



CRANKING



Issue No: 1/12

Jan-2019

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editor's Note

Happy New Year everyone. Where possible I would like to request members email me their items and I will copy and paste their entries, thus trying to keep any mistakes down to a minimum. I would just like to add that I am a busy mum of 3 and also working 2 jobs, and can only apologise for any mistakes that I make. But if there are any members that feels that they can produce the newsletter they are quite welcome to do so.

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

Sacha Swinden-Pride

Wessex Stationary Engine Club

Chairman's Report, December/January 2019

Well December has been a very sad month, first was the sad news of the passing of long time club member Edd Thorne, from Bridgwater, we always met up most years at Mells Daffodil day and had many a chat. I was hoping to attend Edd's funeral, but I have once again been laid low with yet another lung infection. But the club was represented by Brian Verrall, and I am sure that you would all like to express our sincere condolences to Edd's son John and all the family.

The second very sad news was the departure from this life by Hilary Sandford, after a long and painful battle with cancer, Hilary left us on Sunday 9th December. Many of us that had known Hilary attended the service at St Mary's Church, Potterne on Friday 9th December, Tony, Gordon & Paula, Ted & Liz, Gary, Myself & Maureen, again I know that you all would like to express your sincere condolences to Roy and all the Family at this sad time.

It is still a fact that our club with over two hundred members cannot find someone to take on the job of treasurer, as I said before this will not entail the preparation of end of year accounts, we need someone to just keep a record of monthly income and expenditure this will not include any work involving the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show as this will be dealt by the rally committee members.

If the committee cannot find someone to help out with this, it may mean that at the annual general meeting in February that we will have no option then to disband the club and close. This will be a great shame after all these years, I cannot take on any more work than I do now, neither can any other committee member so I appeal to you our club members to come forward and help, I am sure that this job would not take up more than two or three hours per month. **PLEASE HELP**

I have arranged a full programme of events for you all in 2019, I detail these below along with two new events, there are three in all but by the time you read this, one will have taken place, and this was Gordon's New Crank Up at Whaddon Lane on December 29th. Advertised on the Club's new Website thanks to Ted for all his hard work, so if you want anything put on, photographs, events, help and advice or anything else contact a member of the committee, now we have IT PLEASE MAKE USE OF IT.

Club Events

Monday 28 th January	C/N Mr Cyril Routley, Gadgets of Yesteryear
Monday 25 th February	C/N AGM
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.
<p>That's next year's events that we have planned for you all, I very much hope that you will all come along to our meetings and events and have an enjoyable time. May I take this opportunity to wish all club members a happy new year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Eric Gay</p>	

MINCE PIE CRANK UP - 29 December 2018

This was a welcome event after the festivities of Christmas kindly organised by Gordon and Paula Guley at Whaddon Lane Farm near Trowbridge.

The venue offered a huge covered space giving plenty of room for the visiting members who included David Lacy from Taunton with his immaculate Crossley gas engine, Chris McDevitt with his Lister D, Frank Romaine with his Lister B engine with generator and lights, Ted Edwards with his Bernard, Roger Kempson with his Norman T300 with generator and lights. Other engines included a Fairbanks, Lister A, Amanco, another Norman T300 from Street, Gordon's Lister L5 and a Wolseley WD. (Apologies if there are any errors, I know little about stationary engines!).

Although it was a cold winter's day, there was plenty of hot tea and coffee on the go. Gordon's vegetable soup certainly warmed us up and Paula's legendary apple crumble proved very popular along with mince pies, of course, and Christmas cake. Tables and chairs were filled with members (and ladies too!) having a good old catch up.

It was also good to see Roy Sandford following the very recent passing of his dear wife Hilary. Our thoughts are with Roy and his two sons at this difficult time.

Many thanks to Paula and Gordon for hosting this very successful event.

They will be holding another crank up on Sunday 17 March (St Patrick's Day) 🍀 and look forward to seeing a good turnout of engines then, when, hopefully, the temperature will have risen a bit.

If you plan to attend this event please telephone Gordon and Paula in advance to enable them to estimate catering requirements.

Anne Kempson

Newsletter January 2019

Dear members and friends, I am writing to tell you all as Chairman on behalf of the committee and club.

As you all know our club is in desperate need of a treasurer, if we cannot fill this post as I have said before it may mean the club will be unable to continue, and will have to close at the coming annual general meeting in February, this will be a great shame after all these years.

As you will see from the newsletter we have a complete programme of events arranged for you all in 2019 with even new events listed. Your committee works very hard to find speakers and arrange new events, some of this involves travelling and arranging meetings with business people that are willing to supply us with venue's for new events, but members of the committee cannot take on more tasks as most of us spend many hours each week working for the club, myself for instance spends at least 14 hours each week working on club business, this is my choice, I do not have to do this but to keep on top of club and rally business this is what I choose to do.

The members of the committee do a great deal behind the scenes that I know takes them many many hours, on club and rally business.

Now we need **YOUR** help, we need someone to look after income and outgoings per month, the job will not involve the preparing of end of year accounts or dealing with Companies House, this work is already sorted.

Of course we are always looking for help with our events, the crank ups and our main event the rally at Semington in June.

Some help with chasing new exhibitors, help with a little of the admin work, the sale of advertising in the programme etc., contacting possible new traders, all this is done by the rally committee and it is the rally that keeps the club solvent and pays for much that the club subscriptions do not cover.

It is **Your club** and **we need your help** to enable us to continue, please come and help keep the Wessex Stationary Engine Club alive and well.

Speak to me or any committee member, we will give you all the help and advice you could wish for, so please don't leave it to someone else to come forward and help us please.

Eric Gay,
Chairman WSEC Ltd

Market Lavington Vintage Meet.

The Exhibitor application forms can be downloaded from <https://mlvintagemeet.com/downloads> (please note the direction of the slant, in both cases – forward)

The email address is lavington.vintage@gmail.com

Looking Back

Isn't it funny how our memories work sometimes. I can't remember what we had for tea last night, then something from years ago comes flooding back like it has just happened. Many years ago whilst exhibiting at a vintage show a chap walking along the public side of the ropes gave me a wave and he said "Still at it then" "yes still enjoying our hobby" I said thinking I know him from where?, Then in a second or two it came back to me, I had done work in his fields near Warminster and he had remembered me, he said "next time you are working in our village come round and see me as I want to clear out a barn and there may be some things that would interest you". Well I never waited for work to take me back, within a week a phone call was made and I was at his farm, from what I can recall the "Barn" was most likely a redundant deep litter chicken house and as he slid open the door and we entered the building a line of stationary engines stretched a long way down the shed.

Most makes that we are all familiar with were there and right at the very end was an 8HP Ruston Hornsby Model AP that was tank cooled which seemed to tower above the rest, but my eye strayed to a dark corner of the building where half an engine was looking so forlorn, it was just the bottom half the crank case and two very rusty flywheels, "what's that" I said where's the rest of it I asked "Don't know" he replied, "it's not mine, a chicken feed rep dropped it off here a long time ago and has never come back to collect it". There was some traces of red paint on the flywheels and it looked very much like my mate Bills 5Hp Victoria, "Where's the rest of it" I asked "don't know you will have to ask him" came the reply.

At this stage I made a note of all the engines to put in our Club Newsletter and as it worked out all found good homes and one Club member even travelled all the way from Bath in his lunch hour for a viewing! So it was then down to me to make contact with the Victoria owner who lived miles away in Verwood to enquire if he had all the remaining bits of the engine. "Oh yes" he said, so eventually I made the trip to check things out, and sure enough it was almost complete except the magneto which was in Bournemouth, "I can get it back" he said, "so is it for sale" I asked, "Oh yes, we are moving house to near Shaftesbury so it all has to go" so a deal was done. Walking back through his conservatory I notice a pair of small green flywheels leaning against the wall, "what's that" I asked, "Oh the rest of it is in a box somewhere, never got round to putting it back together", so on further investigation the cylinder block and a box of bits revealed a little Ruston Hornby model ZPR of one and a half HP. Which meant I had to part with a few more pound notes and load it up with the Victoria Parts. More next month as this tale unfolds)

Robin

Chit - Chat.

I had a nice lengthy chat the other day to my old friend and Club founder member Eric Brain, We were reminiscing about some of our Club Rallies from many years ago, Longleat in conjunction with the Wiltshire fire Brigade was mentioned as was Monkton Farleigh Mine, Eric told there is an interesting 1986 Video on U Tube of the Mine with footage of the Giant Engine running down in the bowels of the underground labyrinth, this will bring back memories to all Exhibitors here who went on the conducted tour down the miles of creepy pitch black Tunnels.

Robin

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.

