



# CRANKING



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## FROM THE SUMP

It's been a busy month for many of us, with shows and rallies coming thick and fast. Many members will have been to Langport, Ducklington, Headington & Stockley and the Sedgemoor Club rallies, to name just a few. Entries vs exhibitors who turn up on the day still seem to be a problem for some, many events saying they are 15-20% down on entries vs actual exhibitors on the day. Perhaps travelling costs are a factor given the ridiculous price of fuel presently, plus the fuel some of the engines can consume. One exhibitor at Ducklington fully expected to burn through 3 jerry cans of petrol in his Lister R over the show weekend! That's not cheap!

If you've been to a show, why don't you drop me a line about it? It doesn't have to be a masterpiece, I'll sort it all out.

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

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I start this report with a bit of good news just for a change, on the evening of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, one week earlier than usual there will be a talk and film show by the East Somerset Steam Railway. This will start at 8pm and will be at The Old Down Inn Emborough. At the end of September, on the last Monday of the month, a talk on the Westonzoyland Pumping Station. This will be seen as getting our evenings at the Old Down back to something approaching normal, but we are still needing to find more entertainment for you all for the end of year and into 2023. If you can help please get in touch any help would be much appreciated.

Now with coronavirus mostly out of the way and I know that Christmas seems a long way into the future. (but I've already seen an advert on TV for artificial Christmas trees!) - how about a Christmas or New Year Party? Interested? Then please get in touch and let me know then I will do my best to arrange it.

Now the Club staged its main outdoor activity of the year, over the weekend of June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> - this was the Club's annual vintage rally staged this year at the White Horse Country Park at Westbury, by kind permission of Mr Derek Hulin.

I think this was the biggest show we have ever staged, with getting on towards a hundred stationary engines, Commercial vehicles, cars, motor cycles, displays of bygones, model vintage bikes, living history groups, a steam railway for the children, a children's fun fair, full size/miniature steam, trade stalls, auto jumble and much more besides. The Melksham rock and roll group, they were great and my thanks goes once again to our Liz for arranging that. A great deal of very hard work by a group of very hard-working people got this show up and running and they deserve our greatest thanks.

I know everything did not go according to plan, but does it ever? We were on a new site with little time to get everything right, due to corona virus we only had two meetings on site, that alone did not help but we managed in the end and it was most gratifying. When one is approached by an exhibitor and told it is the best show they have ever attended, so we must have got most thing right.

I hope we may be able to stage a show in the future at the White Horse Country Park.

I did not think that when my trailer was hit in the rear it would be such a job to get things sorted out, I could not get to the vintage evening at Poulshot nor Headington and Stockley and now no cherished vehicles at Chippenham. I never thought that this would turn into such a nightmare and now I find I caught hay fever at the rally and this has led to chest and throat infection - keep taking the antibiotics! Perhaps things will get better, one can only hope.

The Stuart Turner Sandhurst let me down at Castle Coombe and just would not start - all the usual things checked, good spark, down on compression but why? Well back in the workshop take the head off, nothing wrong, good valve seats good gasket, anyway I made a new one just in case, head refitted, but just the same, cling film.....wonderful stuff for checking leaking valves, turn engine over both valves closed on compression stroke, to find air coming out of exhaust valve, after much head scratching, I found the trouble, the exhaust valve spring had lost it tension but why?

Anyway, I made a new valve spring, that's right with all the many springs I have, do you think I could find one to do the job?? Anyway, a new spring, fitted and the engine running on first attempt. Well that's another report over with I think it's time to go and cook my evening meal, So off I go to have a rummage in the fridge. *Eric Gay – Club Chairman*

## AGM FEEDBACK

Following the AGM on the 27<sup>th</sup> June I received a letter which was rightly very critical of the procedures used and the behaviour of some of those present. I would like to assure all members that the Committee takes this very seriously and is taking steps to ensure that such a thing never happens again.

## DATE FOR THE DIARY! SWEETS TEA ROOMS CRANK UP

A little advance notice from Herb and Wendy Gane that the popular Club Crank Up at Sweets Tea Rooms near Wedmore on the Somerset Levels will take place on **September 4<sup>th</sup>**. More info to follow next month.

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Club Meeting at The Old Down Inn – Talk from the East Somerset Railway – 8pm

September 4<sup>th</sup> – Sweets Tea Rooms Crank-up – More info next month

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

## UNUSUAL ENGINE – COVENTRY VICTOR MIDGET INFORMATION FEEDBACK

Info received from Club member Philip Hawkins indicates these engines were used by the military for a variety of applications as a 'prime mover' for aircraft ground support services. Trolley mounted, hydraulic systems (but not limited to) for the servicing and maintenance of aircraft whilst on the ground at any location globally. Variants in my time (1985 - 2015) were: CV AN2 & AN4 denoting number of cylinders so, 2 cyl & 4 cylinder. My 1st encounter was at RAF Binbrook in Lincolnshire (85 - 87) on English Electric Lightnings. Used for powering ac hydraulic systems as previously mentioned. Other smaller applications would have been fuel & water pumps and occasionally air compressors. *Thanks Philip! Ed*

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Following a few strange and trying years the Club has now suffered a further blow. Our Treasurer, Caroline, has had to resign for personal reasons. Caroline took over at a very uncertain time for the club and has helped to keep us going through the pandemic, so on behalf of the Committee I would like to thank her for her efforts over the last three and a half years. Caroline will continue as Membership Secretary, for which I also thank her.

If anyone would like to volunteer for the post of Treasurer, they would have our undying gratitude and should get in touch by any means possible! Until then all correspondence for the Treasurer should be addressed to the Secretary. *Ted Edwards, Secretary*

## CLUB MEMBERS ENGINES SPOTTED OUT AND ABOUT

John Deley's Pierce at Ducklington



John Thorne's fantastic Webster spotted at Langport

## The Petter-Light's Tale

I was built in Yeovil,  
I served my masters well.  
My job it was to light the lamps,  
The darkness to dispel.

Come hail or shine, rain or snow,  
With my belt of leather,  
I powered the lamps to make them glow,  
No matter what the weather.

I did this job without complaint,  
For years they made me toil,  
But all I asked for in return,  
Was a little grease and oil.

Then one night I was turned off,  
This was my final hour,  
For in the morning progress came,  
National Grid Mains Power!

Without a rub from oily rag,  
I acquire a coat of dust,  
And in the dampness of the night,  
My bright parts start to rust.

My shed is old, the roof it leaks,  
The timbers warped and rotten,  
Here I lie in the damp and gloom,  
And quietly I'm forgotten.

My piston seized, my crankshaft still,  
For forty years I've slumbered,  
Then one day a man arrives,  
Perhaps my days are numbered?

Will I be broken up for scrap?  
My parts put in the skip,  
Just more precious metal,  
Off to China on a ship?

The man he looks me over,  
He can't believe his luck.  
Cash changes hands, the deal is done,  
I'm loaded on his truck.

He takes me home to be restored,  
So that I may once more,  
Drive the lights, shining bright,  
As I did before the War.

And now I run at vintage shows,  
It's not work but leisure.  
I educate the public,  
And give my owner pleasure.

I'm joined by other Petters,  
Made in Yeovil long ago.  
And when we get together,  
We put on quite a show.

And so I sit in this long row,  
With pride amongst my peers.  
For we are now the chosen few  
Who've made it down the years.

*Flywheel Fred – 2014*

Many thanks to my good friend Graham Howland for the lovely poem!

## **RICHARD JEFFRIES MUSEUM STEAM & CREAM TEAS**

**23rd/24th July** - Steam & Cream Teas, with steam traction engines, vintage agricultural equipment, engines and various stalls. Live music on both days.

Marlborough Road, Coate, Swindon SN3 6AA

Further info at <https://www.richardjefferies.org/museum-events>

## **FOR SALE**



**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



**Bentall Grinding Mill** in good condition, nicely restored but lack of space forces sale £120 - 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

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