



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editor's Note

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed this month. We have plenty of material for a cracking newsletter again. As usual please send your contributions or applications for the post of editor to:

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Chairman's Report

November the 5th will not be remembered for the fireworks and bonfires. This was a very sad day, it was the day we said goodbye to a very dear friend and loyal member of both committees of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd, Gary William Charles Sainsbury, known to us all as Gary.

The church at Market Lavington was full, with Gary's friends and relations. We gave the dear boy a great send off, and to the twenty or so members of the club that attended, many of you travelling a considerable distance to be at the funeral, on behalf of Pauline & Mary may I thank you all most sincerely. Gary, I am sure, will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him, and will never be forgotten.

The Annual General Meeting looms and February will soon be with us, and the Club is still without a Vice Chairman to take over the reins of the club when I hang up my Chairman's hat. Not only this but we need a newsletter editor very urgently. With around two hundred members there must be someone that can take on this job please.

I have lost my dear friend and my right hand at the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show, with many new attractions on the books for 2020 we need more help. Can you spare a couple of hours a month to help plan and run the event? If so please give old Eric a call on 01225 754374.

With the ever-growing cost of evening speakers for our meetings we are hoping to do more in-house talks and entertainment in 2020. If you can - or know anyone that may be able to - give a talk or tell stories please get in touch.

One for you all to put in your diary for the new year will be the Westbury crank-up and vintage day at the White Horse Country Park, Coach Rd, Westbury, in conjunction with the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers. This will take place on Sunday 19th April, 10am to 4.30pm.

January club evening will be a "guess the object" evening. We have not held one of these for many years, so now is the time to go and delve into the shed/workshop or under the bed, and find that strange object and bring it along at the end of January, just to see who is the cleverest member we have.

Eric Gay, Chairman

Shaftesbury Heavy Horse Show

Just to add to Robin's earlier report on the show. Last year the show did not take place due to the inclement weather and it almost seemed that the same thing would happen this year

We turned up at the field to find that we were not the first to arrive. Already set up were Robin and Jackie with their Frome Hot Air Engine display. There were also a number of other engines including a Fairbanks Morse, a Lister D generator set, a nice Bamford and your truly with the Fairbanks "Bulldog".

Other classic items at the show were a nicely restored Commer cattle lorry, a Ferguson tractor, several classic cars including a Morris Minor, Morris Traveller and a Ford Anglia. Numbers were down this year due to the weather but the display of heavy horses and the ring events were well up to the normal standard.

One last thing. Mike Horler is usually heard loud and clear over the tannoy, but this year he had a more important engagement.

Congratulations to Mike and his wife on their 60th wedding anniversary!

Herb & Wendy Gane

Lincoln Steam Rally

Lincoln Steam Rally is always held on the Lincolnshire Showground, just a few miles from Lincoln City. I have attended with an engine for the last 25 years or so: it's a show that is very big and covers everything you would want to see, starting on Thursday till Sunday and in the middle of August, this year 15th to 18th. Many come down from the north and exhibit on the way to the Great Dorset Steam Fair, so it's many fantastic

engines, cars, tractors and loads of steam. In about the year 2000 they gave up giving plaques and gave instead lovely models, each with Lincoln Steam on, and very collectable as it's limited.

It has been allowing caravans from non-exhibitors at a cost to pay on the day as well as in advance, to help pay the costs, and many do go each year. It has worked very well. This year it all went so very wrong. A gang of people paid and parked up with only one thing in mind, and that was to cause disruption everywhere on site. They had many children who ran amok, stealing openly from stalls, food or anything they wanted. During the first night parts from exhibits and generators were taken. Some stall holders gave up and went home. These people were escorted from the show.

The cost to the show and exhibitors is great and so you can, for next year, only camp, as non-exhibitors in advance, and to cover the cost of extra security, which is thousands of pounds, they will not give the lovely models to each exhibitor. Mindless few hurting so many people having fun. What is our changing world coming to. If it happens again it could finish this great rally. Let's hope it does not

Richard Cowell

Mells Daffodil Day 2020

For your information there will not be a Mells rally next year as they are taking a year off. However, don't forget:

Wedmore crank-up at Sweets Tea Rooms will be held on Saturday 6th June 2020

No entry forms required, just bring along engines, classic cars, tractors, whatever you fancy. Do not turn up before 9 am as the gates will be closed until then. If in doubt regarding the weather check the Wessex web site or ring Herb Gane on 01749 674402 or Bryan Coles on 01749 677297

Yet more! Just to let everyone know that I am finishing as membership secretary at the end of the year. Our new Treasurer, Caroline Turley, is taking over and will be doing both jobs. Thank you Caroline.

Wendy Gane

Our Club Jumble Saturday 5th October, Cranmore Railway Car Park

The weather reports leading up to our autumn event were pretty dismal and may well have been a

contributory factor in the stalls being only half the number that usually attend, but chatting to Chairman Eric another factor may have been the railway continually changing the event date which hampered the club's advertising. The weather as it happened was great, we even had sunshine around 11am and there was a good number of visitors with cash to spend, so I hope all the stall holders did well. There were a few first time stalls there, some with three axle trailers well laden with plenty of items to rummage through, with all the bits we like to look at, and one of our regular visitors came once again all the way from Barnstaple. Well done Arthur, it was nice to see you.

We did return home with only half a van full so for us it was a nice few hours and hopefully everyone else did well too.

Robin

Bike Jumble and Vintage Sort Out

28th March 2020

In addition to the usual two Cranmore sales, next year we will be holding a bike jumble and vintage sort out at the Frome Market, Standerwick. There will be outside pitches on hard standing, and some inside space for inclement weather, plus tables in the "Standerwick Centre" for light/clean jumble, books, clothing etc. The excellent market cafe will be open for the duration of the sale. All proceeds will go to help make the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show bigger and better, and if it is a success we would like to make it an annual event, so we would like to see as many members as possible supporting it.

Full details will be in the next newsletter.

Ted

Information or opinion contained in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the club or committee. All information is as accurate as possible but I apologise for any inaccuracies that may appear. Comments and constructive criticism are always welcome.

If you have enjoyed this newsletter please consider submitting a contribution to the next one!

Last date for inclusion in the Newsletter is the 20th of each month.