



# CRANKING



Issue 9/18

Sep-18

## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### ***Editors Note***

Hi here's Septembers newsletter,  
The information sent to me in August that I couldn't add last month added this month.

If you have anything to add to the newsletters in the future, please contact me: Sacha Swinden-Pride, 10 Radstock Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath, BA3 2AJ BA3 2AJ 01761 415517, swin28.ss@gmail.com  
Sacha Swinden Pride

### ***Club Events 2018***

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 6th October   | The Wessex Cranmore Sale, East Somersetshire Steam Railway, Cranmore, Nr Shepton Mallet, A361, BA4 4QP<br>Details, 01225 754374 |
| 29th October  | Mr Chris Bigg, Aircraft of WW2 Old Down Inn   |
| 26th November | The Wessex Grand evening Quiz (supper and Raffle)   |
| December      | to be announced   |

### **Out and About with Robin and Jackie 17, 18 & 19th August**

This is probably the second most longest distance we travel to an Event 185 miles from home to Stithians in Cornwall and over the years we have developed our favourite routes (down and back) the outward journey via Plymouth taking in the breath-taking views over the Tamar Bridge and old Isambards railway bridge below the returning journey much more straight forward via Oakhampton on the A30. Its always a pleasure to meet and our Cornish club members who are most helpful if you are stuck for a part or two and will scrummage through their workshops for bits to help you out, (thank you Kerwin) our section Steward (David) always has things under control with finger tip precision. Chatting to David we both agreed that a few years ago he had almost double the amount of exhibitors and his thoughts were similar to mine are we are a dying breed? Half the Engine Exhibitors are past retiring age and most of the rest close to it with just a handful of the younger generation taking part.

There was some nice machinery in the line up with an immaculate 1913 Woodpecker engine of bhp. WSEC Club member Peter Frost had his little Amanco Johnny Box which initially had spark problems that a was solved by his neighbour with the loan of a coil, what a nice gesture but then again that's what our hobby is all about helping one-another. All the usual attractions were here and an eye catcher for me was a 1959 pink Cadillac convertible which instantly brought back memories for me as to where I first met Jackie at Coleford British Legion dance hall and a regular band on stage were Johnny Carr and the Cadillac's a group from Bristol. As the stage curtains drew open their opening numbers was My baby drew up in a Brand New Cadillac, how many of our club members can recall the song? If you can you are knocking on a bit like me!

As in other years in Cornwall, friend of Wessex Mike Jennings sends his best wishes to your all and he is looking very well.

**Robin**

### **A Reminder of Wessex Committee Members**

**Chairman** - Eric Gay, **Vice Chair** - Tony Lawrence, **Secretary** - Ted Edwards, **Treasurer** - Karen Gumm, Rob Stanford, Herb Gane, Gordon Guley, Gary Sainsbury, Brian Coles, **President** - Roger Pike

### **Out and About with Jackie & Robin Upper Wallop Village Day, Sunday 26th August**

We have been coming to this one day event for quite a few years now, set on the village playing field complete with club house it's a really well supported event with most of the vintage theme here and usually a huge car boot as well.

We arrived on Saturday the day before with lots of others and got ourselves all set up for Sunday and for the first time had a look around, this chocolate box village with all its thatched roofs most of us had seen the formidable weather forecast for Sunday and sure enough it struck around 9am, it just tipped down and by 1pm was all over with those who were brave enough donning their wet gear, loading up and heading for the exit.

What a shame so much hard work put into setting up this Event to no avail. Lets hope the sun shines for them next year.

**Robin**

### **Chairman Report September/October 2018**

My life they say times fly, well this year seems to have flown by, here we are already in September, I sit here writing this report after just returning from the Berwick St John Country Fair this will be the last event for Maureen and me this year.

Now we have been going to Berwick ever since the first event many years ago, it was first run to help raise funds for one of the local churches and we have enjoyed everyone they were always a must attend event.

We did enjoy this years country fair looking around at all the great exhibits, steam engines, tractors, rural crafts, bygones, motorcycles, cars and a great display of World War 1 military trucks, I wish we could get them along to Semington. Well at the Fair we handed out advertising flyers for the forth coming sale at Cranmore as well as over 100 entry forms for our rally at Semington in June next year.

We still need people to come and joins us in running this event, we have over two hundred members in the club, I am sure there must be two or three members that could spare a couple of hours a month to help us with the clubs main event, why not give it a try, I have trained all the committee members not to bite.

Well back to Berwick it was most disappointing to find our self's put right down in the bottom field, the field that use to be used for ploughing. It was always seems that the stationary engines are always looked on as the poor relations of the

vintage movement. Saturday morning I only spoke to two very small sign nailed on post pointing to the gap cut in the hedge. The afternoon was not much better also in this field was the display of vintage commercials plus the miniature steam exhibits, over the whole weekend I very much doubt that more than five hundred entered the field. Sunday many engines exhibitors being fed up packed up and began to leave a before 3 O'clock. It was so bad on Sunday that I did not fire up until around 12 O'clock and in the whole day I only had one person ask me how the engine worked.

It is very easy to criticise and I should know it is far from easy running any event, to organise a show the size of Berwick must be more than a neighbour and I congratulate the organisers and all the people that make this show the great show it is, but please give us the Stationary engine exhibitors a better position to display our exhibits in the future please.

Before Berwick it was away to the Great Dorset Steam Fair, Tuesday 22nd August crack of dawn well by 9.30 I was on my way. Heading for deepest darkest Dorset, I was going to have a caravan for the five days of the show but at the very last moment this went bottoms up, and I was left to sleep in the Nissan, the trailer served as Kitchen and the car as a bedroom, I managed quite well all things considered. That evening I thought I would take a walk round, as I was told by Nigel Too good that I had to go and see the soldier at the world war one trenches. Twenty foot high as near as damn it, made from scrape metal it was a work of art, it must have taken hundreds of hours to build and had to be seen to be believed I then made my way down towards the steam engines, off to the left of the play pen, speaking to a few owners hoping to attract them to Semington until I cam to a very nice Marshall it cam from Swindon, I spoke with the owner only to be met with a reply that beggars belief I have never in all my years in the vintage movement been spoken to in such a rude and uncouth manner. I did not bother to speak to any other engine owners throughout the week.

Later I visited the fair area to find not only one line up of showman's engines but this year three lines of engines. It was getting late and I had a good mile and a half to walk back to find the Nissan and bed. It was on the way back that I got a tap on the shoulder it was Neil, "what you doing tomorrow Eric?" "Why?" "My engine won't start, no sparks, can you have a look?" Well that put paid to my look around on Wednesday morning. I spent a morning not only putting Neil's engine back into working order but also working on a horrible Villiers with flywheel magneto, I gave up, but it did get going, only I was told later that it broke down in a big way, NO OIL IN THE SUMO, oh dear.

Thursday 23rd and it was start up day, I walked down to the engine pen, took the wraps of Betty Bamford on with starting handle and away we went. I did a little milling until I was approached by a gentleman, wanting to know all about the Bamford, he came from Luxemburg, and was showing a Lorence he badly wanted me to sell him the Bamford, he had more chance in plating fog than me ever parting with the Bamford. He even suggested doing a part trade with his engine. Well Betty the Bamford took this to heart and had a bit of a tantrum on Friday morning, did not want to start, I talked to her and told her no way was she going anywhere, this calmed her and soon she was in a better mood and running as sweet as ever.

I met and spoke to a huge amount of people from all over Europe and beyond Saturday passed all to quickly and the evening say me on my way to the fair ground and the showman's engines and what a wonderful sight they were, and the display of miniature showman's engines was magnificent. But the icing on the cake for me was the two engines on very smart low loaders. One being Quo Vardis the other Earl Beaty both belonging to Robert Coles & Family, though not in steam these two engines stood out above all others in my opinion. Quo Vardis has just had a rebuild and repaint Earl Beaty as magnificent as ever.

Sunday was WET very WET, some brave souls did run their engines for a time, me I was not that Brave, I spent the morning chasing traders for Semington next year. The rest of the day I spent drying out and reading my book that I had brought for such an occasion. Monday and it was the last day it dawned dry, a bit of mud here and there but not a lot, so it was down to Betty the Bamford for our last day running at the 50th Anniversary of the greatest show on earth.

The Great Dorset Steam Fair.

**Eric Gay**

**Upper Test Valley Vintage Club Working Weekend & Rally  
8th & 9th Sept Near Stockbridge Hants**

For Jackie and myself, this is always an enjoyable event, we have been coming here for a number of years now and the event has grown bigger each time.

The Engine Steward Ray Basset is also a WESC Member and does a sterling job of looking after us and setting up our section as the event site changes each year and can be one of six or seven (no doubt to do with the farmers crop rotation) which must make Rays job more difficult planning things out.

Once again lots from our club here exhibiting, Niki & Pete brought their acquisition in the guise of a Crossley 1060, a change from their AP Rushton Hornsby and I am sure a little fine tuning was required as do most exhibits, Jamie & Luke had a nice little Rugby Ball Hopper Petter "M" which ran great. A nice little dynamo would look nice here and give it a job of work! On site was a nice lot of stalls plus a Car Boot and on Sunday I did meet up with the Vickerys (Barb & Alan or Keith as he answered to either name) they both look well and it was nice to have a chat. Barb told me they have parted with their Caravan and cut back on a lot of rallies. I guess this will come to us all one day. A large ploughing match took place in an adjacent field and several new case tractors on display and looking around them they were huge with wheels as tall as me.

All the usual Ring Events took place in one of the largest rings I have seen, you almost required binoculars to view the vehicles when they reached the opposite side! Well done again to Ray for looking out to us all.

**Robin**

All information given will be as accurate as can be, for any errors or omissions I apologise in advance. Please note that opinions may or may not represent club policy.

Last date for submission in the September Newsletter Friday 21st Sept 2018  
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