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CRANKING

44 Years of Publication



December 2022

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

I write this as the rain is lashing down upon us following a very cold spell....well, what a contrast to the 34 degree days back in the summer when we were complaining it was too hot to show our engines!! I remember exhibiting at Abbotsbury Swannery back in July with the West Dorset Vintage Tractor & Stationary Engine Club, sat in my pickup with the air conditioning on full blast, whilst my engines sweated away in the searing heat and no breeze, even by the coast, it was brutally hot. A condensed issue of Cranking this month partly due to not a huge amount of content plus the printers closing for an extended time over Christmas, so a home-produced copy it is.

Hopefully you'll be planning your rally schedule for next year, please see a listing of Club events on the website, I'll endeavour to add a complete listing in the next issue.

I hope the cost of things in general won't affect everybody's plans too much, but I'm sure it will influence general show entry numbers. Let's hope things settle down a bit soon.

I hope to see a few of you at Gordon's Mince Pie Crank Up at Whaddon Farm on the 29th which is always a nice event after the festivities, I'm looking forward to Paula's hospitality and in particular, the apple crumble!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe New Year, hope you avoid all these nasty bugs that are doing the rounds and I look forward to catching up with a few of you at events in 2023.

David

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As many of you will know the rally site we used last year at Westbury is no longer available. This is due to the site being developed as a holiday park with numerous holiday homes being built on the site. We were offered the use of half the site for 2023 but this would have been much too small.

So, the hunt was on for a venue for 2023, this turned out to be an uphill task. Steve Francis did his utmost to acquire the old Selwood site for us, our luck was out which was a great pity.

Ted Durbin was trying to obtain a site at Shepton Mallet, well again this did not happen.

Well....all is not lost after contacting over 15 land owners at last I struck lucky!

The rally for 2023 will be staged with luck at Five Lanes Farm, Worton, Nr. Devizes. It is a very large flat site with easy access from the surrounding area, within walking distance from Worton, Potterne and the Lavertons, so we should be able to attract local support. I am having a meeting with the landowner in the next week or so. As always we will want lots of help in staging the event, so why not come and join us on the organising committee.....we do not bite, believe me, we do need more help with the organising of our main event; this is the way we earn funds to keep our club up and running, plus helping the Children's Hospice South West, so if you can help in any way, please come and join us.

Our evening meal will take place on Friday 27th January, if you would like to be included now is the time to be contacting me 01225 754374.

I had a very kind club member loan me a 500 volt megger, please will that member contact me as soon as possible, no I have not broken it, it is quite safe.

The Committee has been hard at work planning events for 2023, I am sure they are now on our website. Now, not all of us own computers, so when you renew for 2023 you will receive a calendar listing the club events for 2023. Now if you are planning an event for 2023 please do let Ted know and I am sure he will add it to the club calendar; also please let David know so that it may go into the newsletter.

It was a few days ago I was looking through some old papers when I came across a small pamphlet that I acquired many years ago, it came from an old water mill in Cornwall and may be of interest to

some of you, especially if you are interested in old engineering. I was fascinated where all the years that have passed since it came into my possession.

KEMYEL MILLS LAMORNA CORNWALL

The mills are part of the ancient Manor of Kemyel & Butsava, this in old Cornish means 'Land of The Summer Heat'

It has been occupied by the Hoskin family since the early part of the fourteenth century, it is stated that a mill was on the site in 1300. There was another mill behind where top mill stands today possibly a morse mill.

Built into the wall of top mill are two millstones of the type used in 1600.

The property which has a small holding was acquired by the St. Aubyn family whose descendant is Lord St. Levan, when one of the family married a Miss Kemyel in the fourteenth century, since then the Hoskins have held leases continuously to the present day. The mill worked until 1921. Now to me this is most interesting, the mill stone outside by the road is of Georgian or early Victorian pattern and is of local granite, the last mill stone used was a French Burr Stone, it is interesting to note That the outer axle of the water wheel runs in a granite bearing, and the inner wheel bearing is made from tourmaline, this being a beautiful mineral of complex and varying composition usually black strongly pyroelectric and pleochroic.

Now this is what first brought my interest to this old mill working for this was the first time I had ever heard that stone was used as a bearing material.

Well, that's it for another month, so to you all, have a wonderful Christmas & New Year, keep well and safe, may 2023 be a happy and peaceful New Year for us all.

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

ROGER PIKE MEMORIAL RALLY 2023

Next year we will be holding the Roger Pike Memorial Rally on Saturday 26th August at Lilley's Cider, Bunns Lane, Nr Frome. BA11 5ES

As before, it will be in aid of Dorothy House and donations of cakes to sell will be very welcome.

Further details to follow nearer the time.

Don't forget you could win the cup!

Please register your interest by ringing Linda on 01761 233028 or email pike1954@btinternet.com

Thank you, *Linda Pike*

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE 1st January

Please can we remind members that subscription renewals are due at the end of the year, the subscription period runs from 1st Jan – 31st Dec. Registering an account on the Club website and renewing online makes it super-easy and fuss-free too.

Please renew as soon as you can as the Club will be shortly purchasing the insurance that allows us to show our engines. *Membership Sec*

CLUB WEBSITE – Don't forget to check out the Club's website at www.wessexsec.org where you can browse through newsletters from years gone by, photographs of past events, see who is on the Committee, manage your subscription and much more! The events calendar for 2023 has been uploaded by Ted, so do take the time to take a look and see what might be of interest.

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 20th of the month