

# CRANKING

*The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter*

March  
2013  
Thirty sixth year  
of publication  
[www.wessex-sec.co.uk](http://www.wessex-sec.co.uk)

## From the Sump

Over the last couple of years, I have suggested on several occasions – twice at AGM's – that it would be sensible for this newsletter to be made available to those members who are equipped to do so, to receive their copy of Cranking by electronic means. To my surprise, there has been resistance to this common sense move, but I am delighted to now report that the newly-appointed committee has voted that this should now go ahead.

It now costs around a £1.00 for stationary, printing and postage per copy. A worthwhile saving in quantity as I'm sure you'll agree.

I am fully seized of the fact that many of our members either cannot or do not want to have their newsletter delivered in this way and I guarantee that those who prefer to have it as hard copy will continue to find it on their doormat once a month at the usual time. The electronic version will initially be sent out on the THURSDAY of the week following Club Night, timed to give no unfair advantage to those receiving it electronically.

Those wishing to have an e-mail version must make a positive move to do so. They must send me an e-mail (see bottom box on this page) with their membership number and address details so we can ensure that it only goes to current members.

The system will take a little while to get all its ducks into a row, so for three months, those wanting the electronic version will also get the hard copy as well. I am really keen to ensure that no one suffers by this addition to our distribution network!

Good to see the days lengthening with the season just around to corner. Nearly finished the engine you've been labouring all winter to complete? There is nothing quite like that first spluttering bang from the exhaust of an engine that has not run for over fifty years, nor the approbation of your mates when the gleaming paint and shining polished metal emerges onto the rally field or crank up for the first time! The satisfaction of a job well done, of difficult choices made, of repressing a whistle of surprise when you discover just how much it is going to cost to get this or that done. But in the long run it is all worth it as the pleasure that can be had from the ownership of something you truly appreciate far outweighs the pain of parting with the money to buy it!

## Moving the Metal For sale

**"Model Engineering"** magazines, about 200 odd, 1949 to 1952 - £20.00

**Wolseley** air cooled 1.5hp. On barrow trolley - £100  
Jon Ivens. Phone 07812 385536

**Petter AVI 5HP Diesel** Ser No 618657. Restore or spares. Some frost damage £35

**JAP 3A.** Two air-cooled engines, 1 complete, 1 for spares. £20

Contact Brian Verral Cheddar 01934 743460 evenin

**Lister 1948 28 DH**, s/n 1/17438. Rocker gear dismantled but all parts available. Turns over with compression. Ex milking parlour, no trolley. Needs restoring but probably never been apart. Dry stored. With factory handbook. Frome area. Open to offers but £650 on as a starting point!

Phone John 07517 036026

**Milk Bottle** collection. One hundred and eleven 1980's bottles with adverts on Must sell as one lot. Photos, details – [p.lovering@btinternet.com](mailto:p.lovering@btinternet.com)  
Phone Paul Lovering, BoA Wilts. 01225 862100  
*Note corrected phone number – my fault, sorry!*

**Award Night Star Caravan**, Has all mod cons inc cooker, Fridge, Shower etc, Can be viewed at Chapmanslade Nr Frome, **PRICE REDUCED!**  
£550 ONO. Contact Jeff on 07564 818529.

## WANTED

Wanted; Wiko or Lucas RS1 Magneto, counter-clockwise on cog drive end.

Phone Terry Williams 07845 137796

**No. 52 Steel Detachable Chain** as used on conveyors. Need 10 yards, but any quantity will do.

Phone Gerald Atherton - 01934 852670

**Vincent** industrial engine powered compressor.  
**Pultra lathe or parts.** 1510 Or 1710 considered.

Phone Kim Siddorn 0117 964 6818

**Sold an engine and a pump 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!

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](mailto:kim.siddorn@blueyonder.co.uk).



## Featured Engine 73

*There is a lot to get in this month, so I have used this useful table that Eric sent in ages ago. For technical reasons, it took me over an hour to transpose this into the newsletter, the main reason why it hasn't appeared before! Editor.*

### Drills, Holes, Threads and Clearance

By Eric Gay

On most British engines that come our way the threads are Whitworth, so I set out a few useful facts and figures that you may find useful one day when you have to tap a hole for a certain Whitworth bolt. So here goes.

Outside Diameter	Threads per inch	Tapping size Drill	Clearance size Drill
1/6"	60	No.56	No. 52
3/32"	48	No. 50	No. 41
1/8"	40	No.40	No. 30
5/32"	32	No. 31	4 mm
3/16"	24	9/64"	No.12
7/32"	24	No. 18	No. 2
1/4"	20	No. 11	6.50 mm
5/16"	18	Letter D	Letter O
3/8"	16	Letter N	Letter W
7/16"	14	Letter S	11.5mm
1/2"	12	letter X	33/64"
5/8"	11	33/64"	41/64"
3/4"	10	5/8"	49/64"
7/8"	9	47/64"	57/64"
1"	8	27/32"	1 1/64"

The Editor has transcribed this useful list exactly as supplied.

### Calendar of Events

Key. CN = Club Night. E = Event

**April 1<sup>st</sup> E. Easter Monday at Mells.** Contact Robin Lambert 01373 463526

**April 6<sup>th</sup> E. Oakham Treasures Museum, Portbury.** Drive yourself club visit – (Saturday)

**April 20<sup>th</sup> (Sat). Enstone Spring Sale.** info: Mrs. Anne Harris 01367 810415

**April 21<sup>st</sup> (Sun) E. Crank Up at Nunney Catch.**

**April 27/28<sup>th</sup> E. Westbury Transport Gathering,** Bratton BA134TT. Contact Bill on 01373-864166

**April 29<sup>th</sup> CN. "Cheese Making"** By Pauline Alvis. Cheese for sale after the talk.

**May 20<sup>th</sup> CN. Early Because Of Bank Holiday.**

**Alternative Hobbies Night.**

**May 25-27<sup>th</sup> E. Selwood Rally.** Southwick Nr Trowbridge.

Forms from Mrs Pearl Francis, 45, Stonebridge Drive, Frome, BA11 2TW.

<http://www.selwoodvintage.co.uk/page6.html>

**June 15/16<sup>th</sup> E. Wessex Midsummer Vintage**

**Gathering.** Our club rally at Semington.

**June 8/9<sup>th</sup> E. West Bay Rally.** Phone Matt Scadding 07948 579841

**June 22/23<sup>rd</sup> E. 28<sup>th</sup> 1000 Engine Rally,** Astle Park.

**June 24<sup>th</sup> CN.** In House Member's Quiz.

**July 13<sup>th</sup> E. Chilcompton Funday.** Phone Andy Cassidy 01761 232862

**July 20/21<sup>st</sup> E. West Oxen Steam & Vintage Show.**

Ducklington, Whitney, OX29 7TY (*off junction of A40/A415*) Info: Mrs. Anne Harris 01367 810415

**July 21/22<sup>nd</sup> E. Much Marcle Steam Rally.** Rye Meadows near Ledbury. HR8 2LX Phone, Dot Pullen, 01531 633664

**July 28<sup>th</sup> (Sun) Crank Up** at Frank Nash's cider farm at West Pennard. Phone Brian for details

**July 29<sup>th</sup> CN. Crank Up At The Court Hotel**

**Aug 19<sup>th</sup> CN. Early Because Of Bank Holiday.**

**First Aid Resuscitation** by Paul Martin

**Sept 30<sup>th</sup> CN. "Engines at the 1000 Engine Rally"** by Kim Siddorn.

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Skittle Match** At South Parade Frome

**Oct 12<sup>th</sup> (Sat) E. Wessex Autumn Sortout** At Cranmore Railway Station.

**Oct 28<sup>th</sup> CN. Dorset & Somt Air Ambulance** by Colin Thomas.

**Nov 12<sup>th</sup> (Sat). Enstone Autumn Sale.** info: Mrs. Anne Harris 01367 810415

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup> CN. Photo Night.** Bring 10 Photos, hard copy or USB stick or CD rom.

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup> (Sun) Anti-Freeze Crank Up.** Nunney Catch

**Dec 27<sup>th</sup> (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!*

### Extra event!

The Committee have planned another visit to the Oakham Treasures Museum at Portbury on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. If members will meet up at approx 10-30 am we will get a group discount on admission price. This is a drive yourself visit to what is probably the best museum in the West Country There is an excellent cafe on site. Ring Brian on 01749 342671. Oakham Farm, Portbury Lane, Portbury. BS20 7SP. *They have an excellent websit, so to whet your appetite, you can see more about them on line. Editor.* <http://www.oakhamtreasures.co.uk/>

### Chairman's Monthly Report

by Brian Baker (*printed as received*)

The meeting at the Court Hotel on the 25<sup>th</sup> February was the AGM. The entire committee of 2012 was voted back in again with the omission of Brian Verrall who was standing down as President and committee member. Brian was presented with a book of the history of Brown and May, engine manufactures from Devizes. We had one volunteer to join the committee, Neill Richards, a member from Trowbridge who was duly voted in, which brought the committee back to full strength. The committee has chosen Eric Gay to be the President for this year; he will stand down at the next AGM to contest the vacancy of Chairman as I



intend to stand down at the next AGM. Despite laying on a buffet again we didn't attract the expected number of members to the AGM. I'm sure the committee will vote to not have a buffet next year as the numbers did not justify the expense; we had a lot of food left over this year. The Spring Sortout at Cranmore railway station was held on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, a dry but bitterly cold day. We were about half a dozen stalls down on the last one and we were down a bit on the gate but all in all it was a good turnout. The only problem I had was, only two of us, Herb and myself were left to man the gate on what was probably the coldest day of the year. At the next sortout we definitely require volunteers to man the gate. The committee and myself have put a lot of effort and time in compiling this year programme so please will all members make an effort to support the meetings and events by turning up.

### **Chairman's Annual Report – 2012**

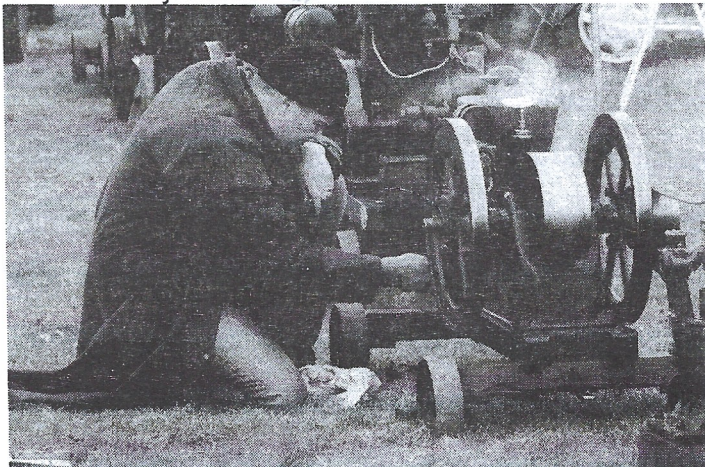
This is my 19<sup>th</sup> annual report since becoming Chairman.. Next year will be my 20<sup>th</sup> and my last report as I am standing down as Chairman at next years AGM. This means that as members you have a full twelve months to find my successor. The club is sound financially with a healthy balance in the current account and the deposit account; I would like to thank our treasurer Keith for the splendid job he does looking after the clubs finances. Last year will be remembered as the wettest on record, this resulted in lots of events being cancelled including our own rally at Semington, which was heartbreaking for Eric and his band of helpers who had put so much work in organising and setting it up. It also drastically limited the entry for the mince pie crank up later in the year. Despite the weather the two Sortouts were successful with the usual good attendance of buyers and sellers. The crank ups at Nunney and the Court Hotel were - well attended, and the crank up which was organised by Herb Gane and Bryan Coles at Keith Nash's yard had a very large entry and was highly successful. The crank up at Mells attracted a very large entry and is one of the major events in our programme; this is due to Robin and his band of helpers who organises this event every year, many thanks to you all. The event of the year as far as I'm concerned was the visit to the cider farm at West Pennard, this was organised by Herb and Wendy Gane, many thanks to you both, especially for the display of food you provided. The other event planned was the visit to Sammy Millers Motor Cycle Museum in Hampshire; this was an absolute disaster, only two members turned up. You can see what you missed next month when I shall be putting on a slide show of all the exhibits in the museum. The skittle match at Frome was well supported and is now firmly established in our calendar. Many thanks to Tony and Diana who organises this event and collects the fish and chip suppers. One of the biggest plusses for me in 2012 was the fact we eventually acquired a secretary. I would like to thank Jackie Coles for volunteering for this job, and

the brilliant job she has done for the past year. Another lady I would like to thank is Wendy Gane who has taken on the task of membership secretary; Wendy has taken over from Jackie, and it is Mary who you now have to renew your memberships with. Many thanks to Robin and Jackie who carried out this task for the last year. One lady deserves a special mention and that is Mary Butler who attends to the newsletter distribution every month, and taking bags full of envelopes to the post office in all winds and weathers, thank you very much Mary. One of our main sources of income is from the raffles, and this is mainly due to Carol Phillips who sells the tickets at the meetings and events sometimes in the wet and cold. Thank you very much Carol you are very much appreciated. Finally I would like to thank all members of the committee for the work they have put in to running the club for the past year, they were an absolute pleasure to work with, making the job of chairman a pleasure, also for all of them to agree to another term this year, with the exception of Brian who is standing down as committee member and President. I would like on behalf of the club to wish Brian all the best on his retirement from the committee and I'm sure he will still be helping us from the sidelines. I would like to add that the committee elects the new President and they have decided to appoint Eric Gay as the President of the club for this year when he will vacate the post at next years AGM to contest the vacant post of Chairman. As Brian was the only member of the committee to resign we would like at least one member to replace him to keep the numbers the same.

### **Social news**

By Robin Lambert

When I did the Slide show on the January Club Night, we had several slides from a Blackstone Engine discovery at Titchfield and of John Kyte's Garden Rallies many years ago. Well, blow me down if I didn't get a phone call from him a few days later, he told me he has moved back into Wiltshire from south Wales, is living near Wilton and hopes to come along to the Club Rally at Semington. It will be nice for him and old friends to meet up again after a long absence from the rally scene.





I was trawling through The Mells Website and found a nice photo of Club Member Simon Coles fine tuning his Three mule Team Amanco at last years event. I have been over to Mells and had a look at the Field and it looks in good shape, so if the weather can be kind to us running up to Bank Holiday Monday, all Exhibitors should be in for a nice day.

Our members often like to go to the Shillingstone Rally, this year on the 18/19<sup>th</sup> May. Anyone wishing to attend should phone Mr Burden on 01747-822834.

Club member Jim Miller will be running his Annual Vintage Event in the usual field under the Wesbury White Horse. Phone Bill on 01373 864166 for a form and further info if you'd like to go.

Linda Pike has asked the Editor to draw your attention to the Chilcompton Funday, for which engines are required. Please do come if you can. Just phone Andy Cassidy on 01761 232862 for full information.

### Car Quiz Answers

By Bob Hallam

1. A small barrel maker from Austin - Mini Cooper
2. A pirate ship from Ford - Corsair
3. A bottle of bubbly from Vauxhall - Magnum
4. A sledge dog from Hillman - Husky
5. A bridge in Venice from Reliant - Rialto
6. A Chaperone from Ford - Escort
7. An Oxfordshire river from Morris - Isis
8. A Civil war soldier from Vauxhall - Cavalier
9. A West Coast American from Hillman - Californian
10. A sword from Sunbeam - Rapier
11. A straight at Le Mans from Bentley - Mulsanne
12. A snake from AC - Cobra
13. A sword from Reliant - Scimitar
14. A bird from Riley - Redwing
15. An Arrow from Daimler - Dart
16. An island in Italy from Ford - Capri
17. A small person from MG - Midget
18. A fairy from Austin Healey - Sprite
19. A mint from Volkswagen - Polo
20. An insect from Volkswagen - Beetle
21. Greek Alphabet's letter from Lancia - Beta
22. A ruler from Daimler - Sovereign
23. An ocean from Austin - Atlantic
24. A motor racing circuit from Healey - Silverstone
25. A Shakespearian character from Skoda - Octavia

### Alamo Engine

By Eric Gay (*printed as received*)

Yer I don't want Thee all to fall about laughing but after three years restoring thick Alamo Engine I got, I took the thing down Bewrick, tother wickend snow. Twer its furst rally, fer I add only run Eee fur about 10 minuits in the workshop, and whats snow Eee did run all they two day wee only one bit Oh trouble that wur soon fixed bleesed timing slipped on thick magneto thing.

I dunt think that wur to bad seeing that nearly everything on im were remade and replaced even down to awing a new piston cast. I tell Eee all, twee I mess when I got Eee apart, and snow I learned ow to make they white metal bearing things beside a hundred and one other things.

And so I do say it meself Eee dons look and run that bad, so to all me mates that kept giving me encouragement, along with a fair amount leg pulling (like ent thee got Eee going yet) and that aint all but the other bent fit to print yer. and to thoses club members that helped with a couple of jobes I could not tackle thank you one and all. *From Eee up in Trowbridge.*

### Berwick St. John Steam & Country Fair 15/16 Sept

By Eric Gay

I have been going to this event ever since the very first one many years ago and what a magnificent event it is. This years show was bigger than ever before, I did not count the number of stationary engines but it was well over the hundred mark. It was good to see the support given to the event by the members of the Wessex Stationary engine Club. The Trowbridge branch were out in force along with members from Salisbury, Gurney Slade, Cheddar and all points north east south and west.

The best of the show that pleased us all was that the SUN SHONE that made a change from the wicked weather we have all had this year.

The Steam working section was larger than ever with rack saws, a huge horizontal rack saw cutting large trees into planks. There was threshing by steam and throughout the site all the old crafts you can imagine. Tractor & steam ploughing along with crops being cut as they were back when I were a lad.

About the only thing missing this year were the heavy horses, this was due to ill health by their owner. It is just like the shows and rallies back when I started rallying, no yellow coats, free and easy and you meet all your good friends. All weekend the site was crowded with people and it don't cost you a penny to come into the show. I for one am looking forward to the show in 2014. Yes, that's right, this great event takes place every second year, There were crowds of visitors and a great many that take an interest in the work we all do restoring our exhibits.

To all the organisers of this show I say well done and thank you for all your hard work giving us the exhibitor such a splendid weekend.

*My apologies for the lateness of this report. It was misfiled as having been published already - Editor*