

CRANKING

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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editor's Note

There's something different in this, the last newsletter of the year, please let me have your comments. I hope that you are all going to be scribbling furiously over the holiday period. Contributions and applications for the post of editor to:

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

I MUST START THIS MONTH'S REPORT WITH A CORRECTION. The evening meeting in January will not be a "guess the object" evening, as I have had the kind offer of a talk for you all. This will be by Mr Rossiter of Shepton Mallet.

Now would you believe that the subject will be ENGINES, or namely the Robi engine that once pumped water to the brewery in Shepton Mallet. The engine is still there. This should be very interesting as the gentleman still has the original drawings etc, for this large oil engine. November saw a wonderful turn out of club members and friends. Can you all please come again in January, you are all most welcome.

November 25th we held our quiz evening at the Old Down Inn, and my sincere thanks must go to Anne Kempson for working so hard and putting on such a great evening's entertainment. It was a lovely social event, and to all those that come along and filled the room and gave the event their support I thank you one and all.

With 2020 on the horizon arrangements are well ahead for our rally in June with already three live bands booked along with other exhibits and displays we have never had before. The committee of the rally works very very hard to arrange this event and it is done for you, the club members. If it is at all possible for you to exhibit at the show in 2020 please do so and help us make 2020 a year to remember at Semington

Our Secretary Ted Edwards is arranging the Auto Jumble at Frome Market on 28th March. As you all know this is a new venture for our club so we need all the support we can get, so why not have a dig around in the workshop. Find all those bits and pieces that you knew you would want one day and that day has never come, so why not turn them into hard cash. Full details can be had from Ted on 07751 918283. (*Details elsewhere in the newsletter. Ed*)

Now most of us have put our toys away for the winter, but do not forget DECEMBER 29th WHADDON LANE after Christmas crank-up. For all the details, if you don't already know, give Gordon a call on 01225 755448. I bet Paula is already mixing up the apple crumble and custard.

Well that's about it for this month. All that's left for me to say is I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know at this time there are some very dear club members that are not at all well. To you may 2020 be a year of recovery and a return to full health.

Eric Gay. Chairman W.S.E.C.

RESTORATION

A warm summer day in September
Just at the end of the war,
I walked up the lane heading homeward again,
Crossing the yard to the door.

The warmth of the welcome they gave me,
The memory will always remain
Of "Drop that axe Mother, here comes my brother,
He'll get the saw running again."

'Twas later that day when I found it,
It seemed to be part of the hedge.
Ivy was scrambled, deep in the branches,
Tying the wheels to the ledge.

The tank filled with nuts by a squirrel,
Where mice snuggled in, having fun.
I said "Hello Witte - it's time for your 'fit'"
And dragged him out into the sun.

Now it's all very well "throttle governed"
But what if the inlet plays up?
Or steam flow won't enter the turbine.
And valve heads are full up with muck?

The waterplug needs some attention,
The piston needs sorting, that's true.
I think I can do it... I'll set my mind to it.
Fast forward a decade or two!

Now - here we are, post restoration,
There's somewhere I'm longing to go.
Dark days behind me, come out and find me
W.S.E.C. At the midsummer show.

Tom

Don't miss next month's thrilling instalment. "Mother! Where did you park my bike?"

John Allen

Our thoughts go to Club member John Allen who is having a spell in Bath's R U H. Get well soon John and be home for Christmas, where some of Shirley's TLC will get you back up and running again.

Electric Cars. The Future? or a Dead End?

Now I can just think of all you rich club members sat round after Christmas thinking "what shall I spend my money on?" "I KNOW. I'LL BE A GOOD BOY AND BUY A NICE NEW ELECTRIC CAR."

Well I should think again. After some research and talking to others that are far more clever than I am, although I spent a lifetime in the electrical industry working with some very clever electrical engineers and craftsmen I never did learn it all, and I have always been ready to learn.

So I thought I would give you a few facts about electric vehicles you may not know. I for one will not take EVs seriously until I can do my regular run up to Skye non-stop as with my 20 year old Nissan.

It was a little time ago I was talking to a sales rep from one of the electrical suppliers, lovely new electric car, one of the best sellers in this country and in fact worldwide. He wanted to do his bit for the planet, later this was replaced by yet another EV of the same make, the second car was due to be replaced last spring. We met up by chance a few weeks ago, he was driving a petrol model. When I asked why he replied "I have had so many breakdowns I cannot any longer trust the electric vehicle to do the job I have to do". This was mostly due to the car running out of volts and being stranded through no fault of his. His journey times had to be massively re-arranged to allow for recharging and at times this had TAKEN MANY HOURS.

I will now tell you a little of the foolhardy government targets and a few facts from the science of the world. It has been stated that we in this country must ban fossil fuels by 2040, some have said by 2032. This is all very well if they can reassure us that it is even remotely feasible. I am very interested by a copy of a letter signed by eight of the UK's leading geologists, geoscientists and mineralogists that was delivered to the committee on climate change. It contains a few startling facts that ought to get our politicians to think hard about the targets they set, and indeed whether the headlong rush into electrical vehicles is the right way to go.

We would need to produce just around two times the current total annual world cobalt production, nearly the entire production of neodymium, three quarters of the world's copper production. And remember that is just to change us in this tiny little country over to electric vehicles, never mind having the resource requirements to serve the rest of the world.

Well, still interested in an EV? Well think again, it would take 20% increase in the energy we produce to charge for the 252 billion miles we drive in the UK.

This will have huge implications for the world's resources. Not only to produce green technologies but to be able to charge EVs. It is estimated that 2 billion cars are produced worldwide annually. Production of neodymium and dysprosium would have to increase by 70%, copper would have to be more than double and cobalt by at least three and a half times for the entire period from now until 2050 to satisfy demand.

Just think about the vast amount of energy required to dig up all these raw materials let alone convert them. Oh! What about shipping them around this old world? By the way, at this time there is not enough cables above or below ground, now have we the means to generate the power that will be needed.

Electric cars are a dead end and that's official. Hydrogen in internal combustion or hydrogen fuel cells makes more sense.

I am also informed that technology has the ways and means to clean up the pollutants from cars, so why not put that money back in the piggy bank and think again?

By the way, I can drive my Nissan for many years before I produce the same amount of pollution as making one electric car produces.

Eric Gay

WANTED

Could any kind person help by selling us a cast square oil tank for a 1919 6 hp Petter, which is the same as for the 5 hp. This is the standard vertical Petter 2 stroke made in Yeovil.

The tank is filled from the top and drips through an open view slot with adjusting screw for oil drops, delivering them into a pipe to the air intake.

This would enable us to start the engine and complete a long project!

Contact details: Richard Cowell, 01747 824102 or 07842 947029.

Bike Jumble & Spares Sort-out, Frome Market

This will take place on saturday 28th March 2020 at Standerwick, BA11 2QB which is signed from all major roads, and is just off the A36. Proceeds supporting the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show.

Sellers from 0730 and buyers from 0830. Entry fee for buyers is just £3, and for sellers £10 per car or £15 per van or trailer. Trade enquiries invited. There is indoor space for clean/light goods in the Standerwick Centre at £5 per table, and the excellent cafe will be open for refreshments. For those who prefer to be under cover, or in case of inclement weather, the covered market area will be available.

Thanks are due to Inlay Management Services and Messrs Cooper & Tanner for their help and support.

Bike Jumble enquiries: Jim's Jumble: 07972 433890 All other enquiries to the editor.

Club Events

29th December 27th January 2020	Mince Pie Crank-up. Whaddon Farm. 07786 542782 Talk by Mr Rossiter. Historic engine in Shepton Mallet
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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!

Deadline for contributions is the 20th of each month