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CRANKING

44 Years of Publication



February 2023

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

It's been a busy time deciding which rallies to enter for 2023 – the cost of travelling still far higher than it should be, local events are taking priority.

Myself, I'd love to go to TractorFest at Newby Hall up North and display in their portable engine themed event this June but it is simply too far and expensive to attend from down here. I'd relish the opportunity to meet and rally alongside other enthusiasts from 'up country' but the costs of doing so are currently prohibitive, I'm sure this is similar with others too.

I'm particularly looking forward to Abbey Hill, an early season event that often sees new exhibits on their first outings and isn't too far to travel.

On top of all the Club events listed further into this issue, the Breamore events look to be great events, I'm looking forward to going there too.

Perhaps the furthest distant rally that I'll go to will be the excellent Ducklington Rally in Whitney – primarily an engine rally and what a fab event it is too. I urge anyone who hasn't been to book in, it was one of the stand-out events for me last year.

Thank you to Club members who attended my Open Day back in early February; next year I promise to be more organised and open it up to Club members and more visiting engines. We had a fab day in some lovely late winter sunshine, with over 50 engines running – although some feeling a little 'green' on the Sunday morning following a little over-indulgence at the local pub the night before!

David

WSEC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd will be held at the Old Down Inn, Emborough BA3 4SA at 8pm on Monday 27th March 2023. All paid-up members will be entitled to vote in person or by post and the voting slips will be sent out next month. We hope to have Zoom available and if so, a link will be sent to all members who have provided an email address.

I would remind you that we are still looking for a Treasurer. The duties are not onerous and except for enrolment time and the annual show there isn't a lot to do. Without the help of volunteers to carry out the fairly simple but vital committee tasks there won't be a club, so please consider joining us. These days the fact that you don't live close need not present a problem, as all our committee meetings are backed up by Zoom.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello everyone! I hope you have gotten over all the excitement of Christmas and the New Year and are getting ready for the year ahead, filing out all those entries for the rallies you intend to attend. Making sure that your pride and joy is in full running order or like me you have not had the courage to go out into the shed or workshop. Just a few days ago I did pluck up the courage and ventured out into the workshop, the day was quite pleasant and I set to and successfully removed the crankshaft and flywheels from my latest acquisition. They are in need of machining on the faces and edges, the fertiliser sacks have taken their toll. This was no easy task on one's own but I learned quite a lot about heavy lifting when I was an apprentice, so with a length of 4"x2", a large flat board, a jerry can and a bit of brain power, they were removed. Next I had to get them into the car – again no easy task and then away to Westbury to a nice man who is going to re-machine them - donations towards the cost will be gratefully received!!!

It has turned very cold again, to this effect I will not be going into the workshop again until it warms up, so I have turned to thinking about the club. March is just around the corner and the Annual General Meeting is going to take place. The Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd., is in need of YOUR help as you know, I have appealed for Club members to come and join us, in the following posts - Treasurer, Vice Chairman and President.

It is with regret that I have had no one offer to take on any of these roles - none of them are that arduous, so why not step forward and help the Wessex Stationary Engine Club survive; for if we cannot get help to take on these roles, the Club will be unable to carry on and may have no other option than to close.

This would be a great shame after all the many years the club been running, but we may be left with no other course of action.

Now I must tell you all that we the Committee have worked very hard on your behalf arranging a programme of events for the full year, no easy task I can tell you.

At this time we are working to hope fully arrange a vintage day at the Westonzoyland Pumping Station, this could be on one of their open days - this is yet to be decided so watch this space for more details in the not too distant future.

Now at the end of March is our sale at Cranmore, sort out all those bits you have been meaning to sell for years and bring them along, tell your friends we will welcome one and all. Now after the sale you can all look forward to the crank up at Westbury with the West Wilts Society Of Model Engineers, please come and join us with any vintage exhibit – the date is April 16th at the White Horse Country Park, Coach Road, Westbury, Wilts, just off the A350, give me a call so I know how many will be coming, I need to know so that I know how many sausages and rolls to order and to warn the cook so that she knows how many she has to feed..... so don't delay ring today 01225 754374

Eric Gay, 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0NX Tel: 01225 754374

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With the AGM coming up next month I will start sending out the voting forms in a few days and I would like to remind everyone who hasn't yet renewed for 2023 that only paid-up members will get one, so if you want a say in how the Club is run, please renew your membership in good time. *Ted Edwards, Hon Sec.*

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*

CLUB RALLY 2023 CANCELLED

It is with great regret that there will not be a Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show this year, as you know we cannot use Westbury, the committee has contacted over 18 land owners with no luck. We had an offer of a site belonging to Grist environmental near Devizes, but they wanted to supply the services such as toilets, waste management, marque etc, but when we added our costs such as medical, evening entertainment, advertising and other items, this became unviable - it would have drained the bank balance. So it is with regret that we have decided that we will not be staging a show in 2023.

I have been invited to meet with two other landowners at the end of this month so all is not lost, we will find a new venue for 2024. *Eric Gay*

WHADDON FARM CRANK UP – MARCH 19th

This ever-popular event will take place on 19th March, engines running for 10 am, please arrive from 8.30am or so. All in the barn as usual, but if the weather is pleasant then some may be able to go outside. Raffle in aid of Alzheimer's, raffle prize donations would be very welcome

Please email or text me with what engine you would like to bring so that I know approximate numbers for space needed and catering. If you haven't been before, then simply follow the Wessex Stationary Engine Club signs from the top of Whaddon Lane to BA14 6NR

Any other questions please give me a ring 01225 755448, mobile/text 07786 542782 or email using RGuley@outlook.com

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!
June 3 rd	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 Lilley's Cider
Sept 17	Bradford-on-Avon crank-up (Possibly could be a 2 dayer....)
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

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

March 19 – Whaddon Crank Up
March 26 - Durrington
April 16 - White Horse Crank Up WWSME
Apr 22 - 23 Organford
Apr 22 - Bratton Vehicle Show
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 18 Westonzoyland
June 23 - 25 Morwellham Quay 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 15 - 16 Market Lavington
July 15 - 16 Durrington Village Day

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 26 Roger Pike Memorial Rally
August 27 & 28 Honiton Hill Rally
September 3 White Horse Show
September 8, 9 & 10 Longstock Rally
September 8 - 9 Railway Rev Up
September 23 - 24 Somerset FoT
October 14 - 15 Ploughing Championships, Eastcombe, Taunton

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

Contributions to: David Lacey, 8 Dyers Close, West Buckland, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 9JU or (preferably) by email

editor@wessexsec.org

Deadline for copy submissions is always 20th of the month