



# CRANKING



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## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### FROM THE SUMP

Well that's the Christmas and New Year Celebrations out of the way, many of us wanting to see the back of an unkind 2022 in many ways.

On a personal note, 2022 was a good season of what we love doing best, showing our engines and exhibits with like-minded friends.....with many of us having new engines and displays that we had been fortunate to acquire and build during the couple of years that we couldn't attend rallies etc. From the Abbey Hill Rally in April to the Mince Pie Crank-Up (see report further into this issue) we enjoyed a full season of events, mostly blessed with decent, dry if not too hot weather at times. I hope you find the rally calendar useful, however, please do check individual events themselves as things may change at short notice for some reasons.

Please find the Club subscription renewal form with this issue; apologies it really should have come out with the December edition but with the hustle and bustle of Christmas, it got forgotten.

*David*

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Here we are once again at the start of another year, I wish you all a Happy and peaceful year. May the year be a good one for all of us that attend rallies far and wide. The first event of the year was Gordons Crank up at Whaddon, I was unable to attend as I was due to go into hospital just after for an operation and that was no fun, I just hope I can keep clear of any more medical problems, I keep my fingers crossed. Our next event will be the Bring and Buy Sale at The East Somerset Steam Railway at Cranmore, so dig out all those unwanted goodies and bring them along on Saturday March the 25<sup>th</sup> - The club needs as much support as it can get so tell your friends we will welcome all sorts of stalls, it need not all be related to vintage bits and pieces.

After the excitement of the Sale, in April we will be staging along with The West Wilts Society of Model Engineers, a crank up and vintage day at the White Horse Country Park; this will be on Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> - all types of exhibits welcome.

I hope you all know the country Park, just off the A350 Coach road, Westbury, Wiltshire...Now for all you clever people with sat nav, the post code is BA13 4LX.

Because room is a bit limited I MUST KNOW HOW MANY ARE COMING = there will be an entry form with next month's newsletter but if you don't want to bother with that please just give me a ring on 01225 754374, free hot dogs etc to exhibitors, so that's a bonus.

I will not go right through the list of events planned for 2023 but there will be two more events planned by myself, Linda has the Roger Pike memorial crank up and Herb will be staging his crank up once again at Sweets Museum and Tea rooms, All our events will be in our calendar that you should get sent to you when you renew your membership.

Now the Club needs your help as two posts have become vacant via the committee - One being the post of Treasurer, as I have stated before this is far from a full time job, we just need someone to keep the records up together - can this be you.....please help us out

As most of you may know we are unable to stage our rally at Westbury Country Park this year due to development on the land, I thought I had found us a new home at Worton Near Devizes, but on receiving a phone call on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, the landowner withdrew their offer of the land. This came as quite a blow as I had conducted lengthy negotiations with them, being told I could have the land and also have it for future years, this has all gone to dust.

I have two more sites to visit and I just hope I can find us a venue for 2023, now if any club member knows of a nice land owner that may have some land suitable that we can rent for the weekend OH PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Now with all this wet miserable weather one does not feel like going out into the workshop, I told you that my pride and joy had let me down at Stockbridge and no way could I or others get a pop out of it. Well a few days before my hospital visit it was dry and not too cold and so to take my mind of thoughts of my pending operation, I ventured out into the workshop to try and get Betty Bamford to run, I had already spent many hours trying but to no avail. I had checked the sparks department this was fine I had checked the timing, valves & ignition, taken out the piston removed a very small amount of carbon and still after all this, not a pop. I had checked the insulation on the igniter with a multi meter this had shown a small amount leakage to earth but not enough to stop play. A very kind club member loaned me a 500 volt megger that showed a bigger leakage to earth, not good but again not enough to stop play.

Strip down igniter, remove the moving contact I now found my trouble. At times when the points were actuated once in a while they would stick open just a few thou and this is what stopped Betty the Bamford, I have not been able to give the old girl a long run but I now know that she is back to life. Now, last but not least I would like to find a small butter churn to drive with my Alamo - Any leads would be most welcome.

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

## **EVENT REPORT - MINCE PIE CRANK UP**

December 29<sup>th</sup> was a day many were looking forward to, probably to get a break from the general business of Christmas and the associated events. If you don't know, the Mince Pie Crank-Up at Whaddon Farm, near Trowbridge, courtesy of Gordon and Paula is a mid-winter Club gathering of engines and associated exhibits, all under cover of a large open barn with plenty of ventilation. By 9.30am some 20 engines were in place, forming two neat rows down the outer edges of the barn. Much chatting and general catching-up ensued and we had all engines running by 10am. With a gentle breeze it was a little chilly at the lower end of the barn and a little wet outside but it did keep the air relatively fresh within.

We had members travelling from Bridgwater, Street, Poole, Newbury and Wellington, some travelling in excess of 70 miles each way.

We had a nice variation of engines running, from Pete Gear's large Blackstone Oil Engine to John Thorne's small 3hp Blackstone Portable, the size differences are quite staggering.

Richard Cook's Lister D 24-35v lighting set was brilliantly turned out, it is a real credit to you.

Gordon had his 9hp Blackstone Spring Injection display engine running, always a treat to see and watch that engine run, he also had his Blackstone O Diesel engine running, not the prettiest of engines but it did run well.

Member Paul Mulcock must surely win the best Christmas themed display, with tinsel nicely wrapped around his lighting display with butter churn.



Steve and Jack Maskell travelled from Newbury; Jack with a Crossley PH1030 which ran really well and had a lovely exhaust tone, thanks for bringing this one along.

Big thanks must go to Paula, Sue and Debbie for serving the refreshments; all went down very well, the hot soup and crumbles warmed us up somewhat.

The grand sum of £362.62 was raised through donations and a raffle for the Alzheimer's Society, thank you to all who came along and supported such a wonderful event.



Mention should be made of the mischievous farmer who 'removed' my starting handle from my locker box without me seeing.....and watching me panic when I realised it wasn't there! Dave

## ROGER PIKE MEMORIAL RALLY 2023

Next year we will be holding the Roger Pike Memorial Rally on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pike1954@btinternet.com)

Thank you, *Linda Pike*

## CAN YOU HELP?

I was wondering please if anyone could help me get back in touch with Malcolm White. I lost touch when I moved back to Pembrokeshire from the New Forest and Bristol area. Reading this month's Stationary Engine magazine and the Ruston article which mentions Malcolm's late brother Brian "Chalky" White made me wonder if anyone would be in touch with Malcolm. Any help would be much appreciated [Paul.warren.moths@gmail.com](mailto:Paul.warren.moths@gmail.com)

Thank you for your help, Best wishes Paul Warren

## CLUB EVENTS 2023

Feb 27	Club meeting, John Dando, Victorian Privies
Mar 25	Cranmore sale
Mar 27	Club meeting, A.G.M.
April 16	WWSME Open Day and crank-up, Westbury
April 24	Club meeting, Model Night
May 22	Club meeting, John Dando, All That Jazz!
May 28	Trowbridge crank-up (TBC)
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sweets Tea Rooms, Wedmore – Crank Up
June 10	Collett Park crank-up
June 17/18	Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show
June 26	Club meeting, Quiz Night
July 31	Club meeting, Eric Reminisces
Aug 21	Club meeting, John Dando, The West Country Carnivals
Aug 26	Roger Pike Memorial crank-up at Lilleys Cider
Sept 9/10	Bradford-on-Avon crank-up (TBC)
Sept 25	Club Meeting, Eric Gay. That Poor Apprentice

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE 1<sup>st</sup> 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 find enclosed a membership renewal form.

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*

## FOR SALE

Petrol tank removed from Bamford engine size 14.5 inches long 5.25 inches wide and 4.25 inches high, This appears to be a replacement tank in very good condition £25.00.



Oil bath air filter for petter A1 complete with fixing bracket good condition £30.00.  
Leather drive belt approx 1.5 inches width by 60 inches total length £10.00.



These items are priced to sell. Please look at photos or call me on 01305 773250 for more information. I would like any information or parts on 1923 Petter M type, free tea and cake if you are visiting in the Weymouth area. *John Rashleigh*

## SERVICES

I am still quiet with repairing and reconditioning Amanco Igniters.....but wait until the rally season is again upon us.....then it will be "Can I have it back for the weekend?"

I also have numerous handbooks and literature for a wide variety of engines...I could have that odd manual you have been looking for! Just give me a call. I also have some igniters for Amanco and other engines. I also have a base for a shaft drive Lister D engine together with couplings to suit. I look forward to hearing from you!

Kerwin Harris, 30 Hillcrest Ave, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3NE 01872 273388

## LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

April 16 - White Horse Crank Up WWSME  
Apr 22 - 23 Organford  
Apr 28 - May 1 Abbey Hill  
May 20 - 21 Three Oakfords Show  
May 20 -21 Castle Combe Steam Rally  
May 27 - 28 Tredinnick Rally  
June 3 - 4 Rainscombe  
June 10 -11 West Bay  
June 17 - 18 Wessex Midsummer Show  
June 23 - 25 Morwellham Quay Engine Rally  
July 1- 2 Headington & Stockley  
July 8 - 9 Breamore  
July 8 - 9 Sedgemoor Vintage Show  
July 8 - 9 Rona Rally  
July 15 - 16 Ducklington

July 22 - 23 Isleport Vintage Show  
July 21, 22 and 23 Netley Marsh Steam Rally  
July 28, 29 & 30 Bocconnoc  
July 28 - 31 Cross Keys  
July 28, 29 & 30 Welland  
August 4,5 & 6 West Somerset Railway Steam Fair, Taunton  
August 4,5, & 6 Torbay Steam Fair  
August 19 - 20 Yesterdays Farming  
August 26th Roger Pike Memorial Rally  
August 27 & 28th Honiton Hill Rally  
September 3rd White Horse Show  
September 8, 9 & 10 Longstock Rally  
September 8 - 9 Railway Rev Up  
September 23 - 24 Somerset FoT  
October 14th and 15th Ploughing Championships, Eastcombe, Taunton

**CLUB WEBSITE** – Don't forget to check out the Club's website at [www.wessexsec.org](http://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

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**