



CRANKING

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

August 2015
37 years of publication!

MUST SEE

www.wessexsec.org
NEW!!! With forms,
photos, info, latest
stuff. Archive.

From the Sump!

And so we move through the drouthy days of middle August and look at the dwindling number of events there are to attend. I'll tell you a thing – don't put off till tomorrow what you might do today. Aside from the cheery thought that you might enjoy it and can then do it again tomorrow;-) the life of a man is made up of many, many tomorrows. But there comes a time when the tomorrows you have left are startlingly few. Then you run about like a headless chicken trying to get the most important things done whilst the dusty figure in the corner of your eyeline taps his foot and looks at his hour glass.

Got a mate you fell out with? Go and see him and cheer both of you up! Got an engine you've been meaning to do up? Get on with it whilst you can still crank the heavy great thing into life.

They say life is short. It may be shorter than you think!

Obituary

By Herb Gane

Alan Sweet, 1924-2015

Alan was an early member of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club. He died on 18th July and his funeral took place at the Mendip Crematorium on 3rd August.

One of Alan's jobs in his younger days was a dragline operators on the rivers in Somerset. (No serious flooding in those days). Later he moved to work for Somerset County Council as a JCB driver.

By this time, Alan and his family had moved to Pilton. He was a jovial character who liked gardening and he kept his family well supplied with fresh produce.

Alan had a number of stationary engines which were frequently heard running by his neighbours in Pilton at some time or another.

Older members of the club will remember him not only for his engines but for his "Stop me and buy one" ice cream seller's bicycle and his well restored Austin 16 car.

He spent his last years in the Taunton area – Our sympathy goes to his family at this sad time.

Moving the Metal For sale

Hercules 1.5hp. Hit & miss. Nice engine on rough small wheeled trolley. £950

Detroit 1.5hp. On trolley. Turns over but I've never had it running. £300.

Petter 1.5hp "Rugby ball". On trolley, runs, ready to show £550

Hartop. Believed 1.5hp. Not on trolley, no water tank. New exhaust goes with it but not fitted £300 ono

Stuart Turner with waterpump. On a trolley with wooden box for battery and coil. Ready to show. £300 ono
Arthur Watts, Andover. Phone 01264 350630

Trailer, flat bed, size 8'6" x 4'6" with hand winch. 2 mini wheels, no brakes but two more indespension units can be fitted. Condition, not bad but floor boards need some TLC, ideal for mounting an engine. Two spare wheels. £180, Will Haggle.

Alan Rogers, Calne. 01249 813 890

Clarke Water Pump (electric) Model HSEC 400A. £100

Go-Kart (Dale Cadet) fitted with Aspera engine £100

R.M.A. Roller Corn Mill –£75

Honda Generator (5 hp) 2.5 with 23 Oac/ 11 Odc outlet £100
Grandchildren have 'grown out' of the interest

Thanking you in anticipation. phone Gerry Brice 01761 241713

Lister D, on a trolley £150. **Wolseley WD11**, on a trolley. £150.

Lister A, on a trolley. £200. **Godwin pump**, £100. **Lister H1**, £100. Phone Phil Roberts 01749 840093.

Troy AGR Utilities Ltd. Single plough and set of cultivators.

Large cast iron wheels. Engine turns over, open gear box.

£150. ONO Phone Richard Cowell, 01747 824102 (Dorset)

Believed **Ruston Hornsby** trolley. Four good wheels, axles and steering head but wood U/S! £80.00 ONO

Lister L bottom end, more or less complete timing gears etc £70 ONO. Set of trolley wheels - offers

Bosch flick mag, appears in good order £60

(*Bob Alexander, below*)

Petter 5hp M type. Built 1915 this is a very early model and is the only one known that has the words War Finish on base tank. Dismantled. Would make a very rare exhibit. Magneto checked serviced I am open to offers £250 for this very rare old engine. **Phone Eric Gay 01225 754374**

WANTED

Clinton 900 Longlife engine, condition immaterial, for Merry Tiller, Professional model. Any lurking under the bench? **Alan Rogers, 01249 813 890**

Lister L type, fixed head. Magneto drive chain cover. A water pump suitable for circulating water across the screen cooler. thanks to all those who have helped so far! 01225 766211.

Phone Bob Alexander

Articles, cartoons, photos etc are always very welcome – this is not a one-man band, but an expression of all our thoughts and experience. Submissions should be preferably typed or word-processed or even handwritten, (**if brief**), - it is the content we're after, not the grammar or spelling, so please don't feel your efforts will be ignored. The editor reserves the right to change, edit, augment or lessen your Deathless Prose and asks all to note that opinions expressed in this newsletter may or may not represent club policy

Featured Engineer Number 13
William Friese Greene (1855-1921)

British photographer, experimenter

By Peter Domankiewicz / Stephen Herbert



An inscription on the monument to Friese Greene in Highgate Cemetery calls him 'The Inventor of Kinematography' and it is possibly this posthumous compliment that has caused his achievements to be first glorified then damned. He was the subject of a romantic

and unreliable biography, *Friese-Greene, Close-Up of an Inventor* which was then turned into an even more misleading film *The Magic Box* (1951). He was born William Edward Green, the son of a Bristol metalworker. He changed his name when he married Helena Friese in 1874. Leaving school at 14 he was apprenticed to a local photographer, Maurice Guttenberg, and proved a fast learner with a special knack for portrait work. Within a few years they had parted company and Friese Greene had set up his own studio in Bath. He was very successful, so much so that by 1877 he also had two shops in Bristol and one in Plymouth. There is a blue oval heritage plaque on the wall of his premises in Queens Road in Bristol. It is easy to miss it as it is on the first floor. It's half way down with the Victoria Rooms behind you.

Around 1880 he met J.A.R. Rudge, a Bath instrument maker who had devised some novel adaptations of the magic lantern to create an illusion of movement. Friese Greene was fascinated by the idea and worked with Rudge, producing photographs, suggesting improvements and later demonstrating the lanterns at photographic societies and elsewhere. In 1885 he moved to London, opening two shops in partnership with Esme Collings. Once again, Friese Greene's photographic talents proved both popular and fashionable - a number of other London shops were added over the next few years.

In 1889 Friese Greene and civil engineer Mortimer Evans designed a sequence camera using 'a roll of any convenient length of sensitised paper or the like', capable of taking four or five pictures a second. Brian Coe has suggested that these were to be printed up as lantern slides for the double-lantern projector. There is no record of a successful film projection at this time; the claimed demonstration at the Chester Photographic Convention in 1890 was a failure. That same year Friese Greene used a stereoscopic sequence camera made by Frederick Varley, but once again there is no record of successful projection.

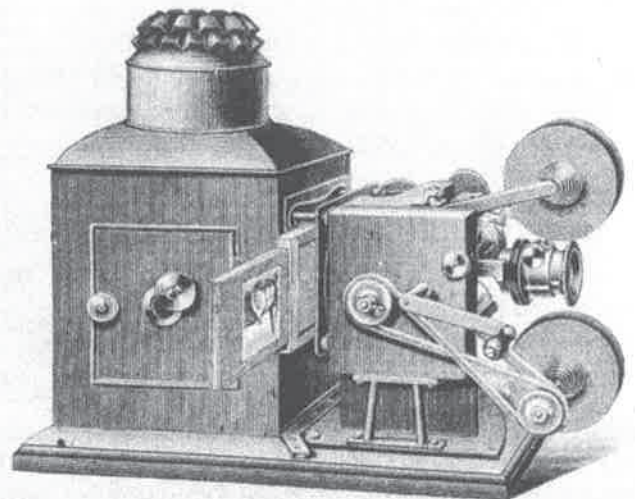
In 1891 he was made bankrupt, an event which led to the sale of almost all his equipment and considerable social disgrace. Various patents followed over the next ten years. In 1893, he patented a camera/projector almost identical to

Varley's stereoscopic model, but by this time E-J. Marey and Le Prince had both achieved success in recording sequences of images at rates in excess of those that any of these cameras were capable of.

By the time projected motion picture films had achieved any commercial application, Friese Greene had abandoned the field. When the first films were being shown in Britain, he was demonstrating X-Rays. In 1896, Friese Greene teamed up with John Alfred Prestwich to make a camera and twin-lens projector, intended to eradicate flicker. 1898 was the beginning of his obsession with colour photography, albeit with a rather impractical patent for stills. In 1905, now operating in the Brighton area and working for a time with the experimenter W.N.L. Davidson, he took out a patent for colour moving pictures which pre-dated G.A. Smith and he later challenged Charles Urban in court over the Urban/Smith Kinemacolor process.

He continued to develop colour processes throughout the rest of his life, with his son Claude carrying on his work and becoming a leading colour cinematographer. Aside from moving pictures, Friese Greene was a prolific inventor, who took out over seventy patents. Some were impractical, some were workable but before their time (for example, phototypesetting), whilst others were commercially exploited (for example, rapid photographic printing for cigarette cards, reproducing photographs in magazines).

The cost of his obsessive inventing and the chaotic handling of his business affairs led him into imprisonment, a further bankruptcy and separation from his second wife. Nonetheless, he had periods of wealth and success, and throughout it all appeared to remain optimistic about the future. His death at a film industry meeting in 1921 sparked a pang of guilt in an industry that had outgrown and largely abandoned those who had seen its birth, and attempted amends with his tombstone inscription and a lavish funeral wreath - a floral projector and screen with blooms spelling out 'The End'.



Alfred Wrench Kinamatograph, 1898.
 It had several advanced features.

Calendar of Events

key. CN = Club Night. E = Event

Sept 28th CN. **Hawker Hunter Fighters** - Grp Cpt John Heron

Oct 10th. **Vintage, Bygone & Antique Sale** - East Somerset Steam Railway, Cranmore, BA4 4QP

Oct 18th **E. Robert's Open Day. 11-4.** Stationary Engines, Tractors, Motorcycles. Visiting exhibits. Museum and Displays. Manor Farm, Sevenhampton. GL54 5SW. Phone 01242 820408.

Oct 26th CN. **My Life In The Fire Service** - John Bullock

Nov 7th. E. (Sat) **Autumn Sale.** Oakley Airfield. HP18 9JX. info: Mrs. Anne Harris 01367 810415

Nov 30th CN. **Lights At The Court Hotel** - Bring an engine driving dynamo or genny in the afternoon and then model show in the evening with silver soldering demonstration & supper

Dec **Christmas Party** - Court Hotel (Date To Be Announced)

Dec 27th **No Christmas Crank Up**

All the above dates are subject to alteration and changes will be announced in the newsletter.

Engines Required!

Derrick Hardwick's Open Day, Sat 5th Sept.

The theme this year is Crossley. Please contact Derrick first as space is limited. Phone 01454 228781 or by email derrickhardwick@nxnet.co.uk

White Horse Model Engineering and Garden Railway on show. Sunday 13th Sept. Please bring an engine – or other mechanical exhibit – to the venue on the Trowbridge side of Westbury at the old cement factory. White Horse Country Park, Coach Road, Westbury, Wilts BA13 4LX

Robert's Open Day. Sunday 18th October. Details above. An event not to be missed! It is based at a working farm with many traditional events taking place. In the past there have been heavy horses working, tractors, vintage vehicle and much more. Chip van catering! If you've not been before, I thoroughly recommend this event with dozens of engines in store, running in the field and the occasional giant to surprise us.

Social News

By Robin Lambert

27 July. Last night's crank up would have gone very well with around two dozen members turning up - but the rain came in sideways and ruined the evening (I am sure Eric will give you a full report) The big buzz was that the Court Hotel is being sold and will revert back to a Manor House which it was originally many years ago. So we will need to find a new meeting place,

Just got a phone call from Adrian Grant's Wife to say Adrian had a heart attack the day after our Crank up at the Court Hotel and ended up at Bristol's Royal Infirmary. It was a real shock, he looked his usual self at the Court, full of chat and was getting damp like the rest of us. He was due back home on the following Monday and is home now. We wish you well Ade and get yourself up and running again.

I thought our club members may be interested in a locally produced book called **Quarry Faces** (The Story of Mendip Stone). With a large percentage of our members living on or close to the Mendip Hills, this book is a must for local history lovers. With over 300 pages and several hundred photos that were contributed by over 120 people. The author Robin Thornes has covered the entire Mendip quarrying industry from Weston Super Mare to Frome. The period covered is from the mid 1800s to the present day. Many photos show not only the quarries but

also staff, machinery, road and rail transport, suction gas engines and producers. Most importantly, it highlights the hard graft and working environments endured by all those involved in this industry.

The Book is priced at about £20 and can be obtained from Hunting Raven Book Shop, Cheap Stree, Frome. Tel 01373 473111 ISBN 978-0-9517772-3-7.

Chairman's Report

We had a very good evening on 27th July at the crank up at the Court. Around twelve engines were on show and a good turn out of club member's that came along to view the proceedings. It was good to see John Paget back with us, I think John still needs a new knee fitted.

The rain did its best to spoil the evening but we fought it, had our bread and cheese supper, held the raffle as quickly as possible as now the rain came on quite hard and we were all getting wet! We had a good evening and may I thank all that came along and gave their support I hope you enjoyed the cheese and onion rolls.

I fear that this will be the last crank up at the Court Hotel, as at our committee meeting on the 11th of August, Sue our host at the Court Hotel took me to one side and told me that the Hotel is to be sold and the prospective purchasers have engaged solicitors. We do not have to leave right away but I fear it will not be long so we need a new home.

Now we need your help to help us find a room in a pub where we can meet. If there is anywhere close to you that hires out a room of an evening, just let me know and I'll chase it up.

The Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show sub committee has lost two very valued members and stewards. Karen, our car & military steward has resigned, partly due to work commitments and health issues along with other matters concerning the club. Karen was a very valued member of the team and her hard work and dedication will be greatly missed and I am very sorry to lose her. She continues as Club Treasurer.

We have also lost Geoff, our long standing commercial steward due to again health reasons. Geoff was there from the start and I will miss him a great deal, a valued member and a great help not only to me but to the whole committee. Both of these hard working members will be hard to replace. I know that there must be two people in our club that will be willing to join us in running the club's main event remember this is the club's main source of income and without the Rally we would have a hard job in making ends meet. Please don't just leave it to someone else come and join us. It's not that arduous, it just means putting entry forms in envelopes & posting them along with attending about six meetings per year, so why not give me a call on 01225 754374.

Neill, our Vice Chairman, has resigned his post because of work commitments. He now works at Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, a very long journey and this means leaving at around six in the mornings and not getting back in Trowbridge 'till quite late. I hope he may

be able to rejoin the committee at some time in the future. Please contact me if you are able to take up this post.

Our **Christmas Party** will take place on Monday the 7th of December 2015 at the Old Down Inn, Chilcompton, 7 o'clock onwards with music and a buffet supper. Now I will need to know how many of you nice people would like to come along----SO please give me a call as soon as possible. I know that December is still quite a way away but time seems to fly by or is it me getting older? Anyway give it some thought and while your at it, you can all get together and decide what you are going to get my for a Christmas present!

Now I got an invite about three weeks ago "would you like to attend the Wessex Country Show at Wilton House near Salisbury, Oh can you also get us some stationary engines." Nothing like leaving it till the last minute, but I made a number of phone calls and once again the Wessex club came up with the goods, thank you all for coming along it was well worth the effort. It was really a great show, cars, tractors, full size and miniature traction engines, a working section with threshing and wood sawing, along with birds of prey and a display of Spanish Horses. All this and a wonderful array of trade stalls, I for one god willing will be back again next year.

Now it is not often that I manage to get a holiday, I have a very dear friend living in Brixham in Devon, and for many years he and his wife have asked us to go down and spend a week with them.

Well, we did have a wonderful time we had we even went whortelberry picking, (you ask and I will tee Eee all about it). We also visited the Tor Bay Steam Rally. Well, I can only say that our Midsummer Show knocks spots of Torbay. They did have a good turn out of steam, but the rest left a lot to be desired

Now the committee is always working for you the club members and we have got some new events planed for 2016, we have been offered a venue at Wedmore for a one day show, this will be arranged and we let you all know the date in due course, Westbury, The White Horse Country Park, this event staged for the first time this year will take place again in April 2016. We just ran out of time to get the event at Gillingham up and running but we will do our best to have this arranged for 2016, The dates for Semington in 2016 will be the 18/19th June.

Well I hope I have covered everything - that's all till next month and I very much hope I can give you better news.

The John Brooks Memorial Crank up

By Eric Gay

The day dawned bright and sunny and we left Trowbridge at about 8 o'clock heading for deepest darkest Somersetshire. I want to thank those member's that came along Piltown Farm, at West Pennard. on Sunday 7th June It was a most enjoyable day out. A special thank you to Paul who worked non-stop to make sure everyone was having a good time.

When we arrived, there were vintage tractors nearly as far as the eye could see, Moline, John Dere, Ford, Case, even a British Anzani Fordson Major Iron Horse I believe? There were engines every where from Pettev, Lister, Ruston, just to mention a few. Then the old

blacksmith's shop project, the farrier's work shop, and the vintage cider press, apple mill, old juice pump and the rail trolley to move the pulped apples to the press, All this is just a small part of Paul Chant's vintage collection.

You would have a hard job to find this very old and still usable equipment on any other farm in Somersetshire along with a great many more artefacts that would be of interest to not only us male members but the ladies as well - the herb garden, horses, with bits and bobs all around the lovely old farm house.

Also laid on for your enjoyment, bread rolls, cheese, cider, pickled onions and pickle - we even brought our very fast water boiling stove for those wanting tea or coffee. This all laid on for the club members - and all free.

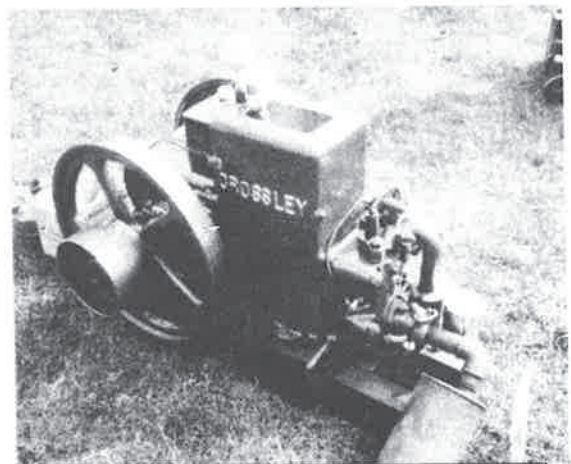
We had a very enjoyable time at Piltown Farm,

But it isn't always so as I've said before. I wonder why the committee works hard and puts in hours of work, on behalf of members to arrange events of this sort just to have six engines turn up. It does not give one any encouragement to carry on arranging events when we get so little support The crank up at the Court Hotel in July 2014, no one attended with an engine, The mince pie crank up at the Court Hotel, two people only brought an engine and we had laid on food,

The committee was going to arrange another crank up in Gillingham towards the end of the year, a drive yourself day at John Gould's works again at the year's end, but this now will be debated in committee. I have tried to enliven the Club with new events, activities, and interesting evening meetings - last month we had a very interesting talk and film presentation attended by fourteen members. Why not join us? Other people do.

I have now two new committee members that have joined us, hoping that they will be able to come up with new ideals and maybe new events. We have a volunteer to design and print a club leaflet. This will give details of the club's history, events, our rally at Semington and our sale at Cranmore. It will be distributed throughout Wiltshire and the surrounding counties. Your committee is not letting the grass grow under its feet, all we ask in return is your support,

The committee is preparing a questionnaire . All our club members are included, so please do find a stamp and reply with everyone else. Your voice counts and its your opinion we are after.



Crossley 1075