



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

Thank you to those who have taken the time to send me in some content for Cranking, it is very much appreciated. As you'll see, we've a much more interesting and fuller edition this month.

On that note, with limited space, I'll leave my piece at that. Until next month....*David*

CHAIRMANS REPORT

August has been a very busy month rally wise, first it was a trip up to South Cerney, situated in deepest darkest Gloucestershire and what a great show it was. Three days in total, the only let down was the weather on the Saturday, did it rain or did it rain. I spent most of the day reading a book in the comfort of the car, I did venture out for a look around the stalls later in the day when the rain had eased of somewhat and a look in the craft and model marquee, some great models on display. One that really stood out was a display of ploughs, all made to scale and all built from wood, how do you make 600 scale rivets out of wood, they were fantastic.

I spent a good deal of time distributing entry forms for our Southwick event next year. We really do have to do a lot of work in attracting exhibits to our new event, we need to fill the site with as many exhibits as we can find.

I already have entries so things are moving in the right direction, but we need to keep working so as to make it our best show yet.

From South Cerney it was then on the 12th August that Seend Fete was to take place. The Wessex Club used to always support this event many years back but for some reason I know not why, we were not asked to attend. The Fete is now run by a friend of mine and he asked if I could get a few engines along, he should have asked me a little sooner, I did not have a great deal of time, but in the end we did have a good display and people were interested in our engines and other exhibits. The weather was kind and a good time was had by all who attended, so to all who came along, Thank You all very much.

Next stop Yesterdays Farming, way down in Somersetshire, near the village of Drayton. I have not been to the show for very many years and I was not disappointed.

It was a wonderful rally with a lovely lot of friendly people and a huge number of exhibits, along with one of the largest display of fine engines I have seen in a long time, (I think the final count was 86 engines - Ed) not only that but who won the best restored engine?? I'll leave you to guess!! If you have not attended this event, I recommend that you give it a go, I am sure you will enjoy the show.

The last event in August was to Lilly's Cider Farm at West Woodlands Nr. Frome, The

Roger Pike Memorial Crank Up. More a mini rally than a crank up with not only stationary engines, but tractors, motorcycles, small car boot sale and mini steam exhibits. But I am sure that it was the thought of homemade cakes that attracted us all. It was a great day out and thanks must go to our Linda and all the willing helpers on the day and to those that came along to help set up on the Saturday, thank you all so very much.

Now Club night held a week early because of the Bank Holiday was a night to remember. Our friend John Dando from Glastonbury came along to give us an evening of entertainment, with a great talk on the history of carnivals and the great works that go into the carts/floats that carry the displays. John even brought along costumes that he had worn over the years. It was a lovely evening it is just a pity that more of our members do not come along and enjoy the evenings with us. Next month it will be me telling more tales of my life as an electrician apprentice. Not always a happy time but come along and I will reveal all!

By the time you read this newsletter our new event at Bradford on Avon will be over and done with we have a good entry right across the board and a first for us will be a demonstration of radio-controlled model tanks, to go along with engines, tractors, cars, commercials, motorcycles, Victorian bicycles, children's entertainment, beer tent and other attractions.

Our advertising for the event has been done by magazine adverts done by Ted, thank you for that, posters plastered around Bradford and a great deal of flyers distributed by my daughter, posting them through letter boxes around Bradford (a collection will be made on the weekend for her shoe leather!!) so all we want now is for the weather gods to smile on us. I do hope so as I write this before the event as I have lots still to do and time is going by very fast.

On Sunday 3rd September a long trip was planned all the way to The White Horse Country Park to join with the Lions Club of Westbury at their classic car show, they tell me that they had over 500 cars last year, it must have been close on that number again at Sunday's event.

The day was a great success and thanks must go to Ted for organising this event for the members of the club, there were some very nice engines on show with a few very rare engines to be found displayed.

It was a shame that I was told the Wessex could not stage its rally this year on the site due to development (holiday homes) but this has not taken place and now will not until 2025, so the Lions Club will run the event once again next year but will be looking for a new home after that.

Well, I think that will do for this month I am just off to B-o-A to litter the streets with posters.

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

WESTBURY AND TROWBRIDGE LIONS CLUB CLASSIC CAR RALLY 3rd Sept 2023

On a fresh and misty Sunday morning, my little boy and I loaded up to head over to the Lions Club vintage car gathering. The mist soon lifted to leave a very hot day, with a very busy show with lots of exhibits and around 20 engines on show. It was an enjoyable day. I took along my 1940's Lister A and 4 inch Lion water pump after some fuel issues both ran faultlessly all day long. With the day drawing to a close it was time to load up, after my lad helping to roll the ropes up and helping other club members load up, we made our way home. *Paul Butland*

CRANMORE BRING AND BUY SALE. SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER

8am until 4pm

Another chance to get rid of your old rubbish and buy some more!

Further details or questions – Call Eric 01225 754374

WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY RALLY

On the 5 - 6th of August 2023 the West Somerset Railway Association held their annual steam and vintage vehicle rally at Norton Fitzwarren near Taunton.

The weather on set up week was a little concerning with some persistent heavy rain. But fortunately, Friday came and the weather was kind apart from very strong winds on Saturday, where a few gazebos were lost.



Out of 63 stationary engines booked in we had 51 attend. Among the larger engines we had was a very interesting and well-presented 1931 Ruston Hornsby 5HR 22hp open crank diesel engine, mounted on a Bedford Green Goddess.

This year we also had a total of 3 full size and a model W.H. Pool & Son oil engine. These engines were built just a few miles away from the rally at Chipstable, near Wiveliscombe. Only 7 are known to survive into preservation. The fully working model made by Christopher Wilson is a work of art and runs so well.

As previously, the Saturday evening light up was well attended and causes a lot of interest with fellow exhibitors on the site. I had on display my C1905 Newtons of Taunton Open wound dynamo with period style slate switch board. We drove this from a Fordson standard tractor.



I'd like to thank all the Stationary engine exhibitors for making a brilliant display and look forward to seeing you all in 2024. *Adam Troake, WRSA Rally Engine Secretary*

CLUB EVENTS 2023

PROVISIONAL DATE – Thursday 28th December – **MINCE PIE CRANK-UP** at Whaddon Lane Farm – details TBC, please check back in future issues for confirmation.

Sept 25th 8pm, **Club Night**, Old Down Inn, Emborough – That Poor Apprentice – Eric Gay

October 7th **Cranmore Bring & Buy Sale** 8:00 am - 4:00 pm East Somerset Steam Railway,

Nr Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4QP

Another chance to get rid of your old rubbish and buy some more!

SOMERSET COUNTY SHOW – TAUNTON RACECOURSE 16-17

September

We had about 14 engines at this show on the Saturday, despite a poor weather forecast, many travelled some miles to attend, notable entries from Cornwall. Some decided it just wasn't worth the effort to turn out, which is completely understandable given the dire forecast.

We had a good day on the Saturday with pretty much no rain until the early evening, but it allowed us to run our exhibits and with a surprisingly good footfall past our displays, a good day was had.

The Sunday was a different story altogether, with weather warnings issued, it was clear the show wasn't going to go ahead on the second day. We enjoyed more than a few pints of cider well into the early hours and the more organised amongst us started to clear our stuff away during that evening. The forecasted thunderstorms and torrential rains arrived overnight and into Sunday morning, we just had to load our exhibits and get off the racecourse as quickly as we could before the roadways turned to slop. In the end, the show cancelled as it was quite clear it wasn't safe to carry on and everyone got out by 2pm or so.

All in all a great venue attended by a great bunch of enthusiasts but somewhat curtailed by the weather. We will be back next year! *David Lacey*

ROGER PIKE MEMORIAL RALLY 27th August

Many thanks to all who came and helped to set the rally up and to those who exhibitors who came along on the Sunday. Thankfully the day dawned dry and hazy, with only a few

spots of rain later in the day, we had 16 engines on display with the addition of a miniature steam engine. Which gave rides around the site all day long.



There was a home-made cake stall and Pallette and Pasture brought along their lovely ice cream from their farm in Trudoxhill. Four car boot sales were in attendance, together with 4 gazebos with activities for children. I mustn't forget the two tractors and the motorcycle for attending too. Thank you all for attending and supporting Dorothy House. The total collected was £136. The people I must thank are Chris Lilley for the excellent venue, the staff in the shop, who stepped in and saved the day when the catering unit booked failed to arrive (sound familiar??) The shop and café came to our aid, providing snacks, tea and coffee all day long – and of course, some cider!! One of the staff suggested I contact The Lighthouse Café at Tytherington for some breakfast rolls – which all came to fruition and some 15 rolls arrived on site thanks to one of the café staff kindly collecting them.

After a secret public vote, the winner of the Roger Pike Memorial Cup went to Adrian Grant from Frome. Thank you all for supporting me and the hospice at this event. *Linda Pike*

FOR SALE 650cc twin cylinder AJS CSR Motorcycle in first class original condition £5000, (never been messed about with) Want to recapture your mis-spent youth....? Then give Brian a call on 07786 585 624.

WANTED small butter churn - can you help, if so please ring Eric on 01225 754374.

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