



Issue No: 1/16

# CRANKING

44 Years of Publication



January 2024

## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Now I hope everyone had a good Christmas and may 2024 be a good year to us all. Now my new year has so far not been good; I should not have gone to Gordons Crank up at Whaddon Lane.....just a few days after I went down with the mother of all colds and coughs and I am still suffering and it seems I am not the only one, it seems Ted has been struck down as well.

The crank up at Gordons was a great success with some 26 engines on show (Is this a record for Whaddon?) It was a cold but very enjoyable day meeting up with friends I had not seen for a while, also seeing some quite rare engines, so to all that came along may I say thank you all for making this such a nice event and helping to raise a good sum for Alzheimers support.

Well as many of you will know the Club now has a new online club membership renewal system, I have had a large number of phone calls from members worried over this, but have no fear as if you have no access to modern technology as I do not, a renewal form should be with this newsletter so just return that with your remittance to our Caroline and all will be well.

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

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to those who have renewed membership and a warm welcome to those who have recently joined the Club, we hope you enjoy your stay with us. Hopefully you've found the new membership system has been relatively easy to use, far better and more intuitive than the old one. Those yet to renew, please bear in mind your insurance cover will have expired on 31/21/23 and this will be your last newsletter. *Membership Secretary*

Whilst our new easy online enrolment system has been a great success I would like to point out that there is absolutely no compulsion to use it. Caroline is still processing membership applications on paper and applications forms are freely available, not least because Eric and I take some to every event we attend (including Club evening meetings).

We are including one with this issue and others can be obtained from me or Caroline or me on request. *Ted Edwards*

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LTD

will be held at the Old Down Inn, Emborough BA3 4SA on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm. All members are invited and encouraged to attend but postal voting forms will be sent out shortly for those unable to vote in person. There are vacancies on the committee for anyone willing to help shape the future of the club, anyone wishing to be included on the list of candidates should contact me as soon as possible although nominations can be taken from the floor on the night. *Ted Edwards, Hon Sec.*

### NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM & 'CRANKING' BY EMAIL

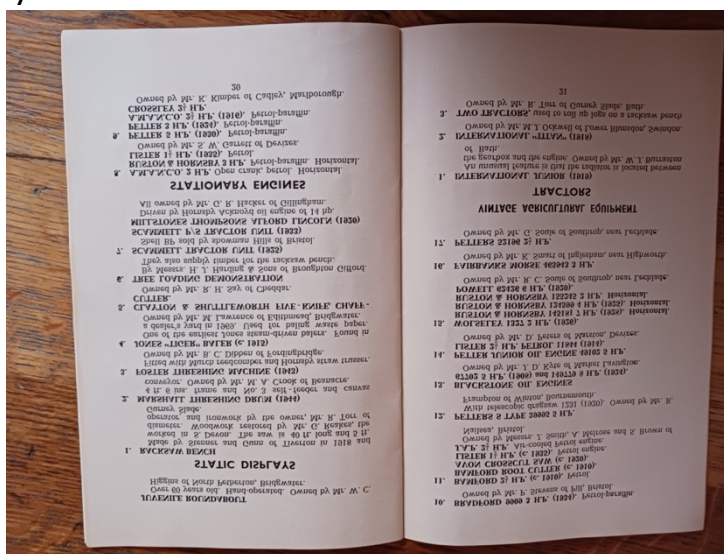
Some of you might recall during joining the Club or upon renewal, there is a small checkbox

"Do you want a paper copy of the newsletter?" – this is fine, but the paper Newsletter will more often than not arrive 10-15 days later (depending upon the postal service in our areas....) so if you'd prefer to receive it via email, help save the rainforests and read it sooner, then please just drop me an email, call/text me with a valid email address and I'll do the rest. All my contact info is at the foot of this edition, as usual. *Editor*

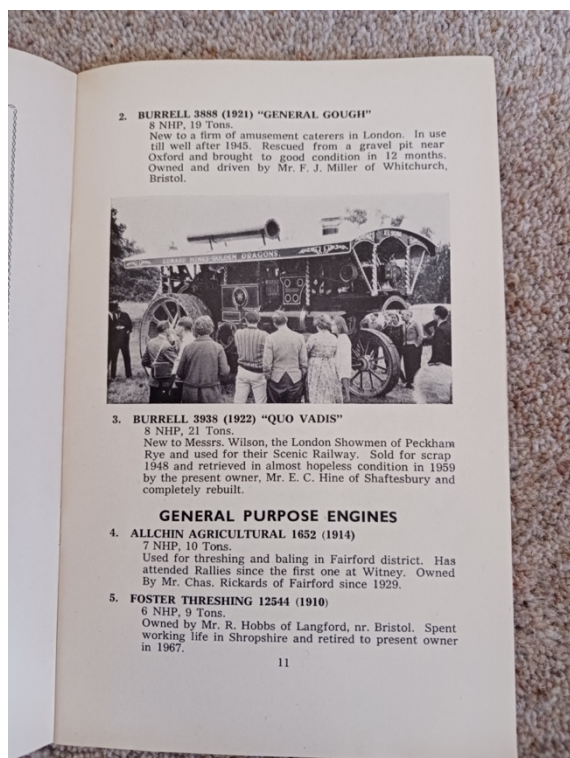
## SEEND FAIR FROM YESTERYEAR - 1971



A little time ago I was lent a programme from the Seend Traction engine Rally held July 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 1971. Fifty two years ago, I remember going to one of the early ones with my father but I cannot recall in what year that would have been. Looking at the programme it was a very well supported event with 22 stationary engines ranging from Amancos, Petters, Ruston & Hornsby, four in all and all horizontal - the earliest a 1925 model, Lister, Powell, Crossley, Blackstone, Wolseley and JAP engines, they were all there.



Now one of our late members Mr Ron Torr was in attendance with a 40ft long Stenner & Gumm rack saw, a Marshall and a Foster threshing drums, a Jones Tiger Baler and many more working displays, one that stands out being a tree loading demonstration by H. J. Harding & Sons of Broughton Gifford, a well-known firm in the Melksham/Trowbridge area.



Traction engines...well with over twenty on site it must have been one of the best early steam events in the area, Fowler 20223 Supreme built in 1934, Burrell 3888 1921 General Gough, this engine was rescued from a gravel pit near Oxford and then returned to steam and in full working order in around a year. Another great engine that came to Seend was Burrell 3938 "Quo Vadis" of 1922 it then belonged if my memory serves me right to Mr. Hines of Shaftesbury, now being owned by Robert Coles again of Shaftesbury, (would it not be great to see that engine at Southwick in 2024?) we will see what we can do. There were many more but I will not bore you all with a full list and anyway I'd run out of ink in the printer! I will just mention the wonderful old adverts in the programme; firms I remember from the area, sadly many now gone and forgotten by many. I hope the photographs taken from the old programme will be of interest to you. *Eric Gay*



## SSAPC CRANK-UP – Taunton, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

A few hardy Club members made their way on a very cold and frosty Saturday morning in December to the South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Club's Crank-Up/Vintage meet at the Queens Arms pub at Stoke St Mary, just outside of Taunton.

This is always a well-attended end of season event, despite the very cold weather, a decent show of exhibitors arrived by 9.30am with all engines running by 10am.



Engines varied from a small completely functional model gas engine displayed by the ever-talented Chris Wilson, my Ruston 2VTO trailer-mounted generating set, Nigel Scorse's beautiful Aeromotor with that lovely fluted cooling hopper, Sam Westlake's Spec 10 Lister D and Neil Cuthbert with his small Ruston engines. Anthony & Heidi Andrews displayed their lovely Hercules 1 3/4hp S engine driving a 3" Compactum pump.

The warm bar area inside the pub became a favourite spot for some when they got too cold, the hot food they served was spot on too and warmed us up somewhat.

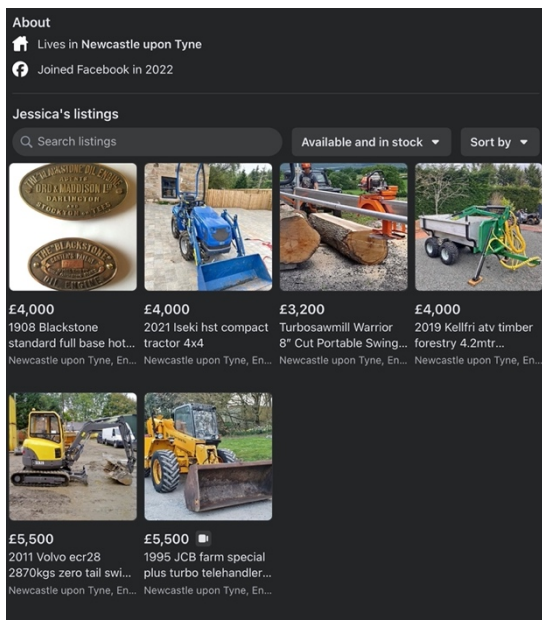
By 2.30pm we began to pack up, with some attendees travelling from some 80-100 miles to the event and wanting to get home in the relative daylight. *David Lacey*

### FACEBOOK MARKETPLACE SCAM ADVERTS

If you're a member of Facebook, you'll no doubt look through various Marketplace adverts from time to time. It offers no buyer protection whatsoever compared to eBay should anything go wrong. Fraudsters and other undesirables take maximum advantage of this, often stealing photos of recent for sale items, advertising them at often stupidly low prices to tempt a buyer, then insisting on a bank transfer to either buy or secure the item, then they block you and disappear.

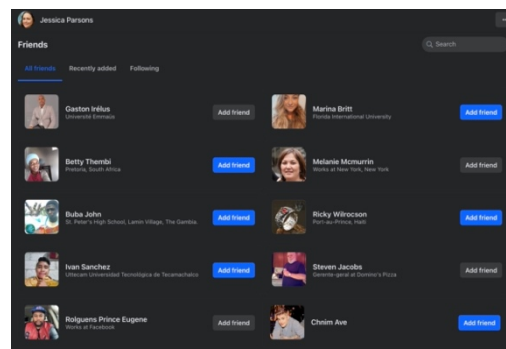
There was a prime example of this on our Facebook group recently – a member shared what looked like to be a nicely presented 5hp Blackstone engine – to most people it looked a very reasonably priced engine, but to others the alarm bells started ringing. It was far, far too cheap to start with – at £4000 it was half or thereabouts of what it should be.





To the untrained eye it would be easy to be sucked in with their attractively priced engine – but as soon as that holding or even full payment is sent, you'd be blocked by the 'seller' with no way of finding them again and zero chance of locating them in person.

Looking through their profile, their 'Other Items' listed are high value desirable items, again, priced stupidly low, again to tempt that online buyer.



Also, another giveaway would be the odd-looking friends list – mainly made up of a few foreign 'odd-bods'.

So.....it's buyer beware! And if it looks too good to be true, it usually is.....remember that and you won't usually go too far wrong. Sadly, no amount of reporting these scammers/fake accounts to Facebook seems to have any effect either. *K. Parsons*

## CAPTION COMPETITION



I thought this brilliant picture taken by Club member Heidi Andrews epitomised what our hobby is all about – meeting up with liked-minded souls, chatting about all manner of things over a cigarette with an engine running beside us. Photo taken at the recent SSAPC Crank Up near Taunton in freezing temperatures.

Anyone witty enough to come up with a caption for this photo? Let me know! *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

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**