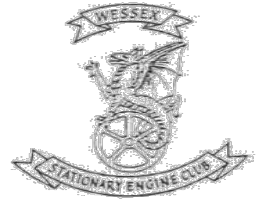


# CRANKING



Issue No: 3/13

43 Years of Publication

March 2021

## **The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter From The Sump**

With Spring upon us, we are emerging from the very difficult and trying winter months, together with the latest lockdown and many falling ill around us, it has been a very tough time for many.

It is most pleasing that we are seeing the early signs of some events that are able to take place during the next few months – as long as the rates remain low and managed, there are now quite a few telling us that they plan on running later this year, in one form or another.

The excellent West Somerset Railway Association's Steam Fair at Norton Fitzwarren near Taunton looks to be going ahead on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August. There will be the Lister-Petter Rally situated within the beautiful setting of Morwellham Quay near Tavistock in June, amongst others. I will collate what I know to be running in the next edition. Please do check their respective websites/Facebook pages as things might change, I cannot take any responsibility for the listing and its contents, I hope you understand.

So, after all, there might be something to look forward to in 2021.

Can you believe it is a year ago that I took on the editorship of Cranking! Time flies when you're having fun so they say! I enjoy giving something back to the Club that made me so very welcome at my first Crank-Up back in 2019.

Take care, until next month, *David*

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Hello everyone, well here we are at the end of another month and just after this report I shall be another year older. I am looking forward to all my birthday presents that I know you will all send me. Now by the time you read this the Annual General Meeting of the Club will have come and gone. 'Tis wonderful this technology, the meeting was held via Zoom.

I was able to join the meeting via the kind offer by Caroline to listen in via speakerphone, this worked very well. Thanks must go to Ted Edwards and Pete Gear for all the work put in to getting the meeting up and running. Ted must also get a thank you for collating all the postal votes, this is not an easy task and also for reading my report to the meeting.

My AGM report is included below.

Now I hate to say this but our hobby plus rallying could be soon under threat, from the government banning the use of fossil fuels, petrol and diesel will be available for some time, but the burning of bituminous coal is to be banned from now on. The supply from Ffos-y-Fran of smokeless grade fuel will cease in 2022. The report from the Traction Engine Trust does not make for happy reading, I asked a little time ago for you all to contact your local MP and to fight for the survival of Heritage movement of this once great country without standing order and making our voice heard, we shall not be able to continue our hobby. I will ask you all to read the report by the National Traction Engine Trust.

I would love to know how blacksmiths are to carry on without coal for their forges, gas will not work and that is to be banned in the future. It would seem that this legislation is as a lot of things, poorly thought out. We do not want to say goodbye to our preserved railways, steamships, steam museums and much more, it could happen and if we do not fight it will happen.

On a little happier note in September, you all may get an invitation to a two-day vintage show so please keep your fingers and toes crossed, I will let you know in due course. *Eric Gay*

## CHAIRMANS AGM REPORT

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club for 2020. My first duty is to welcome our new club president, Mr Ted Durbin and thank you very much for accepting the position of Club President.

2020 will be a year I am sure that most of us will want to forget, with all our meetings at the Old Down Inn having to be cancelled, the same with Committee meetings and our Rally Committee has not been able to meet.

The rally in 2020 could not take place due to coronavirus, this was a terrible blow, every one of the Committee had worked so hard to make the show in 2020 the biggest and best yet, but all to no avail.

This has meant that the club has had no income now for two years and it is the rally that helps fund the Club. (I have to inform you that Semington 2021 will not take place in June)

The only event to take place in the summer was the crank up at Sweet's Tea Rooms & Museum at Wedmore and thanks must go to Herb, Wendy & all the team that made it happen. Even this event due to had to be staged with limited numbers and social distancing. With club activities curtailed it has been a very difficult year, the most difficult I have known since taking up that Chairmanship of WSEC.

On a more positive note, the Committee now holds meetings via Zoom and our monthly club meetings the same. I must thank Ted for all the work he has put in to arranging this. And to Pete Gear standing in for me at this time as I am unable to take part at this time.

Throughout 2020 the Committee have not been idle, Ted & David have looked after our website and Facebook page, keeping me in touch with things that matter. With Caroline looking after the finances and keeping expenditure to a bare minimum, thank you Caroline for doing all that you do and keeping me informed of anything I should know.

Now being well into 2021 and a little hope of getting back to normal in the very near future, this does not mean I do not have plans that I hope will bear fruit for a main event at the years end.

To all the members of the Committee may I express my sincere thanks for all your help in keeping the Club going as best as we can at this terrible time. *Eric J. Gay*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Please can we remind members that subscription renewals are now overdue, the subscription period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. Subscription rates have been held at 2020 rates which always offered fantastic value for money.

Please renew as soon as you can as the Club has already purchased the insurance that allows us to show our engines. Please support your Club, as better times when we can all get out again are just around the corner. Those who haven't renewed, this will be the last Cranking you will receive unless a renewal is made.

*Membership Sec*

## TAPPETS TEA-TIME TEASERS

Time to stretch those little grey cells again!

1. What is the circumference of the Earth to the nearest thousand miles?
2. Pip is the main character of which book written by Charles Dickens?
3. When was Ruston and Hornsby Ltd founded?
4. How much taller can the Eiffel Tower grow during a hot summer?
5. Which king preceded Queen Victoria?
6. How many countries are there in the world?
7. When and where was the Petter 'Handyman' first shown publicly?
8. How many F1 world championships has Lewis Hamilton won?
9. How long is the world's longest motorcycle?
10. A farmer stands in a field. The field contains 2 horses, 4 cows, 11 chickens and his dog. How many legs can he see?

*Answers on page 4*

## MARKETPLACE

*Please note all Sales and Wanted adverts will stay in for 3 months unless you tell me otherwise!*

**FREE** - A Motovario heavy duty foot mounted gearbox with pulley and shaft adaptors. Ratio is 5.5:1 and it is bi-directional. Almost as new condition. FREE to whoever collects it from Bath. Graham on 01225 31412

### FOR SALE

- Power RUSTON Horizontal Oil Engine Catalogue 5 ½ to 295hp, very good condition. £20 or near offer
- Zenith Carburettor instruction leaflet type 13 TCA-2 free to good home
- Fuller & Johnson peoples prices engines data sheets £8 ono
- 1960 BSA Motorcycle workshop data hand book D1 to A10sr £20 ono
- Crossley gas & oil instruction for re-lining and repair of white metal bearings. Crossley brothers Manchester 11 £5
- Instruction and parts for John Deere model E engines very good condition £10 ono
- Fuller & Johnson 1 ½ hp model 'N' gasoline engine. Operating and instruction book with repair price list £20 ono
- 1904 Christy and Morris illustrated catalogue (milling machines crushers, dressers, oil engines, steam engine, gas engine etc) £20 ono
- Radio controlled IC rally car, this model is new and has never been run. It is complete with all radio gear, glow plug power pack, recoil starter for engine etc. £375 not open to offers, cost a lot more than this to build.
- A 15cc otter four stroke water cooled engine (try to find another) in good condition. Only been run after being built. £400
- I have a number of instruction books for small air-cooled engines and generator sets (JAP, Villiers, Chore horse and some military gen sets) too many to list ring me I may have just what you want, they will not be expensive.
- I have four copies of No 4 1975, amateur collector and the stationary engine advertiser. They have been donated to me so that they may be sold to club members and the proceeds will be donated to the club funds. So first come first served no sensible offer refused. This is to help the club's funds.
- For sale a first edition of Cornish mining, this is not the story of mining but an essay on the organisation of Cornish mines and the Cornish mining economy, even giving to No. of steam engines at work from 1813 to 1837, income from mining in 1792 onward to 1798, the wages paid to miners and a great deal more. First edition printed £30 ovno
- Dynamo & motor attendants and their machines (around early 1920) well used but readable with many old adverts, would be of interest to anyone playing with old DC generators/dynamos etc. £5

All items above, contact Eric Gay 01225 754374

Wooden apex chicken coop & run, 6'3" x 2'4" £30

Solid metal trailer with attached hand winch 5'8" x 3'8" £65

For more information, please call 07811 700286, collection from Midsomer Norton. Ken Barnett

**WANTED** - Does anybody have an original Petter 'M' water tank stand or an EXACT replica? It should be approximately 19 inches square by 7 1/2 inches tall. I only require dimensions to build one for my engine. Gerald Atherton 01934 852670

### AMANCO IGNITERS

I can overhaul your Amanco igniters or even make you a new one. RS1 Magnetos checked, re-magnetised, top covers repaired if broken and re-coiled. I can also test some other low-tension igniters and also re-insulate if needed. Have your faulty or temperamental items sorted out whilst times are quiet!

I also have numerous magnetos and parts, please give me a call 01872 273388 *Kerwin Harris*

## TAPPETS TEA-TIME TEASERS – ANSWERS

1. **25,000 miles.** The equatorial circumference of Earth is about 24,901 miles (40,075 km). However, from pole-to-pole — the meridional circumference — Earth is only 24,860 miles (40,008 km) around. This shape, caused by the flattening at the poles, is called an oblate spheroid.
2. **Great Expectations.** Philip Pirrip, called Pip, is the protagonist and narrator in Charles Dickens's novel *Great Expectations* (1861).
3. **1918.** On 11 September 1918, Ruston, Proctor and Company merged with [Richard Hornsby & Sons of Grantham](#) to become **Ruston and Hornsby Ltd** (R&H). Hornsby was the world leader in [heavy oil engines](#), having been building them since 1891, a full eight years before [Rudolph Diesel](#)'s engine was produced commercially.
4. **15cm.** The Eiffel Tower can grow up to 15 centimetres taller during hot Parisian summer days. This is because of "thermal expansion." When an object is heated, its particles gain kinetic energy, move faster, and take up more space.
5. **William IV** (William Henry; 21 August 1765 – 20 June 1837) was [King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland](#) and [King of Hanover](#) from 26 June 1830 until his death in 1837. The third son of [George III](#), William succeeded his elder brother [George IV](#), becoming the last king and penultimate monarch of Britain's [House of Hanover](#). William was succeeded by his niece [Queen Victoria](#).
6. **195.** Since South Sudan became an independent state on 9 July 2011, there are now 195 independent sovereign nations in the world (not including the disputed but de facto independent Taiwan), plus some 60 dependent areas, and several disputed territories, like Kosovo.
7. **1903 at the Royal Bath and West Agricultural Show.** In 1902, competition increased from Fairbanks Morse's "Jack of all Trades" vertical T.V.O. engines, so Petter responded with another redesign, which produced a cheaper engine called the "Handyman," offered in five sizes. When this engine was first shown publicly in 1903 at the Royal Bath and West Agricultural Show, a U.S. firm negotiated the wholesale rights and ordered 400 engines.
8. **7.** After winning the 2020 season, Hamilton equalled Michael Schumacher's record of seven Formula 1 World Championships. Lewis Hamilton's win at the Turkish Grand Prix secured his seventh championship after previous successes in 2008, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
9. **26.29m.** The longest motorcycle is 26.29 m (86 ft 3 in) long and was created by Bharat Singh Parmar (India). It was presented and measured at Lakhota lake, Jamnagar, Gujarat, India, on 22 January 2014. Bharat's bike is more than 4 m (13 ft) longer than the previous record holder's.
10. **52.** There will be 52 legs in total. Horses = 8, cows = 16, chickens = 22, dog = 4, farmer = 2

*Thank you to "Tappets" (real name unknown) who takes the time to compile this for us each month)*

## READY-RECKONER – ENGINE RPM

A rule of thumb method for finding the rpm of a normal four stroke engine. Count the number of times it fires in six seconds, double it then add a nought.

For example: say it fires 12 times, double it, 24 add a nought 240 then that's the rpm. *John Emery*

## PHOTO COMPETITION

The Club has decided to run a monthly photo competition, which will be judged by the members. Please send any engine related photo of yours to [info@wessexsec.org](mailto:info@wessexsec.org) with 'Photo Competition' as the Subject line and we will add them to the website and encourage members to vote for their favourite photo – you will need to login to the members area on the Club site to view them - <https://wessexsec.org/photot6-competition/>

This is very much member-driven, where the winner will then be able to pick the next month's photograph.

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

Contributions to: David Lacey, 8 Dyers Close, West Buckland, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 9JU or (preferably) by email [editor@wessexsec.org](mailto:editor@wessexsec.org)

**Deadline for copy submissions is always 20<sup>th</sup> of the month**