



CRANKING



Issue 5/18

May-18

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editors Note

Hi here's May's newsletter, hope you are all well. 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
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Sacha Swinden-Pride

Club Events 2018

May 13th	Wedmore Crank up - Sweets Peat and Science Museum, Nr Wedmore
May 21st	CN - Out of the earth, Bath's mineral wealth, stone, clay & coal by Mr S Burroughs
June 16/17th	Wessex Vintage Show - Semington Nr Trowbridge. Details 01225 754374
July 14/15th	Market Lavington Vintage Meet www.marketlavington.org.uk

OBITUARY

My dear friend Francis Armstrong has asked me to inform Wessex Club of the sad death of her husband Rob. He had many friends within the club and was a very talented engineer who helped many people, including Roger with an engine problem. We have been friends with this lovely couple for years and Rob will be Greatly missed. The funeral will take place (or may have passed when you get this newsletter) on 29th May at St Nicholas Church in Winsley.

Our thoughts are with Francis and her family at this sad time, RIP Robbie.

LINDA AND ROGER

Club members will all be saddened by the news that Rob Armstrong has passed away. For many years Rob and his Wife were great supporters of our club, attending club nights and all the events that were laid on and he often did a complete evenings talk for us on his work experiences, which took him far afield. His stories would keep us enthralled when he told us he went to America to meet up with the US Military to see how they were going to get rid of the highly volatile fuel that powered long range Rockets and how it went horribly wrong and he found a much safer way to deal with the US Missiles. He would tell us how he supervised the demolition of a munitions factory up north as part of a deal that he would get relocated job transfer in the Bridgwater area, and his stories of travelling through the US and Canada were super. We will miss our Old Friend and our thought are with Francis and family at this sad time.

ROBIN

ITEMS FOR SALE

For Sale - Early Lister "D type" shearing set. 8 single head shearing set built by Lister in 1932, spent its working life in USA, brought to England by owner when she came to live in this country, this unit is all original on Lister Trolley, with all original iron work. Included with this set is a Lister wooden tool box containing 16 Lister spanners, supplied with engine new. All paint work, tools etc are original. £450.00 ono Will part exchange for any unusual item to drive from My Alamo 11/2 engine. Or WHY 01225 754374

FREE TO GOOD HOME - 1 J Collins & Sons of London, Pallet Truck, possibly 1950s free to collect, SOMERSET & DORSET STATION, SILVER STREET, MIDSOMER NORTON. Thursday or Fridays, j.griffin502@btinternet.com

For Sale - 60 L Red Diesel that came from small diggers etc. It has been filtered and contains no water, although it is at least 5 years old, the containers are 2 x 25L clear plastic containers and one 20L black container (10L). It could be used for A) Stationary Engine running, B) cleaning and freeing of components, C) Heater Furnace etc. I would like someone to purchase it all if possible, I am asking £35.00 for the lot and money will go to charity. money will go to charity. Contact: paulhucklebridg@openreach.co.uk

For Sale - Lister D - with 11/2 kwm alternator-mounted on steel frame with Lister Start-o-matic control panel and starter battery spec plate reads No 1/56108, Spec 28DH HP 1.5 RPM 700 £240 ono. All in working order, buyer can see it working before dismantling. Jeremy Adams, Taunton, 01823 443000, Jeremy.adams150@btinternet.com

BILL TARGETT MEMORIAL RALLY 12-13 MAY

Arriving on the Friday we set up an engine and trailer in an already engine line. This rally is very popular in the Southampton Area. The field soon filled with stalls, food outlets, beer tents and many exhibitors, Model Steam and full size steam taking up a quarter of the field, fire engines, classic cars, tractors, motorbikes, army, lorries, you name it, it was here our only fellow Wessex member was Dan Cheesman.

The weekend was very busy with lots to do including a land train & station which gave rides around the field at £1 a time. We were right under the fly pass for Southampton Airport so had numerous aircraft flying over head as they came into land. This is a very well organised event and we are always made very welcome. We will certainly be here next year. Our son and his family live 10 minutes from the site so we get free bed and breakfast too!

LINDA AND ROGER

CHAIRMANS REPORT April/May 2018

Things could only improve, what with Gordon & Pete's event at Whaddon suffering from the foul weather, then the Engine display at Mells Daffodil day having to be cancelled again due to the weather. I was getting concerned whether the Vintage day at Westbury would suffer the same fate. Garry and myself set up the site on the Saturday, in red hot

sunshine, why this could not have carried on throughout the weekend I do not know.

Sunday dawned fine and very soon after 8 -30 exhibitors started to arrive, Tractors, Cars, Stationary Engines, Steam Engines (miniture T/E) steam trains, even an E-type Jaguar, and a Willies Jeep, Phill Gumm brought along his commercial. I had others booked in but they did not turn up and a few engines failed to appear, but all sorts of things can happen to stop us at times from attending events, lets hope we can meet up at Westbury 2019.

My thanks must go to my good mate Garry, for without him and Pauline those that cam along would have gone hungry. Pauline supplied the rolls via Morrisons, while Garry talked nicely to a local butcher, 80 of your best sausages please Mr Butcher. Well all our exhibitors got free hot dogs, the dear ladies of the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers did all proud with lovely cakes, tea, coffee, biscuits and even down to lollies for the children.

We all had a great day up till early afternoon when the weather fairy go fed up with us and we all started to get very wet. It was a case of getting all our raffle prizes into the Club House and stage the raffle undercover, thanks must go to those kind people that donated raffle prizes, I had some very good prizes donated to me prior to the event, a slow cooker, oven wear bowls and dish, water jug glasses and a set of soup mugs all very nice, so the day ended on a high even if the weather in the end was not on our side.

Our thanks must go to the ladies of WWSOME for all their hard work they put into the cooking and serving the hungry hoards, thank you all very very much, can you do it all again next year please?.

Saturday 28th & 29th April, Westbury Festival of Transport, at Bratton, run by Keith & William Miller, poor Keith & Will the weather once again took its toll, Saturday started wet but it did dry up some what but cold, Garry & Myself got froze, neither of us got warm, not even when back at home, I went to bed at around 10 that night just so to try and get warm. Sunday dawned cold, windu and wet, it soon stopped raining but was so cold I could not face another day frozen to the bone.

Our friend Roy did go on the Sunday but rang me to say it was very very cold, and this kept the public away and also exhibitors stayed awake. This was a great shame as this is a great friendly event just like it was way back when I first interested in the vintage movement.

The Wessex Midsomer Vintage show, will be wiith us now in a blink of an eye, many new things this year, and just today (30th April) I have another full size steam engine. I would still like more, at this date we have 15 minatures, 3 full size including a portable driving a threshing machine, lots of traders, plus crafts (if you know any crafters let me know) a working section, this year with a blacksmith, wood carver, hurdle maker and possibly a shearing set, cars, commercials, living history groups, displays of models, bygones, tools, and much more, model tanks and road transport, Cross Engineering, Birds of Prey, Model boats and more.

Now all this does not just happen, it takes a lot of work and organisation, why not come and join us organise and run this our main event of the year, or just come along on the weekend and give the committee your support we love to see members that we do not meet very often at Semington over the weekend of June 16th and 17th.

March the 26th that was club night, with a talk by Chris Bigg, this was Giant of the air, the story of the Brabazon, it was great to see our room at the Inn full for this talk. Just one more little bit of information on Brabazon, a lot of people thought it was a four engine aircraft, but in reality it had eight engines, all hidden within the wings. Great English engineering, why are we letting it all be lost.

ERIC GAY

ABBY HILL RALLY 4th to 7th MAY

It must be almost 30 years since Jackie and I have been to this Event way back in time when friend of Wessex Terry Heath was the Stationary Engine Steward. With our usual event this weekend cancelled at Lambourne we made the trip down to the Yeovil show ground on the Saturday as visitors and joined the Queue at the entrance gate, there must have been at least 100 folk in front of us and when we got to the pay desk at least another 100 to the rear. You could even pay by card, so if all four days attendance was similar the organisers must have been very pleased.

I was very much surprised of by the magnitude of the Show, it was ten times larger than our last visit and even a club a house has sprung up by a sports field, we made a beeline through the stall section which was huge, past all the displays then diverted around a large event ring to find the stationary engine area which consisted of four enclosures all filled to capacity with neatly placed Exhibits, most doing what they were intended to do, our main reason to be here was to catch up with our old mates that we haven't seen since last September, lots were here and it was nice to see Ian Skuse with partner Jenny who have not set up home in Spain and was back here in Blighty to load up more possessions and then head south again.

Carole and Kevin were here, not in the S.E Line but with their series one Landrover, Sylvia and Graham were generating a lot of Hot Air for their exhibit (not verbally I might add!) (perhaps I got this the wrong way round !!). Rose and Roley had their old faithful, Crossley and Les was in the line up, but had had some bad luck as someone had stolen his Black Mercedes Van and he's had to source another vehicle, this must have been one of the hottest days of the year and we all slowly started to turn a pinky salmon colour as we spent most of our time chatting in the hot sunshine. (It was nice to see Peter Holloway walking around, I have not seen him for years.

Club members will recall the superb models he used to make and display, also John Hedges (fuel tank maker) see his add in the Newsletter.

On arriving back home I rang William Rogers to tell him and his Mum Christine that so many people had asked me how Don was getting on and he told me that all being well Don will be coming back home on 8th May and may even pay a visit to Sweets Peat Museums club crank-up. What Great News.

ROBIN