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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & WESSEX MIDSUMMER SHOW REPORT

I start this report on a bit of a sad note, I started the Bradford on Avon Vintage Gathering three years ago, the first year was very good with a nice selection of exhibits and a good crowd of general public. This event is staged to raise funds for Dorothy House Hospice Care as most of you know they were a great help to me and my daughter when we were truly in need of help.

It was my desire to try and give them a little bit of a payback, well the second year this event was to run turned into a complete wash out with very heavy rain that turned the site into a swimming pool.

What has happened to the gathering this year? The event has been cancelled, this is due to the total lack of interest on behalf of exhibitors, I have distributed just over 300 entry forms, only one has been returned to me and five to Pearl. I could not afford to spend my money on advertising, printing posters and flyers for the event with so little interest shown.

At this time I do not know whether I shall try to stage this show in 2026 as it seems I am flogging a dead horse.

Now onto better things - the evening meetings at the Old Down Inn have been a little better attended of late so we the committee are looking to reintroduce speakers to our evening meetings in the hope that maybe even more members may attend.

It is very gratifying to see new club members attending and I thank you one and all for coming along.

Now as you may know our Vintage Rally at Southwick was a resounding success and to all our exhibitors I say a very big thank you, for without you we could not possibly run such a successful show. But as always there is always a downside. As in previous years we are short-handed we need more help not only on the weekend but also on the committee of The Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show.

It is not an arduous task, we do need a commercial vehicle steward and a scribe, someone who can just take down minutes at our evening meetings. The meetings are held in Trowbridge, once a month, starting in September, please come and give us a helping hand. If you want to know more why not give me a call and have a chat, my number is 01225 754374.

Now the old boy has fired up the Nissan and gone on his travels again, the last weekend in June, was an 80 mile trip door to door, to Bloxham in deepest darkest Oxfordshire, a long trip but if you have never attended this superb event believe me it is well worth the effort, this was my second time exhibiting at the show, with highlights like the flypast by the historic flight, the Lancaster was a sight to see on the Saturday, clear blue sky and the Lancaster at around three hundred feet. On Sunday the Spitfire and Hurricane arrived, again a wonderful sight in the sunshine. What about stationary engines I hear you say? Close on a hundred, full size steam exhibits thirty plus with a huge amount of miniature engines, but this is only scratching the surface. Tractors, Motorcycles, vintage & classic cars, Commercials old and not

so old, with fairground, children's entertainment the most wonderful model tent and a huge amount more this is one great show.

This weekend 13th & 14th July it was off to Breamore House, near Fordingbridge. Arrived just before eight on Saturday morning, was shown my spot by the museum wall, along with my dear friends Pete & Nicki from Salisbury. I had taken my 3hp 1920 Apple top Petter and dynamo with lighting display, Pete had his open crank Crossley, a very nice engine. At around 10am we burst the engines into life. It was hot, by lunch time it was very hot, by just after lunch at about 1pm we could take no more, I was beginning to feel queer (I know I been that way for a long time) and unwell, the sun was having a bad effect on all of us. We shut down the engines and ran for cover, a shaded spot out of the direct sun, here we stayed until late afternoon, then made our way back to the camping field.

It was then time for yet another cup of tea and a bite to eat, the evening was spent with my dear friends, it was near 10pm when I tried to get some sleep but this proved a waste of time it was just too hot and uncomfortable. Sunday well I am sorry to say the heat again not only got the better of Pete & I but the engines also suffered within a short while my Petter was boiling and too hot to touch, nothing for it but to shut it down and head for some shade once again.

There were some wonderful engines at Breamore even makes I had never heard of I know one should not complain about the weather but boy was that hot.

By the time I got away from Breamore it was 6pm and I arrived home a little after seven, more tea and a sandwich, then I plucked up courage to push the trailer back onto the drive generally an easy job if one gets the car and trailer in the right position, this I did but in the heat it still made me sweat! I am off to the West Oxford Rally this weekend hope its cooler this is another nice event one you should try if you have never been.

Well folks that it for this month. *Eric*

WESSEX MIDSUMMER SHOW REPORT

Now this year's Show at Southwick....well it must have been the best show that the Club has ever staged and we have over the years had some real great events.

The show ground was full of exhibits with over fifty motorcycles, thanks to Chris our motor cycle steward he worked so very hard to put his section together, not only this but we had a display of road racing motorcycles and at times they were started up much to the enjoyment of the visiting public. The car section run by Sharon this again was a great section with well over forty cars if not more, I had no time to count them.

The working section run by Mark Taylor & Paul Allen was a great success, with wood sawing, corn milling, wood carving, and many old artefacts and bygones on display.

Thank you both for all your hard work and to Paul is it true you are going to start your own tree feeling business (thank you for cutting down the fallen bow from the oak tree in the lane, no easy task).

Our Military section run by Tony from Ludgershall had a surprise we were so lucky to get an entry from the Southern Armoured Group, (radio controlled military vehicles, tanks lorries, gun carriers etc) so to you Tony a big thank you for all the travelling and hard work. You created a great display and even persuaded them to drive their vehicles around the display ring, this was a great attraction that everyone enjoyed.

We have been promised more military vehicles and equipment for 2026, there are some sections that could be better supported such as my miniature traction engines 23 owners contacted by letter and not one reply, the tractor section was not huge but we had some unusual tractors in the line. We desperately need a commercial steward as this was dropped

in my lap at the last moment and I know nothing about commercials, but we had quite a good selection.

We had a great line up of stalls selling everything from fruit to auto jumble, collectables and bygones even a gentleman selling metal offcuts that were most useful for restoration work or if building models etc.

Saturday evening we once again we were entertained by Mustang Sally, this group we have used for many years, they are very good and very entertaining and fun was had by all and yes folks I was yet again on the tambourine. Around 8 pm we held the famous Wessex Raffle. My sincere thanks must go to Paula, for not only buying all the raffle prizes but also preparing them in such a superb manner, thank you once again.

After the Raffle it was back to another hour with George and the band to round up the evening. I very much hope all of you that came along enjoyed the evening, if you want anything different let me know.

Now for all animal and bird lovers we had something for you in a great display of Owls, not only that but for dog owners we had dog agility where you could put your pooch to the test, all good fun.

Now all events gets its disappointments and we got our share, our main caterer did not arrive, (had message on phone, clutch failed on van, I wonder...) Ice cream, coming from Birmingham same thing clutch trouble, but he did find us someone else. But I think it was the first event of this type he had attended, he hid away in the commercial line and did very little trade as I am told, I wonder why?

For the last two years we have been going to have a display by a motor cycle trials team once again they did not appear.

Now being a Stationary Engine Club I had better give a mention to the engine line up and a great big thank you to Pearl and Steve for all their hard work and effort put into staging this section it was yet again a superb display of engines, I did not count them but it had to be around seventy plus.

The club is very fortunate to have as one of its show committee members Gordon, as without his aid driving his tractor, a nice new one now and driving in all our stakes around the site I just do not know how we would manage, so to you Gordon, thank you so much for all your hard work and for helping so much with the event.

There is a great deal of work that takes place behind the scenes, it takes thought and hard work, planning entry forms, preparing the programme, running the club web site and many other jobs.

Without this being done we would be hard pressed to stage our main event of the year so one other person I have to thank is our secretary Ted for his input and hard work not only on the weekend but throughout the year.

Now we were so lucky to receive help from a resident of the Southwick village namely Michael, this gentleman worked so hard throughout the weekend and even came along on Thursday to Whaddon Farm and helped Pearl, Steve and myself put away all our equipment that is used on site.

Now it is always my task to ask members of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club to come and join the organising committee and help us stage our main event of the year, we really do need YOUR help as we just do not have enough willing hands, It is not just over the weekend it is help with the organising, it is far from rocket science it just general input and assistance such as little jobs like handing out flyers at other events, putting up posters in your locality even designing posters and advertising material, why not give it a try come and join us, for without more help it could mean that it becomes too much for the people that run the event at present.

If you have any comments concerning the event please get in touch, your views and comments will not be ignored. Well that's it for this month poor David will have a job to find space for this lot, I hope he will not get to cross with me. So take care everyone keep safe and well and have a great rest of the rallying year. *Eric Gay*

HEAVY HORSE AND COUNTRY SHOW, 21st September

I would like to give a mention to the Heavy Horse & Country Show, to be held at the Shaftesbury Turnpike Showground, Motcombe Road, SP7 9PL on the 21st September. They have been very welcoming over the last few years, but poorly supported by the stationary engine fraternity. For entry forms please contact me. *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*

WESSEX MIDSUMMER SHOW

We had a great weekend at the Wessex Midsummer show, this is the second time exhibiting here, despite a few big gaps in the stationary engines, probably due to the clash with West Bay! But there was a great selection of bikes, our favourite was the Jawa grass track bikes. A small amount of tractors to look at; one was a lovely Field Marshall in the lineup. We took our Lister L & Tangye water pump this year which was running at full load all weekend.

It was even running when the raffle was happening not sure everyone appreciated it. Next to us, there was a lovely Ruston AP, which is an engine I have always wanted, hence the sale of my lovely Lister & Bentall engines which I said I would never sell. I now have a really nice 6hp low tension example. Can't wait to come back next year. It's a shame we couldn't come to Breamore house rally as our local rally is the same weekend but still had a great time with 2 long lines of engines. I had 4 to look after 2 which I previously owned and restored. A great line up of tractors. I had the Nuffield to myself as dad was playing with his dream tractor, a Field Marshall to take round the ring. Lots of steam on the go all weekend and evening. We had a light up with Matt, Luke & Rob. Our next rally is Purbeck, first outing for the Ruston AP. *Luke Simms*

CLUB MARKETPLACE

WANTED For Stuart Turner Sandhurst open crank engine - Amal type 622 carburettor

I am still looking for a small barrel type butter churn

If you can help with any of the above ring Eric on 01225 754374.

Has anyone in the Trowbridge area an engine crane that I could possibly borrow for a couple of hours, I need to lift the crankshaft and flywheels back into my latest restoration project, namely a Bamford 2.5hp tulip top. If you can help please give me a call.

Editors Note – All For Sale/Wanted adverts will run for three issues unless I hear differently.

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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