



# CRANKING



Issue 3/17

Mar-17

## *The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter*

### *From the Editor*

Last month may have been short, however I am chuffed with the amount of input received this month, (some of which may be held over to the following month !)

Especially good is to see some new contributors thank you and fantastic keep up the good works ! Our AGM has been and gone with some heated discussion in AOB and some good points made for the Committee to chew on ! A full report and follow up in next months Edition.

**Karen Gumm**

### **Membership Meanderings**

I know that some people have been concerned about the falling membership numbers. This has prompted me to go through my membership book and see what the trends are. The first entry in the current book, which is the only one I have, gives a membership of 292. This is for the year 1997. This rose steadily to the year 2005 which gives the highest membership to date of 365. Numbers then sadly declined to give 215 members last year, This consisted of 91 single and 62 joint members, Membership currently (i.e. as at February 2017) stands at 172 members, Just thought you might be interested !

**Wendy Gane**

Find us at :-[www.wessexsec.org](http://www.wessexsec.org)  
and like us on Facebook  
Wessex Stationary Engine Club

### *Club Events 2017*

KEY:- CN - CLUB NIGHT EV - EVENT

CN Held at Old Down Inn, Emborough

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Mar 12th     | EV Early Year Warm Up -<br>- Hilperton  |
| Mar 18th     | EV Vintage Sale Cranmore at the<br>East Somerset Steam Railway                          |
| Mar 27th     | CN Mr C Bigg - Power of the Gods<br>History and Building of the Bristol<br>Aero Engine. |
| April 9th    | EV Westbury Vintage Day   |
| April 17th   | Mell's Daffodil Day   |
| April 24th   | CN Judi Grant - Native American<br>Costume and Artefacts.                               |
| May 7th      | EV Wedmore Vintage Day and<br>Crank Up  |
| May 22nd     | CN Hugh Hewitt-Sore - The<br>Traditional English Long Bow                               |
| June 17/18th | Wessex Vintage Show<br>Semington, Nr Trowbridge   |
| June 26th    | CN Penny Deverill - Two Penneth<br>of Poison  |

### **Obituary - Alan Chilcott**

It is with sadness we hear that Alan Chilcott has died aged 87. Alan from Weston-Super-Mare loved the Vintage Rally events and along with partner Dot, attended many during the event season, with the Cornish Rally at St Stithians being one of their favourites. Usually proudly exhibiting their Stuart Generating Set, Alan had a lots of friends around the events he attended. He will be very much missed. Our condolences go out to Dot and their family at this time. Thank you to Russ Chilcott for the notice which was put on our Facebook page.

**Robin Lambert**

## Chairman's Report February 2017

Well I am now back home with my nice new hip, the only trouble is that things did not go as well as I was hoping for as they replaced my right hip but the operation badly affected my left hip and I was in great pain with that. I am glad to report that is now on the mend.

Today I received my newsletter, I hope that you all got yours. It's just a shame that its half empty, with only one small article by any club member. Now the Committee and myself have managed to keep it as a monthly publication, but if you the club members are not going to contribute to the newsletter so Karen can produce a full and interesting publication, **IT WILL STOP** being a monthly newsletter .

Now I cannot be the only Club member restoring old bits of iron, I am sure that others are doing the same so why not tell us about your latest project, your news, your views, what you like and what you do not . Put it in writing tell us, tell Karen, give her some input so that the newsletter can be filled with stories,reports,restoration projects. If you need help with a project write and ask and tell us your problems, that is why we are all here to help each other or have I got it wrong all these years ?

Now I hope that in the near future I will be able to tell you all about a project my mate old Deadly has just got hold of, **A Lister D**. Now I ask him what does thee want we a old Lister D type, I should think he were past messing about wi that. Deadly replied ' I tell Ee somit thee wont find nuther like this un' Why ? said I, 'Ahh boy thick engine were sold by Lister to America as a sheep shearing unit, it went to a farm in Pennsylvania in about 1934/36. I met this American lady living over yer,she 'ad bought unn and brought it back yer,tis all thur even to a Lister wooden box, 16 Lister spanners,the drive belts even a box wee new cutter blades and all mounted on an original Lister trolley, now if I can I be going to get 'ee up and running for thick do out at Semington .'

Now I will get old Deadly to tell me more about it so I can tell you all. Myself well I got a few projects on the go, one being a fractional hp open crank engine with side shaft operated valve gear, inlet over exhaust. This lay in a shed wrapped in a blanket for over thirty years until I spent my hard earned money. I hope that I shall have this running in the not too distant future. Another project is the Stuart Turner Sandhurst, this engine was built by the late Ray Earle. He was a development engineer for Stuart's. I acquired this along with a very nice Stuart steam boiler, so as soon as I am able I shall be burning some midnight oil. Now if I have acquired these goodies I am sure there are others in the Club with projects on the go, so please tell us about them and keep the newsletter alive.

Now it will not be long until the Sale at Cranmore, so find out all those goodies that you do not want and turn them into cash, and if anyone can give a hand on the gate for a while please come and help.

Pete and Gordon are making plans for the crank up at Whaddon Farm , Hilperton on March 12th, so get the polish out, give the engine a wipe over and come along, the more the merrier. Now I hear you say where be Whaddon Farm, well its not hard to find, drive into Hilperton village, follow the road till you meet a very sharp left hand bend and Whaddon Lane is straight across. I am sure that Gordon will have a sign or two out showing the route. This is a new venture so please give Gordon and Pete your support.

The Rally Committee are still open to offers of help in arranging and running the event and for help over the weekend, we could also do with YOU on the main Committee, why not come and join us it is not hard work, and you never know you may, like me, enjoy it.

*Eric Gay*

Last Date for Submission in the APRIL Newsletter Monday 27th March 2017  
[karen.gumm@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.gumm@btinternet.com) 01373 822461

### **A Good Product**

Now we have all needed to sand down wood, paint or metal. We have used sand paper , emery cloth and elbow grease etc. HAVE you every used Abranet ? This product is magic , it does not clog, it does not tear and it does not wear out. It comes in many grades from P80, P120,P180, P240, P320, and I buy all in a mixed box. Now how do you get hold of this product, tis on the internet at [www.mirka.com](http://www.mirka.com)

*Give it a try you won't be disappointed.*

***Eric Gay***

### **January 2017 - Club Meeting Report**

The first Club meeting of 2017 was opened by our Vice Chairman Pete Gear, who gave us an update on Chairman Eric's hip operation. All seems to be going well and we wish him a speedy recovery, Pete read out the Club notices and introduced the speaker, Mr Tony Coverdale. His talk was on the Avon Valley Copper and Brass Industry from the late 1600's to the early 1900's.

The industry was governed by the availability of the raw materials required and also a source of power to aid manufacture. Copper was mined in Cornwall, calamine was found in the west on the Mendip hills in Shipham and coal was abundant in the Bristol area, The Rivers Avon, Chew and Frome provided the main source of power to drive the mills for the stamps and battery hammers.

Because of the large amount of coal needed to smelt the ore, (4 tons of coal to 1 of ore) and the water supply requirement it was cheaper to bring the ore to the coal to be smelted rather than the other way around. The main ingredients of brass are copper and zinc. The copper is extracted from the calamine. They are then mixed together to give us brass.

Brass manufacture spread to England from the Continent. Much of the expertise needed was poached from Germany and Holland by the likes of Abraham Derby of Ironbridge fame. Our brass at the time was inferior to that made on the Continent, mainly due to their use of charcoal, which was a cleaner fuel. Much experimental work was done by Abraham Darby and others to improve the smelting process and to enable them to use the coal more efficiently.

The main products of this industry were pots, pans and kettles, known as 'hollow-ware', Sheet and wire brass were also made. Mr Coverdale brought along some of the items for us to look at. Many items of hollow-ware were exported to Africa as part of the slave trade, where they were often converted into jewellery and other decorative items. Bristol was convenient for this as it was the home of many wealthy merchants who were involved in the slave trade. The well known 'Black Castle' in Arncliffe in Bristol is made from blocks of the waste slag from this industry.

Brass manufacturing ceased in this area in the late 1920's. Saltford Brass Mill is the only surviving mill, complete with furnace and working water wheel. (Open to the public May to Oct on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays !)

At the end of the evening Peter thanked the speaker, Anne Kempson ably ran the raffle and many members went home with prizes. A good night was had by all.

***Herb and Wendy Gane***

### **Social News**

Tony and Diana Davis have been in touch with Francis Armstrong and they tell me Rob is poorly so lets wish him well. I had a nice chat with Margaret and Henry Symons the other day and Henry has had a few trips to Odstock Hospital at Salisbury and is now home and making good progress.

Club members who exhibit at Bealieu will know by now there is to be a charge for exhibiting here and I understand that £ 15.00 per person will cover camping from Thursday to Sunday so 4 nights , and will include entry to all that is on offer here. The charge is mainly to cover the extra facilities that need to be laid on as the management says the event does not pull in any extra public through the gates.

***Robin Lambert***

### Canopies Anyone !

Materia Products make tarpaulins and curtain side covers for big lorries - they can do orders to your own specs, with a vast range of materials, many held in stock. They made a trailer canopy for me some time ago and recently have added two more zips in the side sheet - so I thoroughly recommend their services !

They can be found at :- Unit 1 ,Combe Building ,Whatley, Frome, Somerset, BA13 3JU

Telephone :- 01373 836008

Website :- [www.materiaproducts.com](http://www.materiaproducts.com)

**Robin Lambert**

### SALES AND WANTED

Fuel Tanks and Crank Guards Made

Tel :- John Hedges 01635 268359 or

Mobile :- 07831 410473

Spark Plugs |

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

Tel :- 01244 679903

Horse Hair Combing Machine ( a real museum piece)

Made by Gauntlets of Yerbury Street, Trowbridge.

This is something different for the rally field

£ 300.00 ONO, part exchange for anything old and mechanical as long as it is not too large and heavy.

Contact :- Eric Gay on 01225 754374

Do you own a John Deere Model 'E' engine and want an instruction and parts list ?

Got a Crossley Gas or oil engine, want to re-line the white metal shells, I have the instructions.

Interested in something different for the bookshelf, I have a 1904 Illustrated Catalogue, showing products by Christy & Norris, Bloomfield Road Iron Works, and Clemsford showing milling machinery, steam and oil engines and electric motors.

For any of the above call Eric on 01225 754374

**Wanted** :- A small Drip feed oiler suitable for fractional HP engine 1" to 1 1/4" high by 3/4" wide  
Please call Eric :- 01225 754374

### A New Year

So here we go again into a new year, don't they go fast or is it a sign we are all maturing gracefully. I am sure many of you are planning your year and your diaries are filling up quickly, as the Rally entry forms are dropping through your letterbox thick and fast. I think at the moment we have returned 8, so God willing we shall have a great crack at what we enjoy, catch up with all our old mates and friends that we have not seen for 6 months to chew the fat and put matters right.

I don't know how you all coped with the cold spell but it was a bit too cold to get out in the garage and get things ready for this year's roaming but when it got milder I got out there like a rat up a drainpipe and stripped down and serviced our 4 Hot Engine exhibits. A filthy job is this, it took me 4 mornings, (one each day), and I think I had more carbon on me than the machines! Looking at Karen's February newsletter our Committee have been busy lining up almost 20 events for us to attend and enjoy, including a new event at Paula & Gordons farm at Hilperton on 12th March.

I was sorry to see the Exhibit numbers at Mells have been reduced but put yourself in the landowners shoes, it must be heart-breaking to see your field turned into a quagmire and very costly to make good and re seed. I notice that Shillingstone and Castle Combe events have a date clash again this year, what a shame as they are both enjoyable events. By the time the next newsletter goes out the Club sale at Cranmore will have taken place and I hope it is blessed with fine weather and lots of stalls and visitors alike.

**Robin Lambert**

*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*