



# CRANKING



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## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### FROM THE SUMP

Well, that's pretty much the season over, just a few late-season day events to go to. It has been a tough year for all, but we have to be grateful for what events we have all been able to get to. Late August and especially September were very busy months, with September having an event on each weekend!

It must have been tough for organisers to organise and get the go-ahead from local authorities what with ever-changing restrictions. We must never forget the hours of endless voluntary work that goes on behind the scenes of these events.

It's time to put our engines and exhibits away to bed for the winter, making sure all water is drained from cooling systems and petrol (that dreaded E10 stuff especially) is drained from carburettors and tanks to prevent problems in the spring when they are awoken from their slumber. I've been busy commandeering all sorts of blankets/sheets etc to throw over mine to keep them reasonably clean (and warm!!)

What are your plans for restorations/work to your prized engines over the winter? Sorting that dodgy magneto? Complete engine strip-down with many new parts and expensive machining work?

Do share what you are up to, other members, I'm sure, would be delighted to read about your projects.

I wish you all the best as we head towards the short winter days and long nights, stay well stay safe, *David*

*PS, Please see the 2022 event listing in this issue, please do let me know of any other events which aren't included, contact info is at the foot of page 4.*

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> was our return to the Old Down Inn, after all the lockdowns and trouble that the Coronavirus has caused. I had, with very short notice, to find a speaker for the evening, but help was at hand and into the breach stepped Keith Sheppard, once a WSEC Member.

Keith gave a talk on the country houses of Wiltshire, amongst others namely Longleat, Bowood, Leighton House, Rood Ashton House, Erlestoke Manor, now part of Erlestoke Prison and many more.

Some lost and never to be seen again, some due to death duties, others that were commandeered by the military in the second World War, wrecked and ill-used by not only our military but our so-called friends from across the pond. But thankfully some of our great houses have been saved by a few good people with deep pockets mostly from the entertainment industry.

It was a great shame that more Club members could not get along to our first meeting at the Old Down Inn. For our meeting in November, we have something a bit special, an evening on Formula 1. This should be most informative and interesting. Now I am desperately searching for speakers for our meetings in the coming months and for next year. Please help your poor Chairman put together a list for next year - your help will be greatly appreciated.

A very disappointed man, I was contacted earlier this year and asked if I could help with an event at Charlton Park, near Malmesbury in Wiltshire, well being a good boy I said yes.....and in due course entry forms were sent out. Pearl and Steve did the hard work in sending out forms for the stationary engine section and my sincere thanks to you both. Soon entry forms started to arrive through my letter box - some 20 stationary engines, 9 miniature traction engines, 6 commercials, I won't bore you with the other exhibits that entered, it was a lovely day, the sun shone and the crowds turned up.

Sad to say out of the engines that should have been there only one (yes that's right) turned up that had entered and returned his form to me, this was Robin from Frome. Out of the miniatures that should have been on site only four put in an appearance, none of the commercials came along.

This was a total disaster for the organisers as the paying public paid to see a display of engines and other vintage exhibits, now it may be that the so called petrol shortage put exhibitors off, I travelled from Trowbridge to Charlton Park and not at any of the filling stations that I passed going or returning, did I see any queues or hold ups. This event cost many thousands of pounds to stage and the organisers have lost a huge amount of money. The show is very unlikely to be staged again and this is due to the non-appearance of exhibitors. The paying public had nothing to look at except chain saw carvers, one full size Fowler Traction engine, a few miniatures, even the sixteen Ford Mustangs booked in with the organisers only one appeared. This sort of thing does not show the vintage movement in a good light, if you were unable to attend why not contact the organisers and let them know.

Now that we have returned to the Old Down Inn, for our monthly meetings the club committee needs as many members to attend our meetings as possible we will welcome any new member that would like to come along and I know we have a few new members so if it at all possible for you to attend our monthly meeting do please come along, you will be made most welcome.

I have just been told about a 150hp single cylinder Blackstone diesel that spent its working life in a quarry in Devon, it now resides near Shrewsbury, restored and back in running order, I hope to find out more in the near future. Maybe a club visit can be arranged sometime in the future. If we have any club member living in that area that would like to do an article on this engine for Stationary Engine Magazine, I would like very much to hear from you.

By the time that you read this report our sale at Cranmore will have come and gone. Very much hope we get a good turn out as the Club could do with some income, let's hope that 2022 sees us getting back to normal or as normal as we can get. With luck and a fair wind we will be staging our rally at Semington and any other events that your Committee can arrange for you all. If any member or members has any ideas to what they would like in the way of events, evening meetings, social get-togethers or anything else please let me or any committee member know and we will do our best to incorporate your ideas in the programme for 2022.

*Eric Gay, Chairman WSEC 01225 754374*

## **OBITUARY**

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Reuben Smith on Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 96. He was a Club member for many years. Reuben was a farmer by trade and a strawberry grower in the village of Cross near Axbridge. During his lifetime he worked for the War'ag ploughing with a standard Fordson tractor. He had a gift for things mechanical; he part owned a Foden Steam lorry as well as several tractors.

Most people in the Club will remember him for his restoration of sheep shearing sets which he used to exhibit at our rallies. Some are now on show at Oakham Treasures near Bristol.

He was a founder member of the Somerset Traction Engine Club and was President for many years.

Reuben also was a brilliant model engineer, self-taught, starting with a 2" Burrell Showman's Engine. This was followed with a set of 3 abreast steam gallopers, an electric light engine and Marshall portable, all to scale. Not content with that he built a total of 13 Model Ploughs of different makes and designs, these were early horse drawn tractor ploughs.

I have known him for 40 years and have spent many an hour in his workshop watching him at work. A very quiet man who would help anyone and he's always found a way to do things and explain it to you.

He made many friends in the vintage world and will be sadly missed at rallies and model engineering exhibitions by many who knew him.

My condolences to his family on behalf of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club.

Goodbye my friend it has been an honour to know you. *Brian Verrall*

## TAPPETS TEA-TIME TEASERS

Now that that we are well and truly in the Season of Autumn, here are some seasonal teasers:

1. What is Autumn known as in North America?
2. Which English Romantic poet composed "To Autumn" after a walk near Winchester one autumnal evening?
3. Bonfire Night takes place every November but in which year did Guy Fawkes try to blow up Parliament?
4. What are hedgehogs' spines or quills made from?
5. With around 400 players participating, what are the WCC, which are held annually on the second Sunday in October in Northamptonshire?
6. Name the pigment which trees stop producing, thus causing leaves to lose their green colour?
7. Pheasant shooting season starts at the beginning of which month?
8. The Oktoberfest is held annually in which German city?
9. Which celebration is influenced by the Celtic autumn festival, Samhain?
10. Ben bought 48 rockets for Fireworks night. He gave one third of the rockets to Bob and 25% to Bill. Out of the rockets he had left, 10% were not used, so how many rockets did Ben light on Fireworks night?

## FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN

Hello everybody, I hope you are all enjoying the nice autumn weather that we have been having! As you are all aware we have a monthly quiz in the newsletter written by Tappet, The unknown quiz writer.

This quiz has become a nice monthly addition to our newsletter, it is something that personally I look forward to and enjoy every month. I think we should thank whoever you are for this enjoyable quiz, I hope that you will continue to write many more for us. Stay safe everybody, I look forward to seeing you soon. *Pete Gear*

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2022

Dec 29 - Club Crank-up at Whaddon Farm, Hilperton, Trowbridge BA14 6NR 9am – 4pm

Jan 29 - 30 Somerset Tractor Show

April 29 - 2 May Abbey Hill

May 21 - 22 Three Okeford, Shillingstone Show

May 28 - 29 Castle Combe Steam Rally

May 28 - 29 Organford Classic

June 11 - 12 Rainscombe

June 11 - 12 Wiltshire Steam and Vintage

July 9 - 10 Sedgemoor TA9 3RH

July 9 - 10 Pilford Heath

July 16 - 17 Durrington Vintage Show

July 22 - 24 Netley Marsh Steam Rally

July 22 - 24 Boconnoc, Cornwall

August 5 - 7 South Cerney Steam Rally

August 5 - 7 Purbeck Rally

August 13 - 14 Somerset Festival of Transport

August 20 - 21 Yesterday's Farming

August 25 - 29 Great Dorset Steam Fair

August 28 - Wallop Gathering, Andover

September 10 - 11 Longstock Rally

September 24 - 25 Somerset Festival of Transport, Frome

Sept 9 - 11 Swanage Railway

Oct 1 - 2 Burley Steam Gathering

This listing is for guidance only, please verify the show details before travelling. If you have any information to add to this listing, please do get in contact. *More info to be added as time goes by. Ed*

## TAPPETS TEA-TIME TEASERS – ANSWERS

1. The fall
2. John Keats
3. 1605
4. Keratin
5. World Conker Championships
6. Chlorophyll
7. October (October 1<sup>st</sup>)
8. Munich
9. Halloween
10. Bob got 16 rockets, Bill got 12 rockets, leaving 20 rockets for Ben. He didn't use 2, so he lit 18 rockets.

## FOR SALE



For Sale: 4hp Amanco, about 1916, with goose-neck picker. Engine No. 41850. It is in original paint with quite a bit of the original gilt lining still in place. It was once owned by Purnells of Paulton. It is on a contemporary trolley with a draw bar, modified to take the engine. The trolley work was done about 30 years ago by late club member, Bill Coombs. The engine has never been rallied and



has not run for about 25 years, during which time it has been under cover at the back of my workshop. Offers around £1200. Tom Randall. Midsomer Norton. Mobile 07856 730612. More photos available on request.

## WANTED

Solex 26 MV Updraft brass carb to fit Boulton and Paul 2E

Chris Cleford Devizes, Wilts  
[chrisstonky@aol.com](mailto:chrisstonky@aol.com)

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