



# CRANKING



Issue 6/18

Jun-18

## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### *Editors Note*

Hi here's June's newsletter, hope you are all well. Just wanted to say what a Fab weekend we had at our show last weekend and thank you to everyone that helped out. If you have anything to add to newsletters in the future please contact me: Sacha Swinden-Pride, 10 Radstock Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath, BA3 2AJ 01761 415517, [swin28.ss@gmail.com](mailto:swin28.ss@gmail.com)

Sacha Swinden-pride

### *Club Events 2018*

July 14/15th      Market Lavington Vintage Meet  
[www.marketlavington.org.uk](http://www.marketlavington.org.uk)

### ITEMS FOR SALE

Spares for Norman Single cylinder engine, Rocker Cover, inlet manifold, valve springs, head.  
Ralph Champion, 01275 892944

### Wessex Stationary Engine Club

Sunday 13th May saw us holding an Engine Crank-up at Sweets Tea Rooms and Science Museum. This was our second visit, courtesy of the Sweet family. This is an ideal venue, set on the rural Somerset Levels, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. (That is until 34 engines and two organs start-up, not to mention one steam-roller blowing off at regular intervals!).

The event was organised by Bryan and Jackie Coles, and Herb and Wendy Gane on behalf of the Wessex Club. A pre-rally side visit was made by the Coles and they liaised with Mr Sweet on behalf of the club. On Saturday Jackie, Bryan and Herby, with the help of Brian Verrall set up the site for the following day.

Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny and the exhibitors were queuing at the gate at 8am. The field was quickly filled with engines, both members and non-members. Thank you to the South Somerset and Sedgemoor clubs for your support. We also had four motor-cycles from the Vintage Motor Cycle Club and a Ford Thames Lorry owned by F.J Locke and Son., and also an M.G. Sports car. These all stayed all day and supported us. Thank you

We had a good selection of engines ranging from Lister 'D's to Lister 5 h.p. engines. There were many British makes such as Wolsey, Villiers, Ruston, Hornsby, Pitler, Norman and Blackstone. American engines represented were Amanco, Alamo, Fairbanks Morse, Fairbank Bull-dog etc. France was represented by a Bernard Engine. The Frome Electric Light Company made their first visit (Robin and Jackie Lambert) showing their hot air engines display attracted a lot of interest from the public.

We had further support from Hazel and Gerald Atherton who brought along their J.M. Glorie continental Organ. Geoff Davis brought his hand-turned Street Organ which he had made himself. Together they entertained us all day. Thank you both, Thank you also to Steve who brought his steam roller.

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Wendy Gane ran and organised the raffle which made £96.00 along with donations from the public of £65.22 make a total of £161.22 which will be given to Alzheimer's Research. Many thanks also to the people who gave the raffle prizes and to the Sweet Family for the use of the field.

Last but not least it was nice to see Don Rogers out of hospital and back on the rally scene, along with Chris and Will.

Many thanks to all who came, we hope you enjoyed the day.

**Herb and Wendy Gane**

### **Out and about with Jackie and Robin**

It was nice to get back out there again after such a rotten wet start to our Rallying year. We made off on what I call a nine dayer with two weekend events and a few days in the middle chilling out in Sunny Dorset, Saturday 2nd June saw us a Tatworth situated just outside hard and right on the Devon boarder. Although just a Sunday event many Exhibitors do pull in here on Saturday especially the vintage tractors as they go for a Road Run around tea time and this year 72 took part in the run, just imagine you were a motorist coming up behind the last one and not knowing there were another 71 in front of him!!

Most were towing trailers and I am sure they found a watering hole en route. In blistering sunshine Sunday went off very well the Engine line as always very well supported with a small car boot at the lower end of the playing field and a lot of tented displays around the field boundary. It was nice to see Don, Christine and William back out there again among all their old friends and friends of Wessex Mo Duke looking very well after his unfortunate accident with a bonfire, well done Mo. All too soon our enjoyable day was over, along with Sylvia and Graham we made off to the A35 to a pub called The Hunters Lodge for an evening meal, the landlord here is quite happy for his patrons to park up overnight which is handy if you like a pint or two. So then with 3 days parked up at a farm near Crickerell exploring Weymouth and Dorchester it was time to move back along the coast to West Bay for the next weekends event, organised by the WDT and Engine club, bad luck struck this Event last year with Torrential rain and the Show cancelled but this year was sun drenched and I think record attendance through the pay gate would make the organisers very happy. The usual Saturday Auction took place with, I am sure lots of bits finding good homes and we once again set up in the Display area and were kept busy explaining how our hot Air Engines worked. Its nice to be able to move in here on Thursday as Friday can be spent exploring the area, we walked into Bridport and some hopped on the bus to Lyme Regis, we had a most enjoyable four days here and can't wait for next year to do it all again.

**Robin**

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

**Jul-18**

Well it looks as if the team running the Wessex Midsummer Vintage show has done it again, the club's Vintage Rally at Semington, was a great weekend.

The show grows year on year and this year was no exception we had a great display of Commercials, Tractors, cars, motorcycles, horticultural machinery, along with our working section and craft marque and our stationary engine section was again without doubt one of the best, my thanks must go to Pearl & Steve Francis for all their hard work, beforehand during the event, they organised and ran this section of the event to perfection. Our new craft marque (80ft x 40ft) took a bit of filling partly due to being let down in the early part of the year, but my good friend Garry along with help no doubt from Pauline, and a bit of help from me along the way we did manage to fill it pretty well.

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Garry also ran the working section and again my thanks to you Garry for always giving me your support and help and for a good display of old trades in the working section.

My thanks must also go to Tony for once again not only running the commercial cars and military sections but also for his help in so many ways not only on the weekend but in the days leading up to our show and his help and support to me throughout the year, from printing through to making a cable winder for the club rally. Beside me asking him for this and that to be printed at short notice, and I always got what I ask for and on time. Thank you once again Tony.

Our Motor Cycle display is always a great show with Brian getting nearly every Bike into the show ring and giving non stop commentary on the Bikes and getting the owners to tell the general public all about the love of their lives via the P/A system.

It is with great sadness that we are going to say good by to Brian as our motorcycle steward in 2019, health matters have taken their toll and it is time to hand over the reins to someone else. A thank you is never enough when someone such as Brian who has given so much time, effort and help to make our rally at Semington the success that it is. Brian you will be missed by all of us that not only run the show but I know by all the exhibitors as well, you will be a hard act to follow my friend. Now this post is open and we need someone to fill it so if you can help please get in touch.

The committee of the rally would be very hard pressed to stage the event if we did not get help with the manual work, the whole committee I know would like to thank two people that come along and help both have no connection with the Wessex Club, Roy Sanford's Friends, Ruth & Jeff for without their help we would be hard pressed, thank you so very much for all you do. We have another helper that comes all the way from Taunton, and works so very hard to help us all put the show together over the four days prior to the show, stays on site and gives us his help for the two days after, John your help is greatly appreciated, and again Thank you is not enough so thank you once again for all your help before, during and after the event, look after yourself take care for I want to see you back with us in 2019.

To Paula & Gordon thank you both for all you do, thank you Paula for feeding me with tea, and thank you Gordon for getting me out of a hole by bringing along the Tractor at very short notice, I do appreciate your help and support.

The poultry Paula brought along is always a great interest and this year was no different, I know I was running around the site a great deal but whenever I came by your display it was surrounded with people.

Now we had something different this year, in our tractor section we had a Tractor Puller, this was a first for the Wessex Show, through the hard work put in by my good mate Roy, we had a Marshall Portable steam engine driving a threshing drum. We nearly did not have the threshing machine as the one promised had a bit of a mishap, so at the last moment Roy went to seek out a threshing machine, not only finding one but towing it to the site via his very nice Forson Major, the machine as on iron wheels so this was no easy task. To you Roy from all of us on the committee and myself thank so very much.

What would I do without Linda, two days sat on the pay gate, helping me run the raffle, getting sponsorship for the great sweet give away and for always being cheerful and a bundle of fun, thanks Linda what would we do without your willing help, it is a pleasure to have you on the committee and work with you.

My steam section had once again a let down I was promised a Aveling roller from Glastonbury but it did not appear, makes two years on the trot that it has not arrived after it has entered. But never mind we had 22 miniature engines and they did us proud, stealing the show of miniatures was the 4" scale Fowler ploughing engine brought along by John Mitchell, 13 years in the building, this superb engine is magnificent and the second ploughing engine is well under way so in the near future we may see the pair at Semington. Our only other full size engine being the Foster Agricultural engine brought along once again by our friend Paul from Poole, Paul has now given us his support over many years and I and the committee owe Paul our sincere thanks for his ongoing support.

We had nearly twenty displays of bygones, collections, models, would you believe a display of Victorian bicycles. All this plus our friends from Shepton Mallett Drifters, model boat club, my good friends the Westerners Group and the confederates.

Saturday evening was great with "Mustang Sally" I am now a fully paid up member of the Tamberrine players society after two stage appearances with the band. This group are great entertainers and they kept the marque full kept the marque full all evening till past 11 o'clock, I was told this was the best night in the marque we have had in the ten years we have been at Semington.

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Yes we have been running Semington for Ten Years, I do hope I see the next ten, being our ten year we gave each exhibitor a small gift of a Wessex pen just to remember our tenth year.

Now last but by no means least we the committee owe a great dept of thanks to Steve and Sacha for their help, Steve for helping transport materials to the site from Whaddon Lane, for purchasing plywood to make up the flooring in our club marque for the band on Saturday evening. Obtaining pallets for the floor and building of this all ready for Saturday evening. His never ending help throughout the days before the show and his help during the show itself, clearing away and transporting most of the rally equipment back to Whaddon. To Sacha for sending out all the entry forms for the traders, this helped me a great deal and lessened the work load, so to you both may I extend my sincere thanks and that of the members of the committee of the Wessex Vintage Show. Thank you both so very much.

This year one of my tasks was to find someone to collate the programme, if indeed we were going to have a programme, then out of the blue my prayers were answered, a phone call from our new committee member Ted Edwards, "I will do your programme", well not only did Ted collate the programme he also took the trouble to go out and sell some adverts to go in it and enhancing some of the advertisements from our advertisers from previous years, plus redesigning the the front and back covers. Ted this was no mean undertaking and we the committee thank you very much for taking on this job and all the other help you so kindly gave us throughout the weekend. I very much hope you will have a long and enjoyable time with us all on the committee of the Wessex Midsomer Vintage Show.

I think that just about covers the Wessex Midsummer vintage show, I just hope I have not forgotten anyone. Our meeting at the end of May at the Old Down Inn was well attended, to hear a talk by Stuart Burroghs, "Out of the Earth" Bath's Mineral Wealth, this was an interesting talk covering Clay, stone, ore and other types of minerals found in the bath area and not forgetting coal.

The Crank up at Sweets Peat & Science Museum was a great success and thanks must go to Herb & Brian for a job well done, and our thanks must go to Alan Rogers for the photographs and write up of the event in Stationary Engine Magazine, I just hope that someone has taken the trouble to do the same for the Semington Rally, thank you Alan and and well done.

Eric J Gay

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