



# CRANKING



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## FROM THE SUMP

As another busy month whizzes by, with an event every weekend, it has sure been a busy time for me, I hope you've also had the chance to get out and about with your engines and exhibits.

For me, the best event over the past month was the West Somerset Railway Association's Steam Fair at Norton Fitzwarren, just outside of Taunton. Superbly laid out engine displays with some incredible lighting displays that ran well into the evening, with all the caravans and motorhomes just behind a fence, so it looked like an engine display field and not a camping field, it really worked well and the footfall past our exhibits was high. See the rally report further in this issue.

At the other end of the scale, the small gathering of like-minded souls at the Cross Keys Inn near Wimbourne for the weekend was just as enjoyable, with a pub on site, bingo in the evening and plenty of fine ale on tap, it was a shame I couldn't stay over as I heard the evenings were quite lively!

The hot weather has made some events quite challenging if not uncomfortable at times, together with the very real fire risk from our activities, it hasn't been an easy time for all. The incredibly dry fields presently must be a real concern for large events such as GDSF and Honiton Hill which are coming up very soon. We need a little more than just a few showers over the next few days to remove this risk, but not too much of course!

Anyway.....until next month....*David*

## SWEETS TEA ROOMS – CRANK UP

The Wedmore Crank-Up at Sweets Tea Rooms  
will take place on Sunday 4th September 9am to 4pm.

Please use postcode BS28 4UE to find us, it's really easy to get to.

Please do not arrive before 8.30 as the gates will not be open.

Entrance is free, all donations to the Alzheimer's Society.

No need to book in - open to non-club members too.

You can bring your engine, old motorcycle, old car or tractor etc. or just come in for a look round. Refreshments can be purchased from the tea rooms as usual.

If you need more information ring Herb on 01749 674402 or if we don't pick up please leave a message. Information is also on the WSEC web site.

We look forward to seeing you all on the day.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It came as a shock when I received the news that long time Club member Andy Gale was very unwell, lots of members and friends will I am sure remember Andy driving around the parade ring at Semington rally in one of his model Land Rovers, throwing out packets of sweets for the great sweet giveaway for the children at the show. I know that you would wish Andy a speedy recovery and a return to full health, Take care old friend and get well soon.

Now once again the Club is desperately wanting a new Treasurer, Caroline, who has done a splendid job looking after our finances and arranging for our accounts to be audited, paying bills, helping me at our events in so much as taking care of payments made to the club and seeing that no large sums of money were ever left on site overnight, this was only a small part of all the work she did behind the scenes.

Caroline was a great help to myself in many ways. The Wessex Stationary Engine Club has lost a great asset and a very valued member of the committee, Caroline your input to the Club and help to me will be greatly missed.

So now we are wanting a wizard with figures, can this be YOU? Please if you would like to take on the post of Treasurer please get in touch with myself (01225 754374) or any committee member.

I am pleased to be able to tell you all we have found speakers for our next two meetings at the Old Down Inn, September 26<sup>th</sup> we have a talk and film presentation on the Westonzoyland Pumping Station and in October we again have a talk and film presentation on the Observer Corps from the second world war, we must thank Linda for finding this speaker, this will be on the evening of October 31<sup>st</sup>

It may be that we will be making a visit to Shepton Mallet Prison, Ted is looking into this so no doubt I will know more at some date in the future. This just leaves us with finding entertainment for our evening meetings in 2023, any help with this would be a great help.

It is not long before the Great Dorset Steam Fair, I have just been in touch with Devizes Trailer Centre, last week they told me that the replacement door for my trailer would be delivered by the middle of the week, STOP PRESS!!!! It has all be repaired and I have it back!

Last Sunday the 28th July that I travelled all the way to Melksham to visit Liz our Motor cycle steward at her open garden day, quite a few club members came along Ted, Linda, Tony Lawrence and others beside many friends of Liz with motor cycles and even a rider from the Blood Bikes group, we all had a great time and a very enjoyable afternoon Thank You Liz.

*Eric Gay, 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 ONX. Tel: 01225 754374*

## **ROGER PIKE MEMORIAL RALLY**

The weather was not brilliant, windy but it did at least stay dry. Thank you to Gordon and Paula for the use of a field at their farm at Whaddon. The carnival club provided us with tea, coffee and cakes together with a BBQ which was very well received by everybody. Also, a table of stunning home-made cakes proved to be very popular too.

Some 12 engines were on display, 2 miniature traction engines giving rides to children and 4 car boots  
The Roger Pike Memorial trophy was won by Mike Snook with his lovely display of working models – well done Mike!

Thank you to all who came along and supported the event, it was a very pleasant day out for all.  
The aim of the day was to raise funds for Dorothy House, who helped nurse Roger until the end – the sum of £275.50 was raised for the hospice. A copy of the acknowledgment letter has been posted on the Club's Facebook page. Once again, thank you all for supporting this event – *Linda Pike*

## **UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS**

September 4<sup>th</sup> – Sweets Tea Rooms Crank-up – 9am – 4pm BS28 4UE

October 1<sup>st</sup> – Cranmore Sale at East Somerset Railway – 8am start

## **WESSEX MIDSUMMER RALLY**

On what turned out to be a bag of mixed weather over the weekend, I was in my usual position at the bar (no, sorry Linda, I meant the gate! *David*) Saturday was slower than previous years but it improved on the Sunday and takings were average, which was good, given the weather forecasts.

It was a shame that certain exhibitors took it upon themselves to leave the site from 2pm – mainly cars – with paying public still coming through the gates up until 3pm, it was disheartening to see so many cars gone.....very disappointing.

I would like to thank the people who came to relieve me for a while on the gate, this was very welcome and I thank you. A very special thanks must go to 'Norman' who was on the gate virtually as long as me and also to my little helper Shannon who also helped me with gate duty, handing out admission tickets and sorting out the technology with the card machine! Once again, many thanks to you all – *Linda Pike*

## **WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY RALLY REPORT**

The weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 saw the return of the popular West Somerset Railway steam and vintage vehicle rally.

I undertook the job as steward in winter 2020, but unfortunately the 2020 and the 2021 shows never happened due to the dreaded pandemic.

With 2022 looking much more promising, plans to hold the rally were made, weeks leading up to the show were blessed with fine dry warm weather and the weekend was bright hot sunshine, fortunately this did not put off the visitors as record numbers arrived at the gates.

During the planning meetings some concerns were raised about the stationary engine section being a bit stale and uninviting, we made a few changes; one was to remove the camping from behind the engine line up to improve the display. We also introduced a Saturday evening light up. This encouraged lighting sets and generators to run into the evening, the Friday night especially so when the train drew up bringing passengers back to site from the Watchet excursion for chips and a few pints!

Both ideas were very successful and many positive comments on how good the section looked.

Among the engines, there were two rare W.H. Pool and Sons oil Engines, these engines were blacksmith made just 12 miles from the show site. Another interesting engine was Murray Bishop's Robson Diesel Engine, this had just been removed from a scrap yard and requires extensive work, the engine seemed to cause more interest than a running engine.

A larger engine on display was the first outing for my own Ruston Hornsby 6XHR 32HP, this engine was removed from Saltmoor pumping station on the Somerset levels, over the last few years been mounted on a trailer. the engine ran very well and caused a lot of interest.

Special thanks to all the helpers in making this event a success and to all the exhibitors

*Adam Troake, Stationary Engine Section Steward*

## **SERVICES**

Amanco ignitors – I'm quiet at the moment with nothing coming in for me to look at – so now is the time to get that troublesome ignitor or magneto looked at.

I also have numerous Stationary Engine leaflets and handbooks, too many to list, so if you're after anything, give me a call....I might just have what you're looking for! Kerwin Harris 01872 273388

## **CLUB MEMBERS ENGINES SPOTTED OUT AND ABOUT**



John Thorne out at Yesterday's Farming with his beautiful inverted Webster engine dating from around 1899 driving an equally nice wine pump



Club members Paul & Kim Mulcock's lovely working display at Yesterday's Farming



**Circular Saw Bench.** Galvanised angle construction with a 40" x 28" steel plate table, 24" dia. saw blade. V-belt drive from a Brooks single phase, 240v 2hp motor, 1420rpm. The motor is mounted on sliding tensioners, with 40ft of heavy-duty cable. Good working order although blade needs sharpening. Buyer collects from Midsomer Norton. £45 bargain! Tom Randall 07856 730 612.

**Lister LD1/SL1 Single cylinder engine** with gearbox, formally from a harbour launch. a good runner back then but has been stored for some years now.

I'm in Havant Hampshire.

Can supply photo and details on request. Please contact Ted Edwards 07751 918283



**PRICE DROP!! Bentall Grinding Mill** in good condition, nicely restored but lack of space forces sale £100 - Collection Wellington TA21 0AN

Contact Dave Lacey 07927 794342

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**