



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editor's Note

Well end of February already. Apologies for the lateness of January's Newsletter, due to the change over and getting all membership addresses up to date it took a little longer than usual. Hopefully it won't happen again. Please let me know by email if you would like the newsletter emailed to you.

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

Sacha Swinden-Pride

MSAS Hedgelaying Competition

The club was invited to bring some engines along to the MSAS Annual Hedgelaying Competition at the Bath & West Showground on the 17th February. Eight of us responded to the call and we were all glad we did. Unloading was in glorious sunshine, promising a beautiful day, but within an hour the coats were back on. Despite the chill there were lots of tractors and Land Rovers for the road run, and quite a few hedgelayers and spectators too.

Linda and Roger Pike brought along a new acquisition, a rather nice original looking Ruston and Hornsby 1½ HP, which ran faultlessly throughout the day. Don Rogers and Christine had what was for me the star of the show, a Gardner 2½ HP which sat on its trailer making practically no noise as it did what it was supposed to do, with no fuss. John Allen was having a bit of trouble towards the end of the day with his Amanco Hired Man 2½ HP driving a nice brass pump, and Cathy Bryant was showing her Lister J 4½ HP and Bentall corn mill, trailer mounted, which I could see was attracting quite a bit of well-deserved attention.

I took along a pair of Bernards; a W1 2½ HP from 1938 and a 1927 P3 6 HP, both of which ran all day, stopping only to refuel, while John Baxter was showing a very compact Bradford 2½ HP. The final two were quite unusual; Tim Humphries had a Gillingham-built Lion 1¾ HP from the 1920s, and Ashley Humphries had a similar aged Hamworthy 3½ HP from Poole.

Food and drink were on sale in the club tent, and I have to confess to enjoying a hog-roast roll, while just to prove that all tastes were catered for the Morris Men put on a show outside the tent. The hedgelaying finished about three and by then most of the spectators had gone home so we did likewise. Thanks to Alan, Christine and the MSAS for a splendid pre-season outing.

Ted Edwards

Wessex Stationary Engine Club

Chairman's Report, January/February 2019

Well, here I am sat writing this and at times looking out the window, the snow is coming down very thick and fast with a good 8" on the road outside.

I am glad that The evening meal at The Old Down Inn was last Friday the 25th January and not today Friday 1st February. To all those that came along to the Old Down Inn, I hope very much that you all had an enjoyable evening, and enjoyed the food. I had the beef and it was great and that apple crumble well I would not mind that every day.

To all those kind folk that brought along raffle prizes, thank you all so very much, and to everyone that bought tickets thank you all, it all helps towards the cost of our evening.

It was a great shame that my dear friend Roy Sandford could not make it, for on the Tuesday, Roy had a pace maker fitted at Swindon Hospital, an hour they said it would take at the most, two hours later and in great pain with two surgeons working on him they finally got it fitted.

This left him with his arm in a sling in a lot of pain, even after they had given him six pain killing injections, I went to see him yesterday 31st January, he is now on the road to recovery but still in some pain, I know that you all will wish Roy a speedy recovery, and we hope to see you back at our meetings very soon.

With the club's new website up and running, I can report to you all that it is working well for the club, it has attracted new members, just what we need, now please don't leave it to others, anything you would like to put on our site from adverts to photographs or even plea for information or help, let any of your committee members know or better still contact Ted Edwards.

Now without all the work put in by Ted we would not have the website as good as we have now, so to you all please use it for we did this for you the club member.

Now Mr Chairman is in need, has anyone any brass bar, around 1" in diameter and about 9" in length or longer, I need to make a manifold weight for a collection of model steam engines, now don't get worried I have not forsaken internal combustion for external combustion, I am at this time working on a 15cc Otter engine, a fractional H/p side shaft and still have to do a little work on the Stuart.

Some time back I asked if any club member was handy with a camera and take a look at Stationary Engine Magazine. The Wessex Stationary Engine Club never gets any of its events written up in the magazine, and we do have plenty for you all this year, it would be nice to see them in Stationary Engine Magazine.

Well on the subject of events entry forms for the following can be down loaded from the website or give me a ring and I will gladly send you one for either Westbury on April 14th (BBQ & Tea, coffee etc), Tuckers Grave Inn, Nr Norton St Philip on May 12th, Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show, 15th & 16th June, or the crank up and vintage day at The Somerset Arms, Maiden Bradley, 01225 754374.

Now the following is about good service and terrible service,

1. Forest Classic, steam engine supplies 01594 368318 very good.
2. Lloyds Insurance Services steer clear.

Now I still have my Horse Hair combing machine, I would like to sell this, it is old and rare, I only know of two others, it makes a great exhibit and is very different from a water pump or the like, come and take a look make me an offer and it could be yours.

The next high light of the Club after the AGM, will be our sale at Cranmore 2 dig deep in the shed or workshop find all those goodies that you have wanted to get rid of for years, bring them along and make loads of money, hope to see you there on March 30th.

Eric Gay, Chairman

Club Events

Sunday 17 th March	Whaddon Lane Crank Up 01225 755448/ 01225 344710
Monday 25 th March	Mr Billy Douglas, Douglas Motor Cycles
Saturday 30 th March	Cranmore Vintage Sale, Details 01225 754374
Sunday 14 th April	Wessex Vintage Day, 10am-4.30pm White Horse Country Park, A350 Trowbridge & details, 01225 754374
Monday 29 th April	Mr Tony Coverdale, The Later Avon Valley Copper and Brass Industry.
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
Sunday 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
December	To be announced.

Looking Back

A couple of years before the Victoria find (as mentioned in last month's News Letter) I was working in a Village near Bruton close to the village shop and heaped up against the sidewall of the building was a few tons of gravel mixed with Mendip dust, part exposed and sticking out of the heap was a rusty looking iron wheel, I couldn't resist giving it a tug and knowing that the Quarry mixture can set very hard, I wasn't at all surprised that it never moved.

Over the years I had collected many odd size wheels that would eventually make a set so I just had to nip into the shop and ask if it was surplus to requirements, "Oh yes said the Shopkeeper it's been there for ages if you would like to dig into the heap there are three more to go with it!" So you can guess what I spent my lunch hour doing along with some help from my workmates guess what we recovered? Well it was a 5Hp Victoria Trolley!, not knowing that in a couple of years' time I would find an Engine to fit on it,

All the Iron work was in perfect condition but the timber was rotten so a short trip to Nunney Sawmills and I was soon fixed up with some lengths of Fir timber then with some nice snug mortise and tennon joints cut out for the three centre blocks all was put back together and the carriage was complete.

Robin

Looking Back part 3

It all began with a phone call from my friend Derrick who lived out on the Mendips, "Would you and Bill like a trip to Devon as I am going down to pick up a Magneto and I believe there are all sorts for sale if you are interested", Well my mate Bill loved his Mags and I could recall one time helping him clear out his loft he passed down through the hatch no fewer than seventy two Mags! It's a wonder that the bedroom ceiling never collapsed with all the weight.

We set off for Devon picking up another mate Phil on the way and eventually ended up at a small Hamlet near Hatherleigh. We were looking for a house and old Blacksmith Shop that was once the Village Smithy, having found what we were looking for and the man selling the Mags, he first ushered us into a modern type Building that was about the size of a large single Garage, and we were amazed at what we saw, Stationary Engines all around the wall floor area with two more lines of machines stacked above these on industrial strength Racking!, Lifting the Engines up to eye level must have been quite challenging.

He then explained how he had amassed such a collection, He was the local Agriculture Engineer and Pre Mains Electricity Days he and his men would install lighting plants and any machinery large or small to Farms and Country Houses, Then in the 1940s/50s the power companies began running power lines to the more remote areas and he would be contacted to come and remove all the redundant machinery, most of this was broken up on site with the scrap left by the property entrance and when there was a lorry load he would hire a lorry and his men would do a round trip and pick up all the old iron unless there was something he never wanted broken up and his men would bring it back to him which was what we were looking at in his building.

"Let's go and look at the Magnetos" he said and took us to a room about 10ft square and it was a bit of a job to push the door open as it was obstructed by the amount of mags covering the whole floor area! Bill could not believe his eyes and I wish I had a Camera to take a photo of him stood on the heap trying to dig his way down through the pile to find what he was looking for. It turned out the man always got his men to remove the Magnetos before breaking up the Engines and just dumped them in the room. Our tour continued to the old Smithy which housed the larger recovered Engines most weighing in at over a ton, Phil took a shine to a large Lamp Start Hornsby but remembering he already had a large Blackstone on the rear of his TK Bedford lorry one large Machine was probably enough, Bill was busy removing lengths of timber and pallets to see what was buried underneath and eventually a nice tidy looking 8HP Ruston Hornsby model A P came into view, "I could fancy that but it's too heavy for me to lug around", "It would be alright on a purpose built trailer" I said "How much is it ", £400 came the reply bills face screwed up a bit regarding the price, "why not buy it between us I said" and this we duly did and took the Engine to shows for 27 Years. (more on this next month)

Robin

Items for Sale

5 Litres (12 Gal) of clean but old Red Diesel, comes in 3 plastic containers of 20L (5 Gal) each. It can be used for cleaning and soaking, or probably running. I ask £35 & money goes to charity.

I can deliver locally (within 15 miles) or you can collect. Please contact Paul Hucklebridge 07711 045 629 daytime, or 07796 120 916 eve & weekends

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 February Newsletter is Thursday 21st March 2019

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