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# CRANKING

*44 Years of Publication*



November 2023

## **The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter**

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> October Catherine and myself with our friend of many years Bob Hallam left Trowbridge on a journey to Sedgemoor Crematorium, Nr. Bridgwater to say our last farewells to our long time friend Brian Verrall.

Brian and I had been friends for over 40 years and we first met when I became a member of the WSEC, later we both served as committee members of the club, we served together for many years.

We ran the Rallies at Cheddar football ground together for quite a number of years and when eventually we staged our rallies at Semington, his help and advice to me was invaluable and for nearly all the years at Semington Brian served as motorcycle steward, until handing over the reigns to Liz Harrison. Until very recently I can't remember a club evening at The Old Down, Inn when Brian did not come along and most times before her passing, Mary, his wife would be with him.

We would meet up at other events and spend time together chatting drinking tea, never anything stronger, we were always good and behaved like good club members should, believe that if you like.

Our friendship lasted right to the end when Brian passed away after a long fight with breathing difficulties and had spent quite a few times in hospital being treated but things got a lot worse, with Brian losing his fight on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, I will sorely miss our chats on the phone but above all I will miss a great friend.

I will tell you a little of Brian's life. He was born in Blackpool in 1940 to parents Lilian and Benjamin Verrall, not long after the family moved to Devon and Brian started school at Merton.

After the war when his father returned from Burma Railway being a prisoner of the Japanese, the family moved once again and set up home in Budleigh Salterton.

Now Brian would get sent to the corner shop to collect the fruit rations, things were still on ration, this ration contained bananas not seen by Brian before, sometime later mother asked Brian if he had eaten his banana, "What did you with the skin?" asked mother, "WHAT SKIN" was the reply.....Brian had eaten the lot.

Brian was a bit of a country lad and in this youth, trout tickling and rabbiting with ferrets, beside a few other antics, just one thing like dishing up mole on toast for his mother's evening meal, I wonder what mole tastes like, have you ever tried it? If so, do let me know.

Joining the Air Force at 15 as a boy entrant and training as an aircraft electrician, he served both abroad in North Africa and the Persian Gulf, his final destination being the university air squadron as lead mechanic at Filton in Bristol.

After working for a short time for Highgate Gears in Bath, Brian found a job with Farmac, servicing and repairing agricultural machinery, he became manager and stayed with the company for over thirty years.

Brian became club President and served in this post for quite a few years, he was a first class engineer, it has been a privilege to have known Brian and I know that all who knew him in the Club and beyond will grieve his passing, Rest In Pearce dear old friend.

Well on now to something happier I hope, Christmas is coming and last month I asked if any of you nice club members would like a fun evening at the Old Down Inn and a Christmas meal but to date not had any response. Over the years we have had many great evenings at the Inn around Christmas time it would be a great loss to us all if we cannot get together over the Christmas period, so give me a ring, I will do the rest.

I am happy to report that we have been able to recruit many more willing hands to help plan and stage our Southwick event, but this does not mean that we cannot do with more help - any one that would like to come and join us will be most welcome. We need lots of help on the weekend with many small jobs if you can just give us a couple of hours a day over the weekend your help will be greatly appreciated, jobs like selling raffle tickets, maybe helping with the car park or even litter picking, any help to make our new event at Southwick a success will be a great help to us all.

Our event we ran at Bradford on Avon in September was a great success and today I have spoken with Clive at his yard in Bradford and he wants to do it all again in September 2024 so make a note now, that the Wessex will be at Bradford once again.

As many of you will know the show was run to aid Dorothy House Hospice and although it rained and wiped us out on the Sunday we raised a considerable sum for the Hospice, so to all of you that came along and made it the success it was THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH.

Our evening meetings at The Old Down Inn held every month are very entertaining and can be great fun, as well as being very informative and educational at times. The committee are at this time planning a calendar of events for our evening meetings in 2024, now if there is anything special YOU would like for an evening we will do our best to provide it, just let any committee member know.

Now if you have not ever come to an evening at The Old Down why not give it a try, come and meet us, make some new friends and if you need help with that new restoration project I am sure that we can find you someone to help.

Now with the evenings getting dark and the cold getting into my old bones getting out in the workshop is not going to be at the top of my list of must do things.

There you are for another month, I am going to wish everyone of you a very merry Christmas, a Happy and I hope a peaceful New Year

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

## Whaddon Mince Pie Crank-Up

This ever-popular event will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December, with engines running for 10am, 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 – Petter owners please take note ☺

Raffle in aid of Alzheimer's, raffle prize donations would be very welcome

Catering by Paula, those who know, know!! ☺

All welcome, non-members too, just bring proof of your insurance cover.

Please email or text me with what engine you would like to bring so that I know approximate numbers for space needed and catering.

Hope to have the adjoining buildings to accommodate more engines if need be!

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

### FOR SALE

- Gillson Johnny on the spot 1HP High Tension
- Amanco 4HP Low Tension



All the above Engines are all in running order. Please contact Sam Jackson, Oldford, Frome on 01373 471157

FREE to a good home - Stuart Turner A3PE13 pump (no valves) free to good home. Contact Ted Edwards 07751 918283

**For sale** - a book and 3 magazines as listed below.

"Stationary Engines for the enthusiast" by David Edgington & Charles Hudson. 1st edition 1981 (in vgc)

Magazine (journal)

"The Stationary Engine"

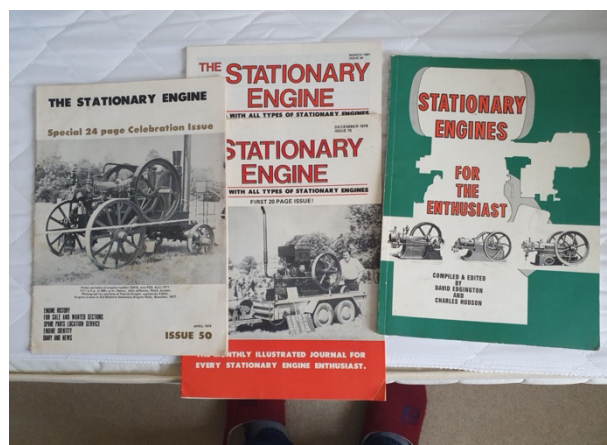
Issue No.50 (24 page celebration issue). April 1978

"The Stationary Engine"

Issue No.70. December 1979

"The Stationary Engine"

Issue No.85. March 1981



These are in good condition, not thumbled or dog-eared.

If any of your members would like to purchase with sensible offer I'll be happy to post them off. *Ian Carter* Interested? Please contact Ted Edwards 07751 918283

V	H	W	D	K	P	I	L	P	A	S	T	O	E	V
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BERNARD, DEUTZ, HARTOP, SLAVIA, TURNER, WILTON, NORMAN  
 LISTER, PETTER, RUSTON, VILLIERS, JAP, GRAY, STUART, BAMFORD  
 BLACKSTONE, AMANCO, CROSSLEY, GALLOWAY, BENTALL, COBURN  
 TEAGLE, STICKNEY, STOVER, ONAN

**Can you find them?**

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**