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# CRANKING

44 Years of Publication



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## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### FROM THE SUMP

With the rally season just about to start with the excellent 4 day Abbey Hill rally at Yeovil, I expect many of you are putting your final touches to your engines and working exhibits – I'm sure they will all start and perform faultlessly at home in the workshop – but as soon as you present them to the general public on the rally field, they will refuse to start!

I've spent the day dealing with various push-fit water connections within my motorhome that have pushed apart during the really cold spell during the winter, draining down every single drop of water within the pipework isn't possible so this is an annual task for me! I think this year might also be challenging for some, we used to be able to fill our onboard cooking and heating gas tanks from LPG pumps at Sainsbury's and other local garages, but all seem to have disappeared now or haven't been filled for a long while as LPG deliveries are apparently being prioritised for home heating, so I'm told.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable rally season for the year ahead and I hope to meet up with many of you. It's good to see the Club Committee have been busy and productive in arranging events this year, please support these events if you can.

I'd also be very grateful if you could just perhaps send me some photos and a very brief write up of any events you go to – so we can share what you've been up to with other Club members.

*David*

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again, I have to start my report with sad news, I have been informed that Keith Wallace, has sadly passed away, after a brave fight but sadly a short one against cancer. Poor Keith was diagnosed in January and it was just a few days ago that his fight against this wicked disease came to an end. To Sandra, all Keith's family and friends we extend our sincere sympathy at this sad time.

Keith's Funeral will take place at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. The dress code will be dress as you would do for attending rallies or working on your engines.

Another good friend of the Wessex Club has also very recently left us, Jim Bourne from Potterne. For very many years Jim always supported the Wessex Club in all its Vintage events, firstly with his 4" Foster Traction Engine and when this became too much for Jim to handle he still came to our events with his display of static steam models. To Ann and all of Jim's family and friends, the Wessex Club extend their sincere sympathy to you all at this very sad time.

Well on to other subjects of a happier nature - The Annual General Meeting took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. It would have been nice to see a few more members joining us at the meeting, the officers of the Club were re-elected, but Ted Durbin, our President of the last three years decided that it was time to stand down and the role of President passed to Steve Francis.

Ted, I would like to thank you for your support shown to me on many occasions throughout your time as President, I hope that you may come and join us all at our evening meetings at the Old Down Inn, at our events held throughout the year. Once again, thank you for your service given to the Wessex Stationary Engine Club.

By the time you read this report the event at Westbury with the Society of Model Engineers will have come and gone and just think if you have not entered you missed all those FREE hot dogs and not only that.....how about rides on the model trains, you just don't know what you missed!

There are other events coming up that your Committee have managed to arrange for you all, they have taken more than a little effort to arrange, so please if you are able please give your support to the following events - Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> is Herbs Crank-Up at Sweets Museum & Tea rooms at Wedmore Nr. Glastonbury, this is a good site with full facilities so why not come along and give Herb your support.

Now just one week later there is a crank up at Collett Park, Shepton Mallet, this is organised by Ted Durbin, I believe it is just turn up on the day.

Next for your delight is a new event that has been arranged at Westonzoyland Pumping station near Bridgwater, out on the Somerset levels, again a site with full facilities, it will take place on Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> but you are welcome to arrive on the Saturday and for all of you who have engines driving lighting plant you are welcome to run on the Saturday evening. Any other details and entry forms get in touch with our Ted on 07751 918283.

We now move to August 26<sup>th</sup> and Linda's Roger Pike Memorial Crank up at Lilleys Cider Farm, West Woodlands, Nr. Frome, on the Maiden Bradey road B3092.

A cider Farm sounds a great place to spend a Sunday with good friends and perhaps a glass of cider or two.

Now onwards to September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> - a two-day vintage gathering to be held at Bradford-on-Avon, Bradford Leigh, just off the Corsham Road B3109. It will be well signed; this is another new event that has been arranged to help all you poor souls suffering withdrawal symptoms from not being able to attend a Wessex Rally this year. Entry forms on the club web site or from me at my address at the foot of my report.

Not a bad programme for 2023 we hope you all have a good time at our events and crank ups and I hope to see many of you over the coming months.

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

## CLUB EVENTS 2023

April 24	Club meeting, Model Night
May 22	Club meeting, John Dando, All That Jazz!
June 3	Sweets Tea Rooms, Wedmore – Crank Up
June 10	Collett Park crank-up
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 16-17	Bradford-on-Avon crank-up
Sept 25	Club Meeting, Eric Gay. That Poor Apprentice

## 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

## FOR SALE

Petter A1 3HP at 1500 rpm mounted on professionally made hardwood trolley complete with four cast iron wheels, running at 750 rpm driving Argosy water pump also on separate professionally made trolley with cast iron wheels. There is also recirculating tank and associated stands and hoses included. A complete set up that would suit somebody new to vintage engines.

Please see photos and for any enquiries please call me on 01305 773250 (Weymouth).

£295.00 on collection please.

*John Rashleigh*





## WEST WILTSHIRE SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS DAY @ WESTBURY



Club members enjoyed a day out at the WWSME open day at the White Horse Country Park on Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup>. The weather was generally kind to us but with an increasingly chilly breeze.

I think I counted 14 engines up and running with no failures to start and run for the whole day. Ken was there with his oil can display and there was a fascinating trailer mounted display of miniature engines running on compressed air.

The ladies in the Club room provided us with endless cups of tea and coffee, very reasonably priced and we all got a free burger/hot dog for our efforts to attend. Well worth the 140 mile round trip/early start for me to attend with my 5hp Blackstone Portable Oil Engine. Thank you to Eric who organised the day for us. Photo credits to Club members Anthony and Heidi Andrews. *David*



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**