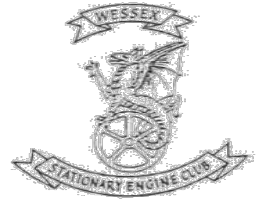


# CRANKING



Issue No: 4/13

43 Years of Publication

April 2021

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

Well, now with Springtime firmly with us albeit rather chilly, we can hopefully look forward to some events of some kind over the Spring and Summer months ahead. I know many people, myself included, will be eager to get out and about with their engines and equipment that they've painstakingly repaired or restored over the last year or so, for some, this may well be their first outing for many, many months.

Hopefully with many of you having had your first vaccinations and a lucky few may well have had their second, we can look forward to meeting up, providing things stay the way they are presently. I have put together a very basic listing of events that I know to be going ahead this year – many are cancelled for various reasons, but there are a good few that are going ahead, restrictions allowing. Take care, until next month, *David*

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It is with great sadness that I start this report with the tragic news, that on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March our dear friend and colleague Roger Pike left us after a long hard fight against a very severe form of cancer. Roger passed away with his hand held by Linda, I know that everyone who knew Roger will want me to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to Linda and the family at this sad time.

I was privileged to have visited Roger a few days before his death and gave him a small gift from the Committee to show our appreciation for the time he served the Wessex Stationary Engine Club as its President. This was a collection of CDs and a DVD of country music, something Roger loved along with his great love of the music of The Rolling Stones. On the day of my visit, he was not having a very good day but on the Thursday I got a phone call and Roger and I had quite a long chat, I do not know quite how long Roger has been a member of the Club, but it must be forty years or so as I believe he was a member when I joined and that was about 1983! So we have both seen many changes along the way, to Linda and all Rogers family – may I express my sincere condolences at this very sad time.

I have been asked by the Organisers of the Charlton Park Retro Festival to help with the vintage side of this event so this is an invitation to you all to come and join us over the weekend of September 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> at Charlton Park. Charlton Park is on Charlton Rd, B4040 near Malmesbury, Wiltshire just off the A429. Entry forms will soon be available, I hope that Ted may be able to put them on the club website so all you clever people can download them. Full facilities will be on site along with day long live music... want to know more? Give me a call on 01225 754374

Now to finish this report on a lighter note I was reading one of my old country books and thought this small piece may bring in a smile or two, in this village the gipsies used to camp on the common ground once or twice a year, they were no trouble but use to come to mother to buy a few eggs now and again, one day this old gipsy lady came round, "Got a few eggs for I missies" she asked, then she heard coughing, "ee got 'hooping cough she said, I tell you how to get rid of that, get a bread bun and wrap it in a clean cloth and bury it in the ground for about three days. Pull un out and if 'ee be mouldy feed it to thick lad".....well I can tell you all it is a cure and does work. Poor mans Penicillin. See you learn something new every day.

Well that's it for this month keep well keep safe and I hope that it will not be long before we can all meet again.

*Eric Gay – Chairman WSEC*

## 2021 CLUB AGM REPORT

The club's first virtual AGM was held via Zoom on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Present were some 13 members, and by the miracles of modern technology Eric was able to join us by telephone link. There was little to discuss, and the main business of the evening was the election of a new committee. All existing committee members agreed to stand for re-election and all were returned unopposed, I would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting, and also those who took the trouble to send in a voting form. We had 49 valid votes and the overwhelming majority was in favour of the existing committee.

Roger Pike has reached the end of his term as President, and although he would have liked to continue and would have been welcomed by us all, unfortunately he is too unwell to do so, and Ted Durbin has agreed to take on the role. Due to the peculiar circumstances neither Roger nor Ted were able to be present, so Roger's farewell speech was delivered by his wife Linda, while Pete Gear as temporary Chairman delivered Ted's acceptance speech.

The Chairman's address was read by the Secretary as the sound quality of Eric's link was poor.

Your committee for 2021 will be:

**Chairman** Eric Gay **Vice Chair** Pete Gear. **Secretary** Ted Edwards. **Treasurer** Caroline Turley.

**Members**, Roy Sandford, Herb Gane, Bryan Coles, Gordon Guley, Roger Pike, Linda Pike and David Lacey.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome David who, I'm sure, will be a great asset.

David will still be editing the newsletter and Caroline will once more take on the role of Membership Secretary.

Anyone wishing to join us and have a say in the running of the club should contact any of the above.

## TAPPETS TEA-TIME TEASERS

1. Which part of the atom has no electric charge?
2. Where is the deepest lake in the world?
3. Does a record turntable revolve clockwise or anti-clockwise?
4. Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day?
5. Which is longer, a nautical mile or a mile?
6. What colour are the seats in the House of Commons?
7. What is the name of a marine Diesel engine company founded on Glasgow in 1904?
8. What is the national dish of Spain?
9. What is the current world land-speed record for a motorcycle?
10. Using any letter only once, what is the largest and smallest number that you can write down in words? (E.g. eighty is allowed, but ninety is not as n is used twice.)

*Answers on page 4*

## LOOKING BACK – Part 7

When looking many years ago where to hold our Annual Club Rally, it was always a major topic at Committee Meetings and the train of thought was to find an existing venue that would complement us and we could compliment them. After several ideas and locations were looked at, Monkton Farleigh Mine came out on top and after discussions with the Mine, a date was set for our event.

A strange place many thought, with nothing above ground to see except nicely kept grass areas and tarmac roadways and a small loading bay for lorries to back up to.

What was below ground was to open our eyes at the magnitude of this underground site.

Originally it was a Quarry with much of its cut stone helping to build the city of Bath.

Then at the outbreak of WW2, it was extended with more tunnels to become the world's biggest ammunition store complete with its own railway connection from the main line, near box Tunnel.

All exhibitors here were given a tour on the Saturday evening, each of us carrying a torch or lantern.

Our guide at one point asked us all to switch off our lights and stare into the darkness as he switched on a light some quarter mile away and we could just see the faint glow if we looked hard. The Guide then switched on the mines lighting and we could see the magnitude of the labyrinth, in the heart of the mine was what we all wanted to see, a huge Generating Plant with a massive engine like what would power a ship!

Hundreds of staff would have worked down here, many were bussed in, including some from Frome.

Interestingly, workers were not allowed to take food in, as it would encourage rats that could chew into the explosives.

I had to smile at the fan that drew the stale air from the mine, it was like looking into a jumbo jet engine with a line of prison jail bars in front of it to stop anyone being sucked in!!

It was estimated over 4 million tons of explosives were stored here and should there have been a mishap the explosion would have lasted for weeks causing damage to many villages and towns in the area.

Robin

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2021

19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June Bicton Gardens

[https://www.bictongardens.co.uk/index.php?route=information/information&information\\_id=14](https://www.bictongardens.co.uk/index.php?route=information/information&information_id=14)

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Morwellham Lister-Petter Rally

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2921922568064367/?ref=share>

7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Aug Bicton Gardens Crank Up

[https://www.bictongardens.co.uk/index.php?route=information/information&information\\_id=14](https://www.bictongardens.co.uk/index.php?route=information/information&information_id=14)

7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Aug West Somerset Railway Association Steam Fair, Taunton

<https://www.wsra.org.uk/2021/02/01/update-on-2021-steam-rally/>

14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Aug Bridgwater Classic <http://www.classicshowsuk.co.uk/classic-car-show-event-information/classic-car-show-by-date.asp?id=1187>

Somerset Show 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Sept <https://www.somersetcountyshow.co.uk/>

Somerset Festival of Transport 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Sept <https://www.facebook.com/somersetsfestivaloftransport.co.uk/>

*Please note this list is not exhaustive and I cannot take any responsibility for the events running or not - please check with the relevant links to check whether the events are running or not. Pre-booking your exhibit in will be essential if you are showing. Ed*

## 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.

## MY LISTER AUTOTRUCK

I've always been fascinated by these odd-looking 3 wheel industrial tugs after I was lucky enough, along with a few others, to have been able to drive one around the Morwellham Quay site on setup day back in 2019 ahead of the rally over the weekend.

First appearing in the 20's and 30's and made up until the 1970's, these machines could often be seen around factories,

railway stations and industrial yards, initially powered by a JAP engine.

Subsequent improvements

led to Listers own LD1 and LD2 air cooled diesel engines being fitted.

The truck can either be driven by the driver sat on the seat, using the handlebars and controls contained thereon or it can be used as a motorised pallet truck if the steering handle (and power unit) was rotated 180 degrees, the operator then walked behind the truck.

I was looking for an Autotruck ever since that first experience of one and back in late 2020, one came up on Marketplace. Just what I wanted, a twin cylinder LD2 7hp engined one, short wheelbase and the added bonus of a nicely engineered and plated crane assembly on the back. A deal was done with the owner and in between lockdowns, I ventured up into Derbyshire very early one morning to fetch it.



The owner certainly cherished the truck but had found the rough ground conditions of the rural moorland location didn't suit it, so it was time to sell it on, to replace it with something more suitable. A deal was done, the truck was loaded, and I took a few pictures (as you do) and I made the long journey home.

The truck has obviously been restored to a good standard some years ago, with many new parts and fresh paint. It starts easily, does what it is supposed to do and gets a lot of attention! I've removed the crane for the moment, but it is a fairly simple operation to refit it with 4 large fixings.

I had always toyed with the idea of obtaining an age-related registration for it; with the help and assistance of the Autotruck Club, a few certified photos, a V55/5 form duly filled out with a payment of £55, I was pleased to be assigned the number ETL 185C for the truck. So, now, I can drive the truck up the pasty shop in my local town quite legally to get my breakfast!! The picture to the right is ETL 185C before her maiden voyage on Easter Sunday.



## TAPPETS TEA-TIME TEASERS

1. **Neutron.** In the middle of every atom is the nucleus. The nucleus contains two types of subatomic particles, protons and neutrons. The protons have a positive electrical charge and the neutrons have no electrical charge.
2. **Russia.** Lake Baikal, in Siberia, holds the distinction of being both the deepest lake in the world and the largest freshwater lake, holding more than 20% of the unfrozen fresh water on the surface of Earth. It is 5315 feet (1620 meters) deep.
3. **Clockwise.** A record that is playing properly will be spinning to the right (also known as clockwise). In other countries (including Australia) records are actually designed to spin counterclockwise instead.
4. **William I.** On Christmas Day in 1066, after defeating King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings, William I 'The Conqueror' was crowned King at Westminster Abbey.
5. A **Nautical mile.** A nautical mile is based on the circumference of the earth, and is equal to one minute of latitude. It is slightly more than a statute (land measured) mile (1 nautical mile = 1.1508 statute miles ).
6. **Green.** The Commons chamber is small and modestly decorated in green, unlike the large, lavishly furnished red Lords chamber. Benches sit on both sides of the chamber and are divided by a centre aisle.
7. **Kelvin Diesels** is a manufacturer of marine Diesel engines based in Glasgow. The company's engines are used in a variety of vessels such as fishing boats and small tugs. The company was founded in 1904 by Walter Bergius as the "Bergius Car & Engine Company". Bergius set about developing his first car which he named the "Kelvin". The car was not a commercial success. However, its engine proved to be an excellent marine engine following trials in a rowing gig in 1906.
8. **Paella** is one of the best-known dishes in Spanish cuisine. For this reason, many non-Spaniards view it as Spain's national dish, but Spaniards almost unanimously consider it to be a dish from the Valencian region.
9. **376.36 mph** (605.69 km/h). The first official Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) record was set in 1920, when Gene Walker rode an Indian on Daytona Beach at 104.12 mph (167.56 km/h). Since late 2010, the Ack Attack team has held the motorcycle land speed record at 376.36 mph.
10. The largest word is **five thousand** with no repeating letter - the smallest word would be **zero** or **nought** (or if you allow negatives - **minus forty**).

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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**