

CRANKING

January
2014

Thirty seventh year
of publication
Club website now at
www.wessexsec.org

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

From The Sump

On to more pressing matters as it were. Like so many of our older members, my hip is giving me Gyp and is scheduled for replacement with a nice shiny stainless steel version with a cobalt steel ball. Can't wait, I can tell you.

Now, this means that I'll be breathing aesthetic at about the same date that I am usually putting the February edition of Cranking together. Therefore, I shall run it up in the next fortnight so that the ladies have something to hand out at the AGM – which, incidentally, I shall be unable to attend and for that I tender my apologies. I do hope any Hottentots Without Religion that creep into it are forgivable. I look forward to attending crank ups and rallies again in the 2014 season.

About forty years ago when I still had legs that worked, I was involved with clearing out a shop in Gloucestershire that had been in the same family for four generations. It had been a cycle shop back in the late 1880's but absorbed motorcycles as soon as they came in.

There was this room on the ground floor which had "Engines" scribbled in Edwardian copperplate on the door. And they were nearly waist high. Sixties bike engines on top of fifties on top of – you get the idea. The bottom layer was turn of the century and I bought a clip on Minerva which had cross hatching still visible in the bore (no, gone now). It was complete with hand made torpedo tank, rod operated carb etc.

Many of the engines were standing directly on the damp flags and their crankcases had rotted away in a straight line.

Another room was gearboxes, another forks and frames. Etcetera. On a shelf in a dusty office, there was a box of glass plate negatives that I subsequently got printed off, but foolishly left the negatives themselves. Still got the pin sharp prints.

In the greenhouse were some complete bikes covered in layers of old manky carpet and I bought a 1919 Sun-Vitesse which had its engine balanced in the frame on a couple of loose bolts, but it was complete. Still got that, completely unmolested with carrier and some gas lighting components.

Just like Aladdin's cave must have looked so it was!

Moving the Metal For sale

Lister D Engine no.522DH5 HP 1.5 RPM700 to include Two water pumps one Stuart Turner and the other is a Leo £150 the lot. Keith Nash .07976 162347

Lauson engine on steel frame. This interesting lightweight Canadian engine dates from WW2 and is driving its own petrol pump (underslung tank) and a small air compressor. Light, easily fits in the boot. Painted and ready to rally! £199. Tel; Kim on 0117 964 6818

Horse hair Combing Machine. Built by Gauntlets of Trowbridge. Only unaltered and complete one known. £600 ono

Bosch ZE1 magneto. Good working order. Will fit early Petter etc. £60 ono. Both above, phone Eric Gay 01225 754374

"Kibbler" cow cake grinder. Fully restored, paint and woodwork to a high standard of finish. On pine base – not on wheels. £99. (reduced !) Must be collected from Frome.

Phone Tony Davis on 01373 464982

Power Hacksaw. Five feet long and tall, Free standing and an impressive lump begging to be driven by your engine! £199 (reduced) or swap either for something small and interesting.

Watermota K2. Mid thirties twin cylinder marine engine. Complete with square bodied ML magneto, manifolds and original frame. Standing many years and is seized but is just stirring! £230. (reduced) Tel; Kim on 0117 964 6818

Sold four engines and other stuff here last month! This column works! Let's have your engine and similar stuff that you have for sale up here for a month before putting it in SEM – you might see it at rallies if sold locally!

Recommended Bearing Supplier – very helpful!

Solent Bearings, Unit 20&21, Test Valley Business Centre, Test Lane, Nursling, Southampton, SO16 9JW
Phone - 02380 667100. www.solent-bearings.co.uk

Fuel Tanks and Crank Guards made.

Tel John Hedges 01635-268359 or 07831-410473 (Newbury Area). Robin Says – "I have known John for over 30 years and he is a good engineer. He has sold all his engines and thought he would have a go at Tanks & guards and is doing quite well, "

Articles, cartoons, photos etc are always very welcome – this is not a one-man band, but an expression of all our thoughts and experience. Submissions should be preferably typed or word-processed or even handwritten, (if brief), - it is the content we're after, not the grammar or spelling, so please don't feel your efforts will be ignored. The editor reserves the right to change, edit, augment or lessen your Deathless Prose and asks all to note that opinions expressed in this newsletter may or may not represent club policy

Phone - 0117 964 6818

J. Kim Siddorn, 9, Durleigh Close, Bristol. BS13 7NQ or by e-mail to kim.siddorn@blueyonder.co.uk.

Featured Engine

There is no featured engine this month

Calendar of Events

Key. CN = Club Night. E = Event

Jan 27th. CN. **Slide Show** By Robin Lambert
 Feb 24th CN. AGM. 8.00pm at The Court Hotel. Please do make the effort to attend and have YOUR say in the running of your club. No buffet this year.
 March 1st. (Sat) E. **Wessex Spring Sortout** at Cranmore Station.
 March 31st. CN. **"Big Boots And Tall Hats"** My Life In The Metropolitan police. Guest Mike Chipperfield
 April 6th (Sun). **Crank Up** At Nunney Catch.
 April 12th. (Sat) E. **"Enstone" Spring Sale.** ***NEW VENUE***
 Oakley Airfield. HP18 9JX. The new venue is 22 miles east of Enstone Airfield. Check the distance for you before you set off!
 info: Mrs. Anne Harris 01367 810415
 April 21st. E. **Easter Monday at Mells.** Contact Robin Lambert 01373 463526 if you want to attend as space is always limited
 April 28th. CN. **Photo Night.** Bring Along 10 Photos.
 May 19th CN. **Alternative Hobbies Night.** Bring Along Your fascinating stuff! *Early Because Of Bank Holiday.*
 May 24-26th E. **Selwood Rally.** Southwick Nr Trowbridge.
 June 21/22nd E. **Wessex Midsummer Vintage Gathering,** Semington
 June 21/22nd. E. **29th 1000 Engine Rally,** Astle Park.
 June 30th. CN. To Be Announced
 July 19/20th E. **West Oxen Steam & Vintage Show.** Ducklington, Whitney, OX29 7TY (off junction of A40/A415) Info: Gary Leach 01993 700716
 July 19/20th. E. **Much Marcle Steam Rally.** Rye Meadows near Ledbury. HR8 2LX Phone, Richard & Gareth Hall, 01452 840862
 July 28th. CN. **Crank Up** At The Court Hotel
 Aug 18th. CN. **Engines At Wessex Events** Slide Show. *Early Because Of Bank Holiday.*
 Sept 29th CN. Quiz. Anne Kempson As Quizmaster.
 Oct 11th Sat. **Wessex Autumn Sortout** At Cranmore Station.
 Oct 27th. CN. **Engines at the 1000 Engine Rally** by Kim Siddom
 Nov 8th. E. (Sat) **"Enstone" Autumn Sale.** ***NEW VENUE***
 Oakley Airfield. HP18 9JX. The new venue is 22 miles east of Enstone Airfield. Check the distance for you before you set off!
 info: Mrs. Anne Harris 01367 810415
 Nov 24th. CN. **Decoys On Mendip, World War 11.**
 Talk by Mike Chipperfield
 Dec **No Club Night.**
 Dec 7th Sun. **Anti-Freeze Crank-Up** at Nunney Catch
 Dec 27th Sun. **Mince Pie Crank-Up** at The Court Hotel.
This events calendar is prepared by the editor based upon the Wessex SEC calendar produced by Brian Baker. I have added to it outside events that I know Wessex members like to attend. Please do not take this as Holy Writ! It is up to YOU to make sure the event is actually on as indicated before you set out!

Chairman's Report (printed as received)

Once more the weather has badly affected one of our events, this time the Mince Pie Crank Up. In the last three years, two of those years have been ruined by the weather, one by snow and the other by rain. I arrived at the Court Hotel early in the morning to find the car park deserted except for a couple of members with engines who soon disappeared home,



or in the case of Kevin Phillips to a sortout at Bristol. We were welcomed into the Court Hotel by Sue, who served drinks etc for anyone who wanted then, and gradually people started to turn up. I had decided not to hold a raffle due to the lack of members, but by lunchtime there was quite a number of members present so I decided to run the raffle. Sue put out plates of mince pies for us and was busy serving coffees and drinks so it wasn't a complete disaster after all. The committee are at present deciding whether to keep the Mince Pie Crank Up as a social event without the engines, or to erase it from the calendar, please let the committee know your opinions on this subject. The raffle went ahead, with lots of prizes donated by members, and so ended the last event of the year with everyone heading for home with the prizes they had won. I would like to remind members that next month is the A.G.M and to date we have not had any nominations for the vacancies due to the committee members who are retiring. The committee cannot function without important jobs such as the Treasurer, Vice Chairman, and committee members installed, so I appeal to all members to think about doing one of these jobs to ensure the clubs survive, the future of the club rests in your hands. Brian J Baker. Chairman.

I would like to remind members that it will soon be time to renew the subscriptions for 2014. Send your subs to Wendy Gane 45 Welsford Avenue, Wells, Somerset. BA5 2HX. Double£16. Single£13. Juniors 16 or under is free. .

Mince Pie Crank Up

By Robin Lambert

The club crank up at The Court was really a non starter owing to the bad weather, but was still most enjoyable as everyone congregated in the bar and lounge for a Jaw and a Jug plus Mince Pies. Jackie and I unfortunately just missed the raffle, but never mind it was still nice to see everyone and hear how their Christmas' went and put the world to rights!

We did pop down to the Bristol and South Glos Club's after Christmas who gathered as usual at Frog Lane near Yate. Around 20 engines and tractors turned up plus a few hardy souls that had been on a tractor run and called in en route.

We did take the Heinrici hot air powered fan and plonked it on a table in the barn near the tea urn and hot dog and burger stall. It was a good location to be on a cold day - although having said that, it was probably warmer outside the barn in the sunshine!

I did have a chat to friends of Wessex Derrick Hardwick and his wife Margaret. They told me they recently held a Ford Model T rally at their Museum and did a forty mile road run with over twenty cars taking part !! No doubt with a watering hole en route.

A Request

By Brian Hourican

I am new to the stationary engine hobby, I have been to a few events and become fascinated by the operation of Hit & Miss engines

I have been looking for a smallish engine to purchase for some weeks now without success. Although I am good with engines I cannot do machining (yet), so it is important for me to obtain a well sorted, complete and running engine to which I could maybe make small improvements.

I am a bit nervous just to buy something unknown from Ebay. I would really like to buy an engine from somebody who has looked after it for some time and was fairly local.

If you could you please ask if anyone is selling such an engine. Phone 07889 070781.

Social News

By Robin Lambert

Just looking through my diary and I see that probably our most Senior Club Member Ray Earle of Langport will be celebrating his 95th birthday on 11th January, so congratulations to you Ray, may your flywheels keep on turning! Best wishes to you from everyone at the W S E C.

When Insults Had Class

Compiled by Kim Siddorn

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill
- "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one."

- Winston Churchill, in response.
"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one."
- A member of Parliament to Disraeli:
"Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."
"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "Whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."
- "He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr
- "He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill
- "I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence Darrow
- "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."
William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).
- "Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas
- "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain
- "He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.." - Oscar Wilde
- "I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop
- "He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright
- "I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb
- "He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." - Samuel Johnson
- "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." - Paul Keating
- "In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." - Charles, Count Talleyrand
- "He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - Forrest Tucker
- "Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain
- "His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West
- "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde
- "He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang
- "He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder
- "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx

Polishing Metal

By Paul Woelbing

I was a silversmith, goldsmith many years ago. To achieve the best polish there was a series of steps you have to take and the more serious you are about achieving a mirror like finish the more serious you must be in following the steps. In short every step "erases" the marks of the previous step.

Starting with a rough casting or a raised vessel you first file the surface to remove the casting or hammer marks. I presume that our members are trying to achieve a good finish on an already existing

piece. The next step was sanding with 180, 220, 400, 600 and finally wet used 600 grit silicon carbide wet/dry sandpaper. I used to take a wood stick like a paint mixing stick or a polishing stick (a metalsmithing tool that has felt attached to one side) and wrap the paper around the stick to sand rather than simply hold the paper in my hand.

When you move to the next finer grit... say from 180 to 220 change your sanding direction so that you are working perpendicular to the previous direction of sanding. This way you will be able to see when the finer grade has completely erased the sanding marks of the previous coarser grit. If you don't in the end you will wind up polishing scratches.

Once this has been completed you are ready to begin polishing. Here the three that I used were brown tripoli, white diamond and finally yellow rouge. There are variation such as red rouge, black emery et but the three I mentioned using gave me good results.

Here you must have three separate polishing wheels, one for each grade of polish. NEVER cross contaminate the wheels so after every grade of polishing wash the item and make sure that there is no remaining polishing compound sticking to the surface or hiding in crevices. Any of the rougher compound getting onto the next finer polishing wheel and you might as well throw the polishing wheel away as and remaining of the courser compound on the finer wheel will negate all of your hard work.

When you are done wash and then dry with a soft 100% cotton rag such as a diaper or 100% cotton T-shirt. Make sure that it is not a poly/cotton mix. NEVER, NEVER use paper towels as paper is made from ground up wood pulp. I know that this sounds complicated and that I might have over stressed the need for cleanliness between courses but the closer you adhere to this process the better your surface will turn out... and depending upon the amount of porosity in your casting... but that's another discussion.

One additional note, use a polishing machine with at least a 1hp motor. Hold the item to be polished firmly using the part of the wheel BELOW the midpoint as it's rotating. It's not fun having a piece yanked out of your hands and flung across the room or into your face. Also wear eye protection. I never used gloves for fear of them being grabbed by the polishing wheel.

Essex County Show

By Robin Lambert

The **Essex County Show** was to be a new event for us as it is a fair old distance for us to travel so we worked out that after a family visit to Suffolk we could take in this event on our way home as it wasn't too far out of our way. Held on the 14th/15th September at the Barleylands show ground near Billericay, the site reminded me a bit of the Bath and West show ground with hard roads in all directions and some large buildings. At the top end of the site, a purpose built craft village all neatly timber clad with some 30 odd shops. It included two restaurants, one

of which offered meals at very reasonable prices and we used it during our three day stay. There was even a scale railway to keep the little ones happy and no doubt big ones too.

I did enjoy looking around the new agricultural machinery displayed here, the size of some of the tractors, combine harvesters and ancillary equipment was enormous as was the price tag! I paced out the reach of one crop sprayer and it was in the region of 30 mtrs wide. You could view and place an order for a mobile home, a caravan or even arrange a funeral. An undertaker had several vehicles on display including a horse drawn bier, a stretched limo and what I thought was great. a trike that was a Harley lookalike at one end and a beautiful ornate glass rear body that would do any old biker proud on his last journey.

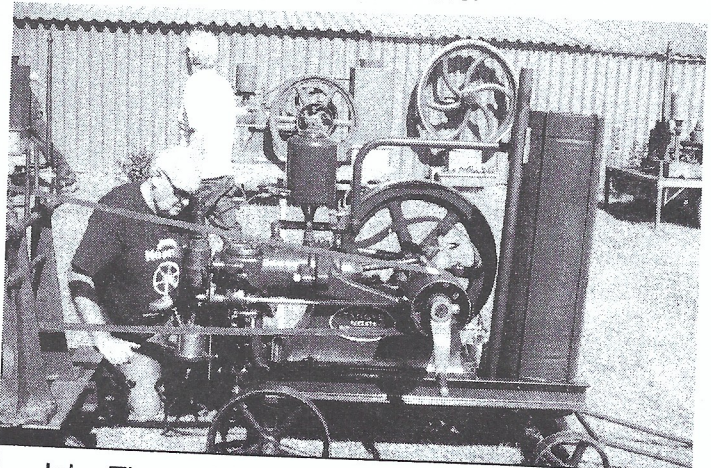
The stall section was huge and dozens of food vans were all plying for trade, a large fairground was in situ with giant big wheel and the biggest set of dodgems I can recall seeing for a long time.

Around 50 full size steamers were here with as many scale versions. I could hear the tractor pulling engines screaming in the distance as they competed to see who could drag the sledge the farthest distance.

The stationary engine section was well supported with over 100 exhibits and it was nice to see different machines that don't venture to the events we usually go to. It did seem strange not to know anyone here, not a single person. Tell a lie on the last day Jennie Jefferies did walk down the engine line and we had a brief chat mainly about how our club enjoyed the visit to her open day a few years ago. She said that she is having another one next April and we are all welcome to visit - what a nice offer.

We made a few new friends here and one in particular is looking for a little 1 1/2 hp Ruston ZPR so if you have one you want to part with contact me and I can put you in touch.

There was so much to see here we only looked at a quarter of what was out there and chatting to the locals they told me the event is only half the size it used to be!! Unfortunately, rain marred one of the two days and I was told reduced public numbers through the pay gate. I hope this will not deter the organisers from putting on another show next year as we would very much like to be there.



John Thom at the Hardwick's Beecharove neet