down as I write this.

Ted & I met at the site this morning, I had already walked across the field only to find large pools of water in many places and that was quite early in the day and after much debate and heart searching we decided that there was no possible way that the event could go ahead and the event was cancelled.

Over the last few months the attendance at our club evenings has been poor to say the least, but last month those that did not come missed the best evening's entertainment we have had in some time. Ted Edwards gave a talk and film presentation on his life as a motor cycle racer on the Isle of Man and other circuits. It was a magical evening that not only I enjoyed but all those that came along thoroughly enjoyed too. I would like to thank Ted for all the work and time he must have spent putting his presentation together.

By the time you read this report I will have packed my bags ready for my long-awaited trip to far off lands and for a time you will be spared from reading my ramblings in this newsletter. I am going to Sweden with my daughter Catherine and her husband Paul, so from the end of September until early November I will be away in foreign climes. I know one thing that I will see in Sweden will be a 1903 Tangye Steam engine, that is on the next property just up the road from Catherine and Pauls cottage. I will try to get photos and do a write up all about it when I return. *Eric Gay, WSEC Chairman*

CRANMORE SALE - SATURDAY 5th October 8am – 4pm
East Somerset Steam Railway, Cranmore Station, Nr Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4QP
Another of our popular sales at Cranmore Station. £2 entry for buyers and £7 for sellers. Further info, please contact Ted Edwards 07751 918283

OUR RECENT EVENTS

Well it's been a busy time for most of us. What with the garden and events there just doesn't seem be enough hours in the day.
We started the month of July with the event of a lifetime. Going to Breamore House with our Blackstone although a lamp start engine and it runs nicely, we were treated to an exhibition of 20 Hornsby Ackroyd engines, some of which have not seen the light of day for many years and many more lamp start engines than have probably been assembled in once place all running and any time in the last 50 years.
There were also gas engines and many more too numerous to list.
The museum hosted this event and as an exhibitor I am very grateful to the owners and of course to Dennis and Chris Barnes, Nick and Hopper and last but not least Sam who kept all the engines topped up with water over the weekend. We must also remember the other helpers behind the scenes Tracey and Mrs Chris Barnes for all the work running up to the event and during it. Thanks again it was brilliant.

A trip to Longbridge Deverill the last Wednesday in July for a noggin and natter, attended by many vintage bikes and commercial vehicles along with vintage and classic cars. We enjoyed watching them all arrive and at one time it would appear that Porsches of all descriptions, models and colours were the most common modern classic vehicle in attendance. The standard of cars was outstanding some 64 commercials not sure how many bikes and 340+cars. If you want a night out with a difference then this is it.

Then a trip to West Somerset Railway Steam Fair in early August. Again, what a sight with a row of lamp start engines and lots of exhibits running generators on the Saturday night with a large group of nice engines coming from the North of England, it was nice to see a different group of engines in Somerset. Thank you Adam Troake and the Troake family for arranging this superb event also Dave Lacey for taking a group to the pub on the Saturday night before the light up, your military lorry looked great all loaded up and sounded even better. Matt Harrington's Petter and lights ran all weekend without missing a beat.

Then the following weekend we went to the village of Leigh on Mendip where there was a little gathering of vintage and classic vehicles. There was about 60 cars and bikes there it was a lovely day to have a coffee and chat on a Sunday morning.

Then came Yesterdays Farming, well what can be said about this event?
It was sunny, the loos were the cleanest I have ever seen at this event and worth a mention as a regular rally person, the loos can maketh the event.
Anyway it was to be a family event for us with my brother and his family and children plus steamer, daughter and son in-law, grandchildren, dogs including new rally puppy, engines and anything else you can think of. It was like moving house!!
Anyway, we arrived, together with Ash from Crewkerne, Matt from Wincanton, John from Bridgwater, Paul and Mark from Tatworth joined us, so it was quite a group. The engine ran well and Ash treated us to a Saturday night crank up with his generator set.
Whilst further up the line Luke and his dad had their lighting set running. It is with great pride that I can tell you that Luke Simms won a trophy at this event and I must say it was well deserved. Ash won another trophy although again I am not sure what the class was, but both were well deserved.

The engine line up consisted of two Pool engines, Robinson gas engine, original Amanco 4HP, Little Pet, Lister B, Lister Ds, Lister diesel, Alamo just to name but a few.
There was a fine working section with more steamers that usual and some 262 Tractors.
So well done to Yesterdays Farming Team. Thank you for a great event
Mary Chapman

RALLY REPORT - YESTERDAY'S FARMING
Yesterday's Farming was a great weekend, very well organised with loads of room and with some unusual engines. Engines with generators decided to have a light up Friday and Saturday evenings. It was great to catch up with some of our club members.
It was great to see Mary & Dave's new puppy rally dog (Penny)

We had a few issues with our newly acquired petter M 5hp as it hasn't been shown for 30 years. But thanks to Dave for helping us with it and he couldn't resist having a go at starting it and succeeding.

Also, some of the best restored tractors I have seen for a long time.
I also very unexpectedly won the junior cup. *Luke Sims*

WESTBURY LIONS FUN DAY

The White Horse Vehicle Show is one of my favourite events so it was very disappointing when they were forced to cancel due to parking and insurance problems.
However, they went ahead with a smaller version – the Family Fun Day, so those of us who hadn't already re-arranged our calendars went along last Sunday. The day didn't start too well when we found a mobile bar parked on our 'patch' but we overcame that and settled down to an excellent day in the sunshine.

About a dozen of us turned up out of the maybe 20 or so we were expecting, which was ideal for the area we had left, there was a good variety of engines, ranging from Gordon's trailer-mounted spring-injection Blackstone to Pete Gear's Rawleigh-Schryer, a fascinating engine. Although there were few visitors we were kept entertained by live music on the nearby stage and watching the donkey rides, so everyone had a very enjoyable and relaxing day...

...Until just after 3pm when there was a sudden heavy thunderstorm which lasted just long enough for everyone to get thoroughly soaked whilst hurriedly loading up. Many thanks to everyone who helped during the day and of course to all of those who came along and made it worthwhile, not to mention Westbury Lions for inviting us again. The vehicle show will be back on next year, but admission will be strictly by ticket only. I will give further details as I get them. *Ted Edwards*

CLUB NIGHT 19TH AUGUST

Due to the Bank Holiday the Club Night was held on the 19th August. We had a better attendance than many previous Club nights; I think this was due to our Club Secretary, Ted Edwards doing a talk on his experience of motorcycle racing and his general love of motorcycles!
Ted started racing back in the 1970's, building his own bike up of parts from various manufacturers. He used a BSA 250cc Starfire engine, in a Ducati frame, surrounded by parts from both Honda and Yamaha. He got the bike up and running for the sum of £350…….a project that would require much deeper pockets to accomplish these days.
He raced at various circuits in England and Wales; he proudly holds the lap record for Aberdale circuit which still stands today.
I get the impression that the Isle of Man circuit was the place he most liked to be. He made good friends who helped along the way with the loan of their bikes and he was quite successful. He retired from Max racing in 2006, then turning his hand to scrutineering and track marshalling for a number of years. He experienced the highs and lows of motorcycle racing by preparing racing engines, some of which are still racing to this very day.
On the night we had a lot of support from the VMCC, the floor asked many questions and Ted was pleased to give them detailed answers. We all had a most enjoyable evening and I get the feeling that our Ted will be a lot more talks to various other Clubs. *Herb Gane*

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
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