



# CRANKING



Issue 10/17

Dec-17

## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members !

### **Club Events 2018**

29th Jan	CN - Battle of Rorks Drift by Mr Peter Lamb
26th Feb	CN - Annual General Meeting

### ***Wessex Music Comes to Frome***

I had a very pleasant phone chat the other day with Gerald Atherton. I haven't seen him or Hazel for a couple of years so it was nice to catch up. Gerald told me he and Hazel were bringing their trailer mounted fairground organ to Frome on Sunday 3rd December to set up and play outside a large Care Home just off the town centre . What a nice gesture as its quite a haul from the Mendips from their home in Churchill. Jackie and I were outside the home when they arrived and not wanting to interfere with them setting up we never actually got to hear the organ play as Jackie's feet were killing her and we returned home. Well later in the day we were in our garden and with a slight south-westerly breeze we could hear the organ playing as the sound drifted across the town , at least a mile and half to where we live, so we got to listen after all . What Gerald and Hazel never knew was that on the first Sunday of each month ( excluding Jan & Feb ) the Frome Independent Market takes place and the Town centre is closed to traffic and filled with stalls. The stalls extend up the side streets and the Market Yard is a Giant Collectors Market. Two free park and ride bus services operate from the Bath side of town, as thousand of visitors come to visit, so if any Club members are at a loss as to what to do on a Sunday give it a try.

***Robin Lambert***

### ***Obituary - John Kyte***

It is with sadness I learn of the death of John Kyte, I am told John passed away at Bournemouth Hospital on Wednesday 6th December. John's input into the Stationary Engine movement was immeasurable and older club members will recall his Garden Parties to the rear of his house in the high street of Market Lavington. John was a man of many talents, he was a good organiser, and used to help with the Fun Weekend event at Easterton Village Sports Field. He even catered for the children by laying on Kooky the Clown and made a giant inflatable ball about 8ft tall for the kids to push around the field and climb over. All of John's exploits could not have taken place without the help and support of his late wife Doris . Our condolences go out to their children Angela, David and Kevin.

***Robin Lambert***

## ***Chairman's Report -November 2017***

Christmas will soon be upon us, May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and peaceful New Year. I will come back to the new year a little later in this report.

As you may all know our Club secretary Jackie was diagnosed with cancer. I am please to tell you that Jackie has had an operation and things went well. I know that you will all want to wish her a speedy recovery back to full health and I hope it will not be too long before we have her back with us at our Committee meetings.

Today I have spoken with Christine Rogers, Don's wife, she tells me Don is now on the road to recovery, a long road to travel as yet, but it was good to hear that Don is making progress, and we all hope that one day in the future we will see Don once more sat by his engine.

Early this month Brian Verrall, Phil Marshall and myself attended the funeral of one of our old Club members, Bill Coombs. Bill was a Club member for many years, and Maureen and I have spent many happy hours sat with Vi and Bill in the cottage at Gurney Slade, but the place to be was in Bill's workshop at the top of the garden, complete with central heating. Many fine engines came out of that workshop over the years.

On Monday the 27th November another funeral, we said goodbye to a very good friend and a great help to the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show at Semington for many years. This was Trevor Jones. You never had to ask Trevor for help, he was always on hand to help us in any way he could and always on the Saturday, late afternoon there would be Trevor with tractor and trailer loading rubbish bins to clear the site ready for the next day. Trevor you will be greatly missed. Many Wessex members attended the service at Trowbridge Crematorium, the Crematorium was full with a huge number of Trevor's friends finding standing room only. I still remember him teaching me how to play the idiot stick at our Rally in Semington a couple of years ago.

Today I have spoken with Frances Armstrong, I am sure that many of you will remember Rob for the wonderful talks he gave us all at our meetings at the Old Down Inn. Poor Rob is not at all well and is very weak. I again know that you all would want Frances to know that they are both in our thoughts and are sadly missed at our evening meetings.

Now talking about next year, well this one has just flown by and 2018 is just around the corner, The Committee has arranged a full calendar of events for 2018, with speakers for every club night, no less than three cranks ups, our own two day rally, with the possibility of another two day event. Your Committee work very hard indeed putting in more hours than I care to think about. We do it **for you the club member** not for ourselves, but we want **YOU**, yes **YOU** to give us your support. We had at our last meeting at the Old Down Inn only eleven members attending. I am telling you now **WE NEED YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS** for if you do not I hate to think what will happen in the near future.

Now our first crank up for 2018 will be on the 18th March at Whaddon Lane Farm, run your engine under cover if the weather is unkind, for full details ring 01225 755448 or 01225 344710. Number two will be at the White Horse Country Park on the A350 Trowbridge to Westbury Road. It will take place on a new area adjacent to the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers. The Vintage day will run in conjunction with the Society, steam trains, Club House, workshops and toilets all at hand and you will be able to get tea, coffee, cakes and goodies. Now IF I CAN GET ENOUGH ENTRIES we will have a free barbeque. So send back the entry form enclosed with this months newsletter. We want not only engines but all types of vintage exhibits, cars , tractors, motorcycles, commercials, miniature steam, bygones and displays or anything else you would like to bring. In September we will be having a gala day at the White Horse Country Park along with the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers but more on this later.

Now my appeal to you for someone to take on the role of Editor for the newsletter has so far not met with any response. This is a great shame as after February we face the prospect of not having a newsletter. So please someone, come forward and take this job over, as I said it takes around 5 hours a month, so please help.

***With Best Wishes for Christmas***

***Eric Gay - Chairman***

## ***Out and About with Robin and Jackie***

**Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Extravaganza (South Cerney) 4/5/6th August** - This event has become more and more popular and this year must have broken all records with numbers of Exhibits in all classes. The giant 70 page programme, that would take half a day to read, listed almost 300 vintage Motorcycles (now that's a lot of bikes !). Nearly 80 full size steam engines of all descriptions and over 250 commercial vehicles. I could go on forever as this annual event has grown to huge proportions. A lot of our Club members exhibit here not just with Stationary Engines but with vintage caravans too. It was quite a long walk across this huge site to the food tent but very interesting as on route we walked through the stall area and then past all the vintage tractors, motorcycles and military vehicles. Whilst enjoying our tea (faggots and veg) two huge Tank Transporters pulled into the site to compliment the already large numbers of military vehicles and looking through the programme later on I read they both belonged to the same owner ( !!), which made me think he must have one very large back yard to park them up. The weather for all three days was great and the visiting public must have been in their thousands. We had a very enjoyable time here until going home time on Sunday evening, when it took an hour to reach the exits as the queues were horrendous, some not moving for half an hour. Arriving at my exit the right turn to take me in the Chippenham direction was cordoned off sending me the wrong way and putting an extra 10 miles on my journey, so some fine tuning required here by the organisers.

**Bridgwater Classic Car Show 12th & 13th August** - Held on the Morwellons Rugby Ground and close to the M5 motorway this has become an annual event for us and a nicer location would be hard to find. Complete with Club House, bar and all facilities this is a good venue for evening entertainment which took place on Friday and Saturday evenings. It was nice to meet up with Roger Parsons, who many years ago now moved from Stationary engines to Classic cars and will be remembered for his involvement with the rallies we supported at Clutton Flower Show. We took along our Hot Air Display and had an enjoyable time explaining to the visitors as to how they worked with a parting statement 'is there more hot air here than in Parliament"!

**Corsley Show Bank Holiday Monday 28th August 2017** - Situated midway between Frome and Warminster and bordering the Longleat Estate, this one day show must take a lot of organising as there is so much to see. Flower and produce Marquees, classic cars, children's entertainment of all descriptions, archery, music tents and lots of stall and food vans. I guess we were the Odd Bods here as there were no stationary engines but we were invited to come along in 2016 at last years Westbury Rally and thoroughly enjoyed our time there and so came again this year , tagging on to the Classic Car line up and talking about our exhibit. Liz and Arthur brought along their Ford Mustang all highly polished and gleaming in the sunshine. A new Ring Event was a display of J.C.B machinery including digger and telehandlers (large fork lifts) performing all their action. This went down very well with the children as the digger would tilt his front bucket close to the watching public and sweets would drop out for the them.

***Robin and Jackie Lambert***

## ***Sammy Smart's Yard***

Reading our Editor Karen's write up regarding husband Phil's purchase of a generating plant many years ago at Smarts Scrap Yard in Warminster brought back memories for me. My dad worked for a haulage company W & E Evemy which had depots in Frome and Chantry. They had a mixed fleet of vehicles which included almost a dozen Foden steam lorries. When legislation made it uneconomical to run the Steamers anymore they were sold for £ 1.00 per ton scrap value to Sammy Smart of Warminster. I don't believe any went into preservation but just imagine being able to buy a complete Foden for under a tenner !!

***Robin Lambert***

## **SALES AND WANTED**

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

Villers WX 11 1. 1/2HP - not on a trolley  
2 Wolseley air cooled engines on trollies with  
spare engine for each as spares.  
Ruston Hornsby PB 1. 1/2 HP on trolley  
Carburettors for Ruston's and Wolseleys  
2 Stuart water pumps  
1 Lister domestic water pump  
Wolseley & Ruston bell pulleys  
Phone Steve Morris on 0117 9504 167 for Prices

Spark Plugs

[www.sparkplugs.co.uk](http://www.sparkplugs.co.uk)

Tel :- 01244 679903

Starting Handles

Lister 2" Bore Part No :- 9/5124 £ 15.00

Lister 2" Bore Part No :- 9-5-24 No Pawl £ 10.00

Lister 2.1/4" Bore Part No :- 23-3452 £ 15.00

Petter 1.7/8" bore, stamped G:R £ 12.00

As a lot £ 40.00 , Buyer Collects

Phone Tom Randall 01761 418926

Midsomer Norton

For Sale :- 3hp Petter 'A' driving turntable all on Trolley £ 65.00 Phone Percy on 01373 812461

WANTED :- Stuart Turner R3 Head Please phone Rob Champion on :-01275 892944

## ***Editors Note***

Enclosures with this months newsletter :-

A) Application Form for Crank up at Westbury in April 2018

B) Calendar of Events for 2018

Membership Renewals :-

Our Annual Insurance Company Insurance policy is not due for renewal until 1st January 2018.

As it is a specialist insurance instigated through a broker , the policy number changes every year and this is the policy number that must go on your Insurance Cards. The renewal does not happen until mid December at the earliest, we have to get the new number to the printer who prints the cards , which can then be despatched to Wendy to send in your SAE. With the Christmas shutdown period the organisation of this process can prove a little tricky .Therefore all those of you who are very efficient and send in their renewals early (thank you !), please be patient you will be sent your cards as soon as possible .Wendy our subscription secretary , may have to deal with a back log at this time and she is a volunteer with other draws on her time . I believe that as long as you receive them by the end of February you will be able to get any Rally entry forms in by the first season deadline - (if that is wrong please let me know ).

***Karen Gumm***

Last Date for Submission in the January Newsletter Sunday 14th January 2018

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Committee Members :- Chairman E Gay, D Chair :- P Gear, Secretary :- J Coles, Treasurer :- K Gumm  
President :- R Pike , H Gane, G Guley, G Sainsbury, B Coles, R Sanford, T Lawrence

*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*