



# CRANKING



Issue No: 9/12

September-2019

## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### Editor's Note

Once again I'm back in the hot seat! Due to unforeseen circumstances Teresa finds herself unable to continue as editor of the newsletter. I would like to thank her for her efforts and ask that anyone with literary aspirations contact me with a view to taking over. In the meantime any contributions should be sent to:

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### Chairman's Report September 2019

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October I received a phone call from Ted informing me that our new newsletter editor had resigned her post. On making enquiries as to why, it would appear that once again a club member has seen fit to criticise the action of someone who stepped in this post when no-one else would. Those that can do, those that can't criticise, so once again the Wessex Club is without a newsletter editor, we are also in need of a Vice Chairman. I need someone to step forward and take on these positions. We the committee members cannot do much more than we do now to keep our club alive, so please instead of leaving it to others come and join us or lose us altogether.

Also with the loss of Gary Sainsbury we need a new committee member, it is not a difficult task, just a couple of hours a month, that's all.

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Over the past year the number of members attending the evening meetings at the The Old Down Inn has averaged 17. This trend is very worrying as it could lead to the loss of the room at the Old Down Inn.

The last few evening meetings have been most interesting with great speakers along with film presentations, on average they cost £40.00 and with such poor attendance it will soon not be possible to have such good and varied evenings at the Inn, so please come and give us your support.

November club evening will be a quiz evening conducted by Anne Kempson, and seeing that you are all wasting away we will supply you with supper, so please come along and make this a good evening.

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At the last two committee meetings we have discussed the possibility of opening the club to other vintage interests, possibly tractors, commercials, steam and others. This would mean a change of name and a change to the

constitution. The committee would like to have your input concerning this matter as it will be on the agenda of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and on the postal voting form, so if you want your say please get in touch with any committee member, or ring 01225 754374.

The committee of the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show has been most fortunate in that we have two people willing to take over as steward for the car section, and also take on the job that Gary did for many years, the working section. May I welcome Sharon and Guy Newton and I hope you both have a long and happy relationship with us all on the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show committee.

**Eric**

### **Gary Sainsbury**

It is with great sorrow that I sit and write the following: I have lost the best friend one could ever wish to have, we have known each other for more years than I care to remember. There was never a week that went by without us speaking at least twice on the phone, and most calls lasted getting on towards an hour. We spent many times together attending shows and rallies, even the Great Dorset Steam Fair four years ago. It was at Dorset that Gary was taken ill and spent most of the week in Salisbury Hospital.

The worst part he was back, the same old Gary always on hand if one needed any help in any way.

For the last twelve years he has been at my side to help in any way he could with the Semington rally. He joined and served on not only the committee of the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show but also gave up his time to help with the running of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd. as a valued member of the committee.

As a friend many people will tell you they are there for you, well I can say my dear friend Gary was! Any time and no matter what he always put himself forward to help, even turning up to help repair my garden fence when it collapsed in high winds, he was not asked he just did it along with Pauline. Not long ago our flat roof above the kitchen sprang a leak, rain pouring through the ceiling. Who was first on the scene to help? the best friend I could ever have wished for, Gary Sainsbury.

Gary, you will be missed not only by me but I am sure by everyone who knew you or ever came in contact with you. We have all lost a kind and faithful friend

Rest in peace dear friend, you were one in a million.

To Pauline, Mary and to all Gary's family and friends we send our sincere condolences.

**Eric**

### **Longstock Rally 14 & 15 September**

Owing to our commitment at Westbury on the 14<sup>th</sup> we could only attend on the Sunday and we were swiftly shown to our setting up area by steward Ray. We never took long to get set up and made a beeline for the car boot area and stall section, lots of interesting stuff here that was not all snapped up on setting up day Friday & Saturday, then the thought crossed my mind should I still be collecting and instead start getting rid of stuff, but old habits are hard to give up and I should be getting rid of "Robins Rubbish" on to a new owner, so roll on October 5<sup>th</sup> (our club Jumble).

I had a nice long chat with steward Ray as to how many S Engines he had on display as the line opposite me went a

very long way to the end of the field and then turned left and went almost out of sight. Space is very generous here, you can put up your awnings and there is no quibble as long as you are happy. Just being here for one day we never really got the chance to have a good look around but from our elevated position the event looked as big as ever. I had an interesting chat to a chap pushing a huge gents bicycle along, you would have required very long legs to reach the pedals, "it's 105 years old" he told me "is it a Pederson?" I asked, "no an Ariel and the company was later taken over by BSA" he replied .

Our Conversation continued and looking at our hot air exhibits he told me he had one at home made by Robinson in 1895 and it used to power a shop window display, most likely a turntable to rotate a manikin, he told me it was given to him by a friend that used to fly an autogyro like the one in a James Bond film, I must have been a bit slow on the uptake as he was looking for a good home for the Robinson and I never asked him for his name and address.

We had a very enjoyable day, and well done to steward Ray Bassett for looking after us all so well.

**Robin**

### **The Late Mary Verrall**

To all Wessex Stationary Engine Club members who sent messages of sympathy and condolence to me on the passing of my wife Mary, it was very much appreciated by myself and family, and thank you to everyone who came to the funeral, and I hope I spoke to you at the wake afterwards

**Brian Verrall**

### **Westbury Rally Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept**

We have not exhibited at this event before but have been on the site when our club have organised events earlier in the year. This was mainly a steam and model enthusiasts event which was very well supported by the **West Wilts Society of Model Engineers** who had their ride-on track in operation giving rides to little ones and big ones. Also dotted around the site were several small gauge displays, with some under cover in a large marquee along with models of all descriptions, even tiny figurines of the cast of several popular TV Shows including Dads Army, Fools and Horses and Last of the Summer Wine, and you could even pick out Del Boy and Captain Mainwaring. There were also a few stalls selling model Kits and equipment required for the modellers. A full-size steam roller was on site driving up and down the area and a few more passes would have been helpful, as the exhibitors' outside area was mainly scalping and in places could have done with a bit more flattening out as the scale model traction engines found the protruding stones a bit demanding on their tiny front wheels as they ran into them. Several of our club members brought along their engines with Chris, Don and Will bringing a small Gardner; Peter had a tiny Amanco and Roy an International. we took along two hot air fans and Bob had a nice display of old tools and a vast collection of supermarket trolley tokens, I found one he may not have had in my purse that I use at Lidl's but he even had that one. We never made it into the club house and I was told there were more displays and stalls inside the building. We had a great day out there chatting to our old mates and got a bit burnt up with the scorching sunshine. By mid afternoon the visiting public were making their way home and we decided to join them.

**Robin.**

## **Shaftesbury & Gillingham Heavy Horse Show**

**Sunday 29th September**

This was to be our last exhibiting event this year and I must say I was apprehensive as to whether to go or not as the weather over the Saturday night was dreadful, driving rain and a howling wind overnight and a dismal forecast for Sunday preyed on my mind as what to do, but I decided to go for it and I am glad I did, as you could drive anywhere on our side of the field no problem with traction. Needless to say exhibitor numbers were down, usually around a dozen in the engine line but this year only five, looking towards the classic and vintage vehicle section often there are thirty or more but this time only seven.

There may have been a reason for this drop in numbers as on our outward journey it took us past the Frome showground that had a two day vintage vehicle event taking place and may well have accounted for the reduction in exhibits at our venue. Our Site Location was as usual looking straight at the events ring and it was nice to see the youngsters on their ponies competing against one another, and all breeds of dogs performing all sorts of instructions.

The visiting public was very much reduced and with some more showers blowing through the showground after lunch they began making a beeline back to the car park and off back home. We too made this decision around 2pm as we were getting damp and cold and joined the exodus, but not before saying goodbye to our old friends, wishing them a Merry Christmas and hope to all meet up next year.

**Robin**

### **Club Events**

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	C/N Model Evening I/C Steam, Boats, Meccano, Etc. Anything you like, Prize for best model or display.
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	C/N The Wessex Quiz Night

Any information or opinion contained in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the club or committee. All information is as accurate as possible but I apologise for any inaccuracies that may appear. Comments and constructive criticism are always welcome.

If you have enjoyed this newsletter please consider submitting a contribution to the next one!

**Last date for inclusion in the Newsletter is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**