



Issue No: 5/15

CRANKING

44 Years of Publication



May 2023

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I sit here writing this report wondering where this year is disappearing to....we are already in May and I am far from being warm in fact I have just hung out some washing and its very cold, can anyone tell me when summer is coming.

On the 22nd April I went to Bratton, attending the Westbury Transport Gathering, tragically this was for some reason very poorly attended with only 5 engines at the event. We had far more than this at the Club event at the model railway at Westbury, perhaps it was the free burgers and hot dogs that did the trick.

Now on Monday 24th at The Old Down Inn it was the clubs evening meeting, our model evening with a prize for the best model on show that evening.

I was saddened by the poor attendance; only two of us took the trouble to bring along models. I'm sure that there must be a few more of you with some type of model that you could have displayed on the evening and just think you could have won the prize. The club spent a fortune in purchasing this for some lucky Club member but sad to say it was not awarded and still sits in my kitchen.

If this type of event is not what Club members want, please let me or any committee member know what you would like so we can arrange it for you.

Well moving on you all know about the outside events planned for the year, they are all in your programme of events, well I have one more on Saturday 12th August – the Club has been invited to put on a display of engines and driven machinery at Seend Fete, this is between Trowbridge & Devizes on the A361, the Club used to always support this event in years past and it would be nice to put on a good show once more, so please write the date on your calendar and we hope for a good turn out on the day.

Saturday 29th April.....now I know that there are some that think I am mad, but for many years I have promised myself I would go to the Trevithick Day at Camborne, in Cornwall. With the alarm set for 3am, food and drink got ready the evening before, I was on the road at 3.45am.

My journey was no fun as I was greeted with thick fog for a great deal of the way, this was so thick that I missed the left hand turn to Okehampton and ended up having to do a long detour but never mind.

I must admit I was saddened by the wicked rape of Bodmin Moor - talk about destruction! One used to pass Jamaica Inn as they travelled down over the moor but not now, I saw a sign covered in dirt pointing up a narrow lane saying Jamaica Inn & Museum. I wonder for how much longer this will survive?

The road works are tearing the very soul out of the once lovely landscape, oh and yes, everywhere one looks there stands a ruddy great wind turbine!! If this is progress, then I feel sorry for the coming generation.

I made Camborne by just before 9 o'clock and if you ever get the chance to go to Trevithick day GO! I had a wonderful day, steam engines filling the main street, around thirty plus, Whistling Billy, the white steam racing car of 1905, standing start mile in 8.4 minutes. The Puffing Devil, a replica of Trevithick's rail engine.

Many of the local schools had children dressed in Victorian costume, dancing through the streets, Morris dancers, the Pipes and Drums of the Cornish pipers, Brass band playing for the children as they danced through the streets, folk singers, Clowns and even stationary engines. A display of miniature traction engines, even a lovely model boat with its twin cylinder steam engine running.

The streets were filled with I would estimate well over 100,000 people, one main street filled with stalls was just one mass of people, one had to elbow your way through.

Well I have to tell you my diet went out the window, I was tempted and I just could not resist buying a Cornish pasty and I must say it was the best pasty I have ever had, bought from a small shop on the High Street, 'twas proper good.

As you can see I had a wonderful day out, met some very nice people, would I go again? You bet I would, may the Trevithick day last for many, many years to come. Yes, it was a long drive from Trowbridge, around a 400 mile round trip but to me it was well worth it and one never knows, I may be lucky enough to go again before I am too old and decrepit. Well that's what I did a few days ago how about telling our Editor what you have done to enjoy yourselves, I am sure he would like to know so that he can fill a page or two of the Club's newsletter. Well, that's me finished for this month I have now got to get ready and go to the chiropractor my poor old back is giving me hell, anyone know where I can get a replacement please let me know.

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

CLUB MEETING 24th APRIL

The club meeting held at the Old Down Inn on the 24th April was a great success for the few that turned up. Eric brought along a couple of his steam models and told us the entertaining story of their acquisition and Mary Chapman brought along a fascinating hand-made hot-air engine and a very noisy model John Deere hit and miss engine. Eric and Mary entertained us with amusing and interesting stories and before long it was 10pm and time to go home.

If we are to keep the free use of the room we need to give something back in the form of income for the pub and I'm afraid the half dozen of us there didn't do a lot in that regard. Those who didn't come missed a really good night. *(Photos from the evening to follow next month)*

On the subject of support from the club, a member told me yesterday that he thought it "a pretty poor show" that we wouldn't be holding the annual rally this year. I agree that it is far from ideal, but even with the loss of our rally field it would still have been possible had there been sufficient volunteers to man the larger venue that we were offered. The show is organised and run largely by Eric and half a dozen idiots who give up their time to act as section stewards dealing with the entries, plan and build the show, then cover the various jobs required on the day – with a couple of "ad hoc" assistants if we're lucky.

So it is a pretty poor show. The rally income is in a large part responsible for keeping the membership fee down and paying for other day to day running costs (such as this newsletter) and I believe it is an important part of the Club. Every year we appeal for volunteers with very little response, but with a year to go before the next one there is ample time for some of you to step up and help your club. *Ted Edwards, Secretary*

GET WELL SOON LINDA!

I wondered if I would ever talk to my Club and Facebook friends again or anyone else - it's all thanks to the wonderful cardiac team and the nurses at Salisbury hospital. I suffered a heart attack recently at a steam rally at Woodgreen near Fordingbridge. With the help of the ambulance team and the excellent care at Salisbury I would probably not be here. I have had a pacemaker fitted this morning and am now on the road to recovery. Please support the NHS. You never know when you may need them.

Update 7th May

Hello all my wonderful friends out there – Thank you for all your lovely get well messages. I have been told I was on the brink but thankfully I had the right people around me, my thanks go to John's son Ian and a Scouts first aider who was on the field - between them they kept me alive until the paramedics arrived.

I will be eternally grateful to them and the ambulance team that took over, the staff and cardiac team in Salisbury hospital were amazing. I will owe them a debt of gratitude for the rest of my life. I am now pleased to tell you I am back home and very much alive with a pacemaker, my friend John has been by my side throughout and is now caring for me, splendidly I have to add, he's got a job on his hands 😂😂

Hopefully I will see you all at some point. Life is a wonderful thing, enjoy it while you got it, I can be snatched from you in the blink of an eye.....lotsa love everyone – *Linda*

Picture taken when I saw Linda at the Steam on the Levels event - David



RALLY REPORT - BREAMORE HOUSE STEAM RALLY

An early start was required for this rally, it was 83 miles one way to Breamore for me.

My wife and I only attended on the Sunday (Coronation Party Saturday) - on arrival we found not too many exhibitors braved the very heavy rain they had all day Saturday.

We quickly set up my Hartop S type and Goulds water pump and got it running, next it was off to have a look around to see who and what was there.

There was about 30 engines on show, some of which I recognized as WSEC members, Eric Gay was there with his early low tension Bamford tulip top and a model steam engine, Pete Gear was showing a lovely 4 HP Hornsby Oil Engine, Dennis and Chris Barnes their 6 HP version, there were a couple of Amanco's one petrol and one petrol/paraffin, just along the line was a very nice Lister D generating set running really well, next came a Ruston Hornsby PR driving a large Tangye inverted piston pump which was moving a lot of water, other engines that caught my eye was a French Conord and a nicely running 1 1/2hp Petter M type lighting set sounding really sweet.

Around the site was lots of the usual items to see found at rallies including Tractors, Commercials, Cars, Motor cycles and Steam.....full size and scale models.

There was much more to see on the site including their own museum of vintage displays and the Breamore House tours itself. This was an enjoyable day out and a chance to meet up with other rust enthusiasts. *John Thorne*

SWEETS TEA ROOMS – CRANK UP

The Wedmore Crank-Up at Sweets Tea Rooms will take place on Saturday 3rd June - 9am to 4pm.

Please use postcode BS28 4UE to find us, it's really easy to get to.

Please do not arrive before 8.30 as the gates will not be open. Entrance is free, all donations to the Alzheimer's Society. No need to book in - open to non-club members too.

You can bring your engine, old motorcycle, old car or tractor etc. or just come in for a look round. Refreshments can be purchased from the tea rooms as usual.

If you need more information ring Herb on 01749 674402 or if we don't pick up please leave a message. Information is also on the WSEC web site. We look forward to seeing you all on the day.

INFORMATION REQUEST

I have received a request for information on GRAY MODEL N engines. If anyone can help would they please contact me in the first instance. Thank you, Ted Edwards 07751 918283 or secretary@wessexsec.org

CLUB EVENTS 2023

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 12	Seend Fete Engine Display Sat Nav - SN12 6NS - Show 1 – 5pm
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

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



Bamford No.0 corn mill in working condition, I would like around £200 for it.

I would be interested in a part exchange deal with a good small butter churn, anyone interested please give me a call on 01225 754374 - Eric Gay

ENGINES & WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

I am writing on behalf of the family of Frank Foxwell of Chilcompton, a member who died last autumn. They have a three of Frank's engine's for sale:-

1. Turner diesel, 1947, 5 HP, water cooled.
2. Lister 'D' coupled to Goodwin water pump, on vintage Pugsley trolley.
3. Petter Type A1, 2 BHP, 1,000 rpm, on trolley.

Also:-

4. Trailer, INDESPENSION CHALLENGER, with ramp, tailgate, hand winch and spare wheel. 6' x 4' bed x 68" wide overall.
5. Smart & Brown centre lathe, pillar drill and a large collection of engineering workshop tools and equipment and general spares.

If members are interested, would they please call Austin Foxwell, son, on mobile number 07484 881151.

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