



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editor's Note

With my Secretary's hat on I'm delighted to announce that we have an editor! With my Editor's hat on I have mixed feelings, because I have quite enjoyed my caretaking role but I am overjoyed that at last it looks as if we are going to have some stability. Most of you will have come across David Lacey at one of the many shows he attends during the year, and/or read his posts on various Facebook pages. He is one of the most enthusiastic people I know, and he has experience of editing a newsletter, so when he offered to be our new editor I was only too pleased to accept, and he will be taking over from the next issue.

I believe that the newsletters are a very important part of the club; even with so many people communicating via the web they are a valuable record of the past, but when the data was copied from the old website to the new one very few newsletters were transferred, and it looked as if this valuable archive was going to be lost. Fortunately there are some squirrels among our members, and thanks to them I have been able to obtain copies of just about everything that has been written over the years. I have now scanned these newsletters and put them on the website so that they can be read or downloaded as required. There are some gaps in the record but as far as I know they are months when for some reason no newsletter was produced. If anyone knows better and can supply any of the missing issues I will gladly add them to the archive. For those without access to the website I am happy to supply a hard copy of any issue in the archive upon request.

What has become clear is that we have a lot of hidden talent in the club, as a lot of the original authors are still members, and I think it's time they came out of the woodwork and put pen to paper again.

Obituary

It is with sadness we hear of the death of **David Upton**. David, who lived at Grately, was well known by many of our Club Members and for many years was the S E Steward at the Wallops Vintage Gathering

David loved his Rallies and had a lot of friends within the engine movement who I know will all be saddened to hear the news of his death, and their thoughts will be with his family at this very sad time.

Many years ago our Club was invited by David's Father John to an open day at their home to view their huge collection of engines, and their hospitality will never be forgotten. It was always a pleasure to be in David's company and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Robin.

For Sale

Men's Dynafit Ski Boots, Hardly worn, Excellent condition, Size 28-30.5, which is 9-11.5 Picture available on request. £65 o.n.o.

Contact Cath - Email p.lovering253@btinternet.com

Looking Back and Forward

With the winter months now thrust upon us it's nice to reflect how our past rallying year has passed us by in what seems to me in super quick time. I must say in general we did quite well only having to miss out on a few of our favourite events and it really was nice to be out there amongst our friends and old mates and as always putting the world to rights. It's great chatting to lots of show visitors and explaining how our exhibits work and a lot of hot air passes between us, not just from the engines but me also!!

In general I think this year's weather has been kind to us, we never had to take the tow rope out of the van at all but I must admit on a few occasions we almost got roasted as the sunshine beat down on us so much that by mid afternoon exhibitors started to pack up as they noticed the public too were also making their way back to the car parks and the air conditioning in their vehicles.

It was a shame that the Beaulieu Rally never took place this year, perhaps Chris and Dennis will have it back next year or perhaps even relocate it elsewhere, as in the past they have organised events at several locations and they have all been a great success.

Next year's entry forms are already dropping through the letter box along with Christmas Cards which is very nice and as we all know you can't plan an event early enough, many of you will be sorting out what you intend exhibiting next year, perhaps uncovering and digging out machinery that hasn't seen the light of day for many years, so you have around five months to get things up together.

It was a shame to read that next year Daffodil Day at Mells won't take place, as for many of us it was the start of our rallying year and the first chance to try out any new exhibits and fine tune if necessary; also for Jackie and me about as near as we could ever get to a show, just three miles up the road! Sadly over the past year some of our club members have passed away but will always be in our thoughts, as will be the ones left behind.

Robin

Robin deserves a large vote of thanks for his contributions over the past few years, without which the newsletter would have been very thin. I know that there are lots of you equally able to provide entertaining reports and anecdotes, so why not overwhelm our new editor with a flood of copy?

Carburettor

Years ago amongst other bits & bobs I picked up a carb that is far too small for a motorbike (my main interest), and I assume it is for a very small engine, possibly a stationary one. It appears to be basically unused and totally complete, and it would be better being used rather than gathering dust in my garage.

I have just noticed on ebay an identical one being sold by rapidco1 for £29.50 (item no 124031147422 ed.) so look this up if interested. Maker unknown but No stamped on intake is JC 542 B. 1.125 " stub fitting reducing to 0.625"

If interested, a donation to St. Peters Hospice would be appreciated.

Simon Bending sbendings@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman's Report

Here we are already with the first month of 2020 behind us and the rally season getting ever closer, I have many projects on the work bench but cannot find the time to work on them, I need something different for 2020. I have it but it still needs work, spring is looming and that will mean the garden has to be dug and planted, we need a new drive to the house, my garage roof has started to leak, and someone has told me the front door needs painting. Oh what I would give for a quiet life with plenty of time for what I would like to do, I suppose I would get bored with only engines to play with, but I might just give it a try and see.

A few nights ago we had our club meal, and what a meal it was. Once again Maxine and her team worked wonders, the food could not have been bettered. It was delicious and her staff worked wonders to get the 36 people that attended served with speed and efficiency, it was a great evening that everyone enjoyed.

On the evening of the 27th January we had a rare event, it was a talk and film about - guess what? - an engine!. The very large Robey diesel single cylinder engine that drove a three-ram pump and supplied water to the brewery which stands on the Wells road just as you leave Shepton Mallet. The engine is still in its original building, but sadly it has been vandalised and many parts robbed, all the brass work went to some scrapyards no doubt. It is such a shame to see it now in the state it is.

But it is not totally beyond hope, it just needs lots of money, lots of work and the enthusiasts to do the work. How about it, members of the Wessex? Would you like a challenge? I was told that part of the starting equipment - it is an air-start engine - was removed by a member, it grew legs and went walkabout. I for one would have loved to see it working when it was doing the job it was built to do.

Now with spring just around the corner and the grass has risen I wonder where the mower is? The mower is in the shed and me, I'm going back to bed. Well it would be nice but very soon it will be March, and please don't forget that our first event in March will be our annual sale at the East Somerset Steam Railway at Cranmore, then the next weekend the 15th 'tis the crank-up at Whaddon, after that our new venture, the autojumble at Frome Market, Standerwick. For details of this please give Ted a call on 07751 918283.

Then we are into April and on the 10th of the month it is the crank-up at the White Horse Country Park with the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers. Hot dogs, food, tea, coffee and cakes all done by the ladies of the WWSME. Entry forms & details: 01225 754374 Eric Gay.

Plans for the 20th and 21st June are well under way with a lot of different items for 2020. Live music will be a feature of this year's show with three bands performing throughout each day plus our evening concert, so come on club members, if you have never entered before please come along this year. We the committee of the show would love to see you with us, you won't be disappointed. Now I know I keep asking but if any of you kind folk can spare an hour or two to help us with the event please get in touch.

Well the end of February will see the Annual General Meeting with us once again. This is your chance to make comments, state your views, or stand up and say "I would like to join the committee and help run the Wessex Stationary Engine Club".

Well that's it for now, I have an agenda to do for the next committee meeting so I'd better get on with that.

Eric Gay

Club Calendar 2020

Monday 24 th February	C/N Annual General Meeting
Saturday 7 th March	Bring & Buy Sale, Cranmore. East Somerset Railway. BA4 4QP
Sunday 15 th March	Crank-up. Whaddon Farm, Hilperton, Trowbridge. BA14 6NR Details 07786 542782
Saturday 28 th March	Wessex Autojumble and Sale. Frome Livestock Market, Standerwick. BA11 2PQ Details 07751 918283 or 07972 433890
Monday 30 th March	C/N Ian Wallace. "On a Hill Road". Stereoscopic 3D Images of Scotland, and more...
Sunday 19 th April	White Horse Park Vintage Day with WWSME. BA13 4LX 10 - 4.30 Details and entry forms 01225 754374
Monday 27 th April	C/N Mr Billy Douglas. "The Douglas Motorcycle"
Sunday 10 th May	Crank up & Vintage Day. Tuckers Grave Inn, Norton st Philip. BA3 5XF Details & Entry Forms 01225 754374. Camping available 07976 897743
Monday 18 th May	C/N Terry Merritt Smith. Ration Books to Rock & Roll (One week early due to Bank Holiday)
Saturday 6 th June	Wedmore Crank up & Vintage Day. Sweets Tea Rooms & Museum. BA6 9TH Details Herb or Brian 01749 674402/01749 677297. Please note: Saturday this year.
Weekend 20 th & 21 st June	The Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show. Semington Nr Trowbridge. BA14 6JF Entry Forms & Details 01225 754374 or 07751 918283
Monday 29 th June	C/N Barry Williams. The Grand Tour. Talk and film
Monday 27 th July	C/N Guess the Object Evening. Bring along anything old, odd or interesting. Prize for the one who gets most correct.
Monday 24 th August	C/N Ted Edwards. The Manx Grand Prix/Classic TT (One week early due to Bank Holiday)
Monday 28 th September	C/N Model Evening. Internal combustion, steam, electric, clockwork or anything you would like to bring. Prize for the best model etc.
Monday 26 th October	C/N Keith Sheppard. Alfred Prestwich and his amazing J.A.P. business empire
Monday 30 th November	C/N Quiz Night with Anne Kempson, with supper!

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the committee or its members. Although the greatest care is taken in compiling this newsletter the editor takes no responsibility for any errors or omissions

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Deadline is the 20th of each month