



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

From The Editor

Well here we are, at the end of another year which does not seem possible. Time flying and the fact that all the policeman I meet seem like they should still only be driving a pedal car is a true sign of age creeping on. But then much like the glorious, unpredictable British weather we can't change it and so as part of my New years resolution will instead embrace it. I hope that whatever this year has brought you the good, the bad and the ugly you can cherish the gift of life and I wish you and yours a very Happy Silly Season - in the words of my favourite comedian 'Goodnight, thank you and may your God go with you.'

Karen

Out and About with Robin and Jackie

On **19th/20th & 21st August** we eventually caught up with our old friends at the **Cornish Steam and County Fair at Stithians Showground** midway between Truro and Redruth, always a nice venue is this as you can pull into here a week before the event, get set up and have a few days enjoying the delights of Cornwall. Unfortunately for the three Show days the weather was not too kind as gale force winds struck most of the UK causing a lot of havoc and even several lives were lost around our coast line. We were in a rather sheltered position at the lower end of this huge site and neatly tucked in under a tall hedge giving us a lot of protection, whilst some at the higher end of the site had their awnings collapse and rain penetrated their vehicles. We did see Mike Kennings who moved to Cornwall some years ago, he looked very well and asked to be remembered to all in our Club. Chatting to an event Marshall on the last day of the show I asked if the weather affected attendance figures and he felt it did a bit so lets hope they covered the cost of putting their Show on. Cornish Club member Kerwin Harris came to the aid of our fellow exhibitor David Hallet when his magneto failed and with a repair done at Kerwins overnight, was returned next day in good working order.

Whilst at the West Bay Rally earlier in the year we were asked if we would like to bring our Hot Air Engine Display to the **Melplash Show on Thursday 25th August**. This we duly did as it was almost on our way back home from the Cornwall rally the previous weekend and you could pull in on the Monday prior to the event. I could not believe the magnitude of this Show as it took up five fields to fit everything in. At £ 16.00 per adult visitor entry charge there had to be value for money for what was on offer and there certainly was as the thousand of visitors proved. The gigantic food hall here was a 12 pole Marquee which is a very large tent indeed and offered mouth-watering foods from around the world, not just to be eaten on the day but a lot was packed for taking back home. I had to smile at the Stallholder selling his huge mountain of homemade pork pies as he really was a big chap and you could imagine him trying one from each tray as he removed them from the oven! There were lots of Trade exhibits here, lots and lots of Craft and of course Market Traders that we are all used to seeing around the events we all attend. Animals of all descriptions were penned up, all neatly groomed for judging. Ring events continually took place all day long including a chap that could leap over a parked lorry not on a motorcycle but on a quad bike. He even managed to grab two t-shirts hanging on a line at his highest point, some feat this was which drew rapturous applause. In a second ring all sorts of animals performed including dogs, ponies, geese and I think my favourite was a chap riding a performing horse whilst carrying different birds of prey on his arm and he could even get one to fly under his horse! Our stay here was most enjoyable and we hope we will be invited back again next year.

Continued ...

Out and About with Robin and Jackie, continued

Sunday 28th August took us over to **Wallop**, as Eric mentioned in October . A nice friendly one day event, with a huge Car Boot sale running in conjunction with the Vintage event and well supported in all categories.

August Bank Holiday Monday we were at **Corsley Show**, mid way between Frome and Warminster. We haven't been there for 20 years owing to having been placed near to the rear of the Goat tent and no one knew the half a dozen engines were there ! So having been reassured this would not happen again we had another bash at exhibiting here and joined up with the Classic Car line up including Liz and Arthur with their superb Ford Mustang. My prize purchase from the stall section was a giant lardy cake, we haven't had one for years it was great and when cut into slices made around 10 pieces and lasted us a week. The chap and his horse and birds of prey we saw at Bridport was here and towards the end of his turn in the ring he seemed to fail to get one of his birds back as it headed in the Longleat direction, but after about half an hour it made an appearance and returned, I am sure much to his relief.

10th & 11th September we made probably one of our longest journeys to **Barley Lands** ,also known as the **Essex Country Show**. Situated just outside Billericay, this purpose built site attracts visitors all year round, as on the northern end of this huge site is a Craft Village with some 60 odd outlets including restaurants with fair priced menus. You would think that with all these outlets it would discourage Crafts on the field but no as there were no less than 3 huge tents allocated to Crafts and they were all full with their wares. We have been exhibiting here for a few years now and made some new rally mates who are a nice friendly bunch and they even arranged for us to have a free electric hook up for our stay here. We moved on again the Monday morning , heading on up into Suffolk to spend a few days with our family who we don't see too often. Its almost a 500 mile round trip and midway through our visit we like to nip over to Needham Market on the Wednesday morning, as this is one of the largest Car Boots I have been to, over 150 stalls including catering vans all the facilities you could want.

Thursday we were on the move again to **Henham Park (17th & 18th Sept)**, always a nice event as this is on an estate that would be comparable to our own Longleat and close to a pretty seaside town called Southweld which is well worth a visit on the Friday which is a leisure day and only 3 miles to travel. An interesting attraction here is on the pier, where a water powered clock all made out of tin works, where some large tin figures form part of the display and just before it strikes on the hour a crowd gathers all around with cameras, all set to take a photo of the tin man's trousers slowly being lowered as the clock strikes !! Well it is a bit different so back to our reason for being in this area the Rally. It is well supported with lots to see apart from from the vintage sides of things. I do enjoy a group of wandering percussionists, around 15 in all, drumming away with some fantastic rhythms, all controlled by a chap with a whistle for when the beat changes for the benefit of the deaf Choir , some who may have difficulty talking but their singing is great. Blessed with two days of fine weather it was time to head back on the Monday morning, 260 miles but quite an easy drive as most of the way is A12, M25, A303 and the only hold up was at Stonehenge.

Sunday 25th September was the **Heavy Horse Show** on the Shaftesbury/Gillingham Show Ground. Around a dozen stationary engines were on display around the ring , with half from our Club. Lots of vintage cars and bus' on display all doing their turn around the ring and given a commentary about their exhibit. Most of the stalls here are what I would call Horsey ones (well they would have to be wouldn't they at a Horse event !), but lots of interesting stuff to look at and browse over and the parade of shires all fitted up with plumes and brasses looked magnificent walking around the ring as they were being judged. What the judges were looking for I wouldn't know but they all deserved a prize. Organiser Mike Horler came around mid afternoon and thanked us all for supporting the event, (Club members will remember Mike from his excellent talks he has done for us on past club nights).

So for us it was the end of another year doing what we enjoy, seeing our old friends and educating the visiting public as to what our hobby is all about. Happy New Year to All !

Chairman's Report - November 2017

I had spent a lot of the day of the 31st October sharpening up the little grey cells and a lot of good that did, it was Club night and our Anne was about to test us all on how knowledgeable we are with her easy quiz. Well that's what she told me " it's not as difficult as the last one". Well it just goes to show that I should have taken more interest in school, spent more time reading books that educated and not as much time spent playing with old metal. It just goes to prove how little I know, 39 questions right out of 90, not a good effort but not as bad as some.. However in my defence I will add I do not know anything about sport I just ain't interested ! But to Anne we owe a huge thank you, it must have taken a great deal of time to set out all the questions for our Quiz evening at the Old Down Inn , so thank you so very much for all your hard work Anne.

Now I have been sat in my office (that's a posh word for the spare bedroom), for the last few hours putting the finishing touches to the programme of events for 2017, you will find a few new events for 2017, and a full list of evening events at the Old Down Inn, Maxine has welcomed us back and it has been very encouraging to have most meetings well attended , so thank you one and all for coming along to the meetings we put on.

The Club could do with attracting new members, to this end in the near future we will be producing a pamphlet to advertise the Club, what we do and what we can offer to new members.

Now I am due for a hip replacement in the near future so I may be out of commission for a time, the Christmas Party is not far away so if you want to join in the fun and be part of it **YOU HAD BETTER RING ME P.D.Q.** If you have never been before come along, with music, very good food, and good company and all this for free so come and join in. Remember its your club and we arrange this for you the Club member so I hope to see **YOU** on the evening of Friday December 16th from 7 o'clock onwards.

The entry forms for the rally in 2017 are now printed and will be sent with the January newsletter, fill it in and lets make the Rally in 2017 the best yet. Dig out that pride and joy and give it a polish. The more the merrier , exhibits of all types are very appreciated and the organising Committee will make you very welcome.

Well that's about it for this month all that is left to be said is that I wish each and every one of you a very very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year .

Eric Gay - Chairman

Social News

On Thursday 29th September the memorial service was held at All Saints Church , Westbury for David Edgington. It was a wonderful reflection and a look back in time at all the things David had achieved during his lifetime, not just the Stationary engine connection but the jobs he had held, places he worked and the friends and colleagues he had made over his lifetime.

During the church service four tributes were made by his friends informing the congregation of many things we never knew, as David was a very private man. After the Ceremony well over one hundred people went back to the White Horse Country Park where a lovely buffet lunch had been laid on and it was nice to see old friends and acquaintances from many years ago, in my case as long as 30 years. Of course our thoughts were with Doreen on this day and it must have at times been overwhelming for her as she moved around the room chatting to all whom attended.

Club Members often ask me how Diana and Tony Davis are , well Jackie and I popped round to see them and they are both fine. Tony's mobility is a little impaired but I am sure he can still chase Di around if he puts his mind to it !

Robin Lambert

Membership Renewals

These will be due soon, forms coming out in January the price is the same but **please note an SAE is required** for the return of your insurance card.

SALES AND WANTED

4 Ply motor home cover, new fits all up to 6m long £ 50.00
 Wheel Clamp £ 10.00
 Tank Crew No 2 cooker, Dixie and strap £ 100.00 (as issued to all AFV crews 1950-1980's)
 All Above Contact Peter Stacey 01373 472328

Branford EG3 Full Running Order £ 200.00 ONO
 2 X Lister D 1.5hp £ 100.00 each ONO
 All above ring Matthew (evenings only) on 01747 870516

Troy Tractorvater Mk1 with mower head and
 Troy Tractorvater Mk2 with plough
 Both £ 80.00 each
 Allen Scytile F type Villier Mk25 4 stroke £ 100.00
 Howard Barton Rotivator, needs TLC - Sensible offers
 Loads of Howard Bantam Spares - again Sensible Offers
 Merry Tiller Cadet £ 50.00
 Contact Tony Lawrence 01264 398210

Looking for a good home - two dismantled Stationary Engines, a Lister D and A Jap Engine for just a donation.
 Please e mail juliebrann@hotmail.com

Fuel Tanks and Crank Guards Made
 Tel :- John Hedges 01635 268359 or
 Mobile :- 07831 410473

WANTED : - Van Body, something like a British Telecom Sherpa would be nice, but will consider anything. Please leave a message on answerphone 01934 852670 Gerald Atherton, Churchill.

WANTED : Parts for Ferguson T20 for young enthusiast. Please ring Gary Sainsbury for full details on 01373 865535 or 07872 643306. I know its a tractor but it has just been reunited with the son of the original owner, it was sold by his Dad many years ago, and now Dad is no longer around they would appreciate any help in the restoration.

WANTED :- Carburettor from a cycle master or any parts, most needed is the float and needle valve. Please call Eric Gay 01225 754374

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

I have acquired a very large collection of Stationary Engine Magazines, which belonged to the late Kim Siddorn our previous editor and Club member. There are complete sets from 1980-1982 and 1988-2001 plus many odds and ends which might be of interest.
 If you are interested please contact Roger Kempson on 01275 837532

Finally - A big thank you to all the newsletter contributors this year - that have helped me fill the pages in fact I have had more than enough and had to split or carry over to the following month. My workload has meant that the timing has not been regular for which I apologise but cannot be helped as it was me or no newsletters at all - if there is anyone who feels they can take the job on and improve on this please get in touch - it was only meant to be a temporary position I will not take offence !

Find Us at :-www.wessexsec.org
 and like us on Facebook
 Wessex Stationary Engine Club

Last Date for Submission in the January Newsletter 31st December 2017
karen.gumm@btinternet.com 01373 822461

*All information given will be as accurate as can be, for any errors or omission I apologise in advance for being human . Please note that opinions expressed may or may not represent club policy.
 Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd Number 02916481*