

CRANKING

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

July
2013

Thirty sixth year
of publication

www.wessex-sec.co.uk

From The Sump

I'm always pleasantly surprised by the success of the "Moving the Metal" column. Every month when I ring around, stuff has been sold, found and exchanged for portraits of the Queen on drinking vouchers. Mr Craddock sold six items from his clear out, including a lathe.

The club did really well from the Semington Gathering. All praise to the few that did the work and – seriously – they could do with a hand in setting up and stripping it all again next year. A few hours of time by a dozen fit young(ish) people would make life so much easier. When the call goes out in the spring, do give it a go.

Many of the public who came in though the gate remarked upon the fact that we support the Children's Hospice South West. The club always make a substantial financial contribution to this worthwhile charity from the gate money we collect and have done so again this year. In true British "stiff upper lip" fashion, we never make a big thing of it and I thought everyone should be more aware of our positive contribution to the lives of children in heartbreaking circumstances.

The club is going to produce a DL publicity leaflet (three fold A4) and I have said I'll put one together. Whilst I have any number of photos of stationary engines, I am just a technical photographer. I need some moody photos and some pictures illustrating that this is a family pastime. Would it not be nice to see some younger people getting into the hobby? Wessex has always led from the front and I'd like us to do so again.

Please can you send me some high resolution photos electronically? I need clean, sharp contrasty photos with faces, engines in the shot but not dominating it, young people as well as old. People with backs to camera, grainy, low res shots from your phone etc are not what I'm after.

Please help if you can.

Moving the Metal For sale

Godwin water pump. Fully restored to a high standard. On wheels with detachable handle. Complete with stainless water tank clad in hardwood. £140.

Johnson drum pump in bronze. (pumping oil) Early 1900. Fully restored to a high standard. Brass tank on a pine base (not on wheels. £150.

"Kibbler" cow cake grinder. Fully restored, paint and woodwork to a high standard of finish. On pine base – not on wheels. £140.

Pillar drill, 16 speed, heavy duty machine. On 76mm pillar with 5/8" Morse Taper chuck. Steel stand with compound vice. £75.

Drawing office table with folding steel legs. With parallel motion and in good condition. £35.

All above must be collected from Frome.

Phone Tony Davis on 01373 464982

Lister D Type. Spec.13d. 1½hp. 700rpm. Serial No. 109978 (April 1934). Incomplete with box of bits including carburettor, battered tank, & other parts. No Magneto. £30 the lot. I also have a shelf full of old magnetos in all sorts of conditions for disposal - no reasonable offer refused. Tel: Tom Randall. 01761 418926 or email tom.randall@dsl.pipex.com

Watermota K2. Mid thirties twin cylinder marine engine. Complete with square bodied ML magneto. manifolds and original frame. Standing many years under a bench and is seized but is just stirring! £250. or swap for something small and interesting. Tel; Kim on 0117 964 6818

ALCO WW2 300 watt generator. In frame.

BSA generator in frame.

BSA powered winch.

Coventry Climax 2 cyl. WW2. Generator. Trolley.

Coventry Victor Cub Diesel flat twin on road trailer.

JAP powered. WW2. Lyon/Norman type in air drop frame. Switchboard

Lister A or B ? (104/10?) Skids.

Lister powered sawbench.

Petter A1. good order.

Ruston Hornsby PB 8hp, (T8V41/2) Hopper cooled. Skids.

Villiers x 2.

Various sets of wheels and axles plus oddments.

Water Pumps and vacuum pump.

*Prices by negotiation. Mr Craddock lives at Wedmore Farm, Pewsham near Chippenham. **Phone 07801539533***

WANTED

Howard "Bantam" rotavator needed for spares. Whole machine considerd. Phone Richard 01225 862753. (Richard admits to being our oldest member – says he's 327 years old! -

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 76 Sherborne Steam & Water-wheel Centre

From their website

The Centre is situated on Osborne Road in Sherborne, just 120 yards east of the turning to Sherborne Old Castle. For your satnav – DT9 3FX

The club will make a self-drive visit to this site on Sunday 6th October – arrive 10.30 for 11.00am on feet. As a waterwheel is undoubtedly an engine, I thought it would be in order to utilise the "Featured Engine" space for this write up, shamelessly cobbled together (old fashioned name for "research") from their website. On the day, the waterwheel will be working, the steam engine in steam and there will be a display of stationary engines! We are establishing whether or not exhibits are sought – watch this space!

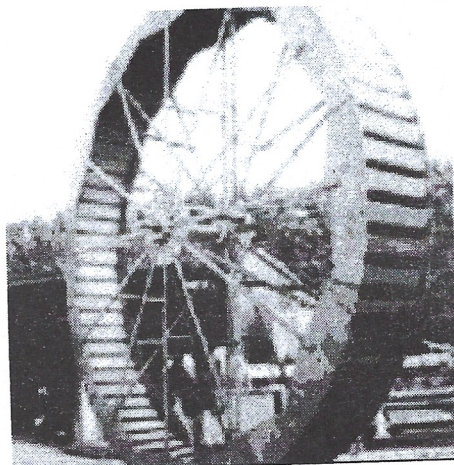
The Sherborne Steam & Waterwheel Centre houses an extensive collection of Victorian engineering. Central to the display is the massive, 26 foot diameter waterwheel built in 1869, which features the system of ventilated buckets designed by William Fairbairn, but so seriously corroded that it had to be rebuilt and is now restored to full working order for the summer programme of open days. Visitors can see the wheel driving a twin cylinder pumpset built in 1883 by Sparrow's of Martock for a local tannery.

It is probably the largest working waterwheel in Dorset, measuring 26 feet (nearly 8 metres) in diameter and 3'9" (114cms) in width. In January 1868 John Lawson put forward a scheme for a waterwheel driven pumping system. This scheme was enabled by the arrival of the London & South Western Railway through Sherborne. Many properties in Castleton were demolished, including the Castleton Mill, which allowed the water supply it had used to be available for Lawson's water pumping scheme. Lawson's scheme was completed and became operational in December 1869 and cost a total of £2,987:18:6 for a new wheelhouse, waterwheel, pumps, leats, tailrace, culverts, new rising main, materials etc. and delivered over 7,800 gallons per hour from Castleton to the reservoir.

Demand for water increased to such an extent that the supply from the waterwheel had to be augmented, and by 1871 there were problems with the wheel itself. Eventually it was decided to build a new pumping station which was completed in 1876. Additional power was provided by a Hindley steam engine, but the high cost of coal compared badly with the negligible outlay for greasing the bearings of the waterwheel!

It continued as a very efficient method of pumping water to the reservoir in the Bristol Road until 1959 when it went out of use.

The Hindley steam engine and boiler were installed in 1876 in a new building in order to augment the supply of water delivered by the waterwheel. A refurbished similar engine that came



The wheel under restoration

from Gillingham Brickworks has been installed and will be running under steam on 6th October.

In 1981 an organization was formed to restore and repair the wheel which was re-installed in early 2008.

These main exhibits are supported by a wide ranging display of several small engines and pumpsets records of the company.

Also on display are the very substantial remains of the Nether Cerne Manor Waterwheel pictured below. This wheel was built for Nether Cerne Manor by Maggs of Bourton in 1819, one of the oldest all iron waterwheels that remain in England.

Supporting this display of machinery is a very comprehensive display of technical and historical documentation. A particular exhibit in this section is a full set of copies of the famous 1852 Map of Sherbourne. The original is 13 feet long and 7 feet high, drawn to a scale of 10 feet to 1 mile. The original is the property of Sherbourne County Council. The survey and mapmaking was carried out by Robert Dymond of Exeter under specific requirements laid down by the inspectors working under the requirements of the Public Health Act of 1848. The very detailed map shows every bucket privy in the town, all 14 breweries, all 11 slaughterhouses and all 11 laundries. Visitors may sit in comfort to study the map sections at their leisure.

Also included in the display are copies of many of the original specifications both for machinery and for buildings. There is also a good picnic area.



Nether Cerne Manor Waterwheel

Access is from Osborne Road, down a lane 100 yards from the Castleton / Long Street / Newland junction.

Calendar of Events

Key. CN = Club Night. E = Event

July 31st. E. Noggin Nosh and Natter at The George Longbridge Deverill on the A350, always a popular event with Vintage Cars Lorries and motorcycles. Starts at 5 pm Plenty of food and drinks available, arrive early as it can get very busy.

Aug 19th CN. *Early Because Of Bank Holiday.*

Film show. "**Morris Cars in the Early '30s**" by Colin Baker.

Sept 30th CN. "Engines at the 1000 Engine Rally" by Kim Siddom.

Oct 5th (Sat) Skittle Match At South Parade Frome

Oct 12th (Sat) E. Wessex Autumn Sortout At Cranmore Railway Station.

Oct 28th CN. Dorset & Somt Air Ambulance

by Colin Thomas.

Nov 12th. (Sat). Enstone Autumn Sale. info: Mrs. Anne Harris 01367 810415

Nov 25th CN. Photo Night. Bring 10 Photos, hard copy or USB stick or CD rom.

Dec 1st. (Sun) Anti-Freeze Crank Up. Nunney Catch

Dec 27th (Fri) Mince Pie Crank Up At The Court Hotel

This Calendar of Events is composed by the editor based first upon a list supplied by our Chairman. I've added to it things I think will interest the membership, but it is not cast in stone! You should always make sure an event is still on by contacting the organiser in advance. The responsibility is yours!

Chairman's Monthly Report

by Brian Baker (*printed as received*)

I was disappointed by the lack of members attending the monthly meeting at the Court Hotel on the 24th July for the quiz night. Only around a dozen members attended which I think was a poor show considering the amount of work the committee puts in arranging these meetings for your entertainment. I spent many hours compiling the quiz which consisted of 120 questions covering many different topics. The winner with over eighty correct answers was our editor Kim, who won a bottle of wine for his efforts, Kim was also the winner last year with a similar score. I think the members who took part enjoyed the quiz as it really was good entertainment. The usual raffle followed but due to the reduced number of members present it did not generate much money for club funds. When we left the Old Down Inn the Wessex display cabinet has been displayed at the Nunney Catch café, due to their reorganisation they wanted us to remove it. Keith Nash and I collected it from Nunney and I now have it in my garage to revarnish it and hopefully, thanks to Sue, to display it in the room we hold our meetings in at the Court Hotel. One of the items we had on display in the cabinet was a book donated by Foster Yeoman's quarry when we paid a visit there many years ago, this was borrowed by one of our members and was never returned, as we would like this back to display once again in the cabinet would you please look through your bookshelves to locate it. The book is a history of the quarry which is reputed to be the largest in Europe. The rally turned out to be a huge success thanks to Eric and his band of helpers which resulted in over £2000 profit for club funds, Eric even

managed to get a grant of £400 from Trowbridge Town Council, well done to all concerned. Don't forget the August meeting is early due to the bank holiday. It's on August 19th when Colin Baker will be showing a film of the Morris factory in the thirties, another in the series of one he showed us some years ago. Our treasurer Keith has informed me he is giving up the post at the end of the year due to family commitments, this means we are now looking for a new treasurer to replace him, the club cannot function without a treasurer so I appeal to the members to come up with a replacement.

Social News

By Earwig

Happy birthday to Bryan Coles who has his 65th birthday on 4th August.

Out and About With Robin and Jackie

By Robin Lambert

June was quite a busy month for us with lots going on beginning with the Tatworth Rally held on Sunday 2nd and set up once again on the village playing fields, it is always well supported although having said that, there were a few empty spaces in the engine line up apparently due to the organisers mislaying the names of last years exhibitors! This year, 2014 entry forms were handed out at the end of this event.

The tractor entry here was huge and I reckon around 40 took part in the Saturday evening road run and returned some three hours later complete with trailers and passengers. Lots to see here on Sunday, the usual car boot, vehicles of all descriptions and even the weather was great, which caused the Pavilion Bar to run out of beer!

After this Event we had a few relaxing days at Chickerell Near Weymouth before moving back along the Coast for the following weekends event at West Bay. However, while at Weymouth it was a good chance to nip along to Brewer's Quay and have a look at the old Bourton-made Hindley Steam Engine that once helped power the brewery, and look around the recently formed antique emporium that is also on the same site.

Along with Sylvia and Graham who we were teamed up with, we also had a day at Dorchester market which is well worth visiting. We even found an antique warehouse that was stacked with all the sorts of things we like to browse over. I did spend a few bob here on one or two bits and pieces that I thought would make a nice Christmas present for Jackie after I have removed the rust that is!

Unfortunately, we had to return home on Thursday and Graham kindly took my trailer on to West Bay which meant all our kit was in situ for our return on Friday. This event was on a new site this year, but only two fields away from the old site, I know from past experience that its always hard to know where to place things at a new venue. but I would say they had things just right.

The usual auction took place on Saturday and I was told after the sale paddock filled up they had to turn away more sale items as there was nowhere to put them!. The stall section here is always interesting and one even had a small Hobbs engine for sale which was quickly snapped up by its new owner. To sum up, this was a nice event put on by the West Dorset Club and at last they were blessed by fine weather for once after previous years marred by bad weather, well done them.

We pulled into our club rally at Semington on the Friday and were met by S.E. steward Don Rogers and guided to our parking place by our exhibit location, I always favour this set up which also included a safety lane between the camping vehicles and the exhibits, this is always a good thing for Emergency Access.

Luke and Jamie Coates were also busy helping Don and pegging out all the exhibit numbers, I never managed to get hold of a programme as I was told they were all sold out - which is better than having a lot left unsold.

The paying public had good value for money here with so much to see, I know Mike and Herbie were under pressure at times in the public car park as visitors came in thick and fast. Some believed they were going to a car boot sale and did a u turn when they found they were mistaken! This caused confusion at the entrance with others trying to get in as you can imagine!

Unfortunately on Saturday the weather turned nasty around 2 pm and sent everyone looking for cover and on Sunday more rain came down this time in the morning and seemed slow at clearing up.

I thought the working Ruston display was first class and must have taken a lot of work to set up, The craft and model tent was very good as was the excellent turn out of motor cycles, commercials and vintage cars.

Saturday evening in the beer tent was very busy with the barman struggling to keep up with demand, so no doubt he did very well and would be pleased to come again. To sum up then **well done to Eric and his helpers**. I know he could have done with more help to manage such a large spread out event and he must be very pleased with how things went despite the weather.

Our long distance journey to Astle Park took place once again and we joined the queue for entry at midday on Thursday, It's quite free and easy there and we tend to go to the same location year after year and rope off a few spaces for club members arriving later on. This year we had two newcomers, Sam and Paul, and I believe they had an interesting three days, being fortunate to book into a nearby B&B with several other club members.

The usual Friday auction took place with several hundred lots, but I thought it had got a bit tatty with a lot of rubbish items such as large boxes of Christmas lights probably put in the sale by stall holders who have been struggling to move them on.

But the club shop was a different matter with so much for sale, which included a beautifully restored Bamford (or was it a Millers?) priced so reasonably that it quickly found a new owner. I did find a tiny wooden butter

churn here which will look nice with our small Stuart steam engine.

On Saturday gale force winds howled across the showground, causing exhibitors to erect temporary shelters of all descriptions and on Sunday the rain came in early and lasted until lunch time with most exhibits sheeted down. To sum up, a good event put on by several clubs. I hope they can do it again next year.

Stationary Engines at Beaulieu

By Robin Lambert

It was in the late 1970s and early 1980s that I last attended a stationary engine event at Beaulieu and in my old slides I still have some pictures of WSEC members receiving trophies from Lord Montague at the end of rally presentation, so a long awaited revival of engines displayed here is without doubt welcomed by all enthusiasts.

Full credit must be given to Dennis and Chris Barnes for doing all the hard work in putting this event on and their past experience's of organising events at Stapehill Abbey, Honeybrook, and the Barley Mow reflected here with their expertise in setting up such an event. Dennis told me they had around 100 engines entered for the event and I would think all turned up to be located in three large enclosures. One exhibitor I had a chat with came from Carlisle and several mote had Scottish accents and may have travelled even further.

The camping area location was two fields away from the event and proved to be a problem for those who had difficulty walking long distances and some were relocated closer to the event. Chris had a half size tractor with a large trailer and would transport anything heavy if required.

This weekend was held in conjunction with an Austin Seven rally who had 150 cars booked in and took up residence in a large field close to our engines, the cars did all sorts of trials inc speed and driving over large humps and an auto jumble was also in situ. I'd say that over 20 Wessex members exhibited and it was nice to see my old Victoria performing nicely in the engine line,

The engine display areas was set up in line with two long avenues of mature horse chestnut trees which provided welcome shade on what must have been one of the hottest weekends of the year.

All the usual attractions were available free for exhibitors, entry to the car museum, rides on the monorail and visit the house and gardens.

One could arrive on Thursday which we did and on Friday we drove some four miles to Hythe and took the ferry into Southampton, viewing all the ocean liners berthed up ready for their cruises. At the dock, a free bus will take you to West Quay Shopping Centre right in the heart of the city.

I did have a bit of luck in Beaulieu. Adjoining the estate grounds is a vintage tyre supplier and I found two 20 inch tyres to fit the wheels on my ex Post Office Stuart generator and this really made my weekend complete.

Great show, great company, great weather and two tyres to come home with.