



CRANKING



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Mar-2019

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Editor's Note

Well end of March already and Easter fast approaching. Apologies for the lateness of February's Newsletter. Please let me know by email if you would like the newsletter emailed to you. Please accept my apologies if your item hasn't made it to this month's newsletter I will add to April's, This is due to the AGM information. Please contact me at: swin28.ss@gmail.com, 10 Radstock Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath, BA3 2AJ, 01761 415517.

Sacha Swinden-Pride

Wessex Stationary Engine Club

Chairman's Report, January/February 2019

Monday 28th February, Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd. Committee Members in attendance, Mr Roy Sandford, Mr Gerry Sainsbury, Mr Herb Gane, Mr Brian Coles, Mr Gordon Guley. Executive committee members in attendance, E Gay - Chairman, Tony Lawrence - vice chairman, Mrs Karen Gumm - treasurer, Mr Ted Edwards - secretary, Apologies for absence received from Ted Durbin, Roger & Linda Pike and Mary Verrall.

The meeting was opened at 20.05 by myself acting for our president at his request.

Minutes of the 2018 AGM were read by our secretary Mr Ted Edwards.

Matters arising: there was a discussion of AOB in so much that a charge should be made to visitors to our meetings, I explained that I welcome visitors as this brought income to the Old Down Inn, and in so doing this in turn helped us as a club keep access to our free room at The Old Down Inn. It was decided that this item would once again be raised at a forthcoming committee meeting as to whether we make payment by visitors compulsory. On the clubs Facebook page we do ask for donations from visitors but to date none has been received. A suggestion from the floor that members be asked to receive their newsletter by email, Ted made the reply that he had requested members take their newsletter by email but very few had made a response. From the room four members said that they would be pleased to have their newsletter by email.

The minutes were then accepted, Proposed by Mr Brian Verrall & seconded by Brian Coles.

Chairman's Report: 2018 saw many changes in the Wessex Stationary Engine Club, we lost our long time secretary Jackie Coles, and with no replacement in sight, but the club was lucky into the breach stepped Ted Edwards, then a new club member, my thanks must go to Ted for brilliant work, not only as a secretary for the WSEC but also acts as secretary to the WMVS and his help and advice in setting the clubs new web site deserves our sincere thanks.

The Wessex website works, never before have I received so many enquiries as I do now.

February 2018 saw our long time editor Karen stand aside from this job, I felt very sad when Karen had to give up being our editor of the newsletter. Karen had done a wonderful job not only as editor, but collecting the news letter from the printer in Frome taking it to her mum in Hilperton for distribution.

Help though was at hand into the breach stepped Sacha Swinden-pride, my sincere thanks goes to Sacha for taking on the task, not easy when one has two jobs and a family to look after, with a hundred and one other things life throws at one from time to time.

I very much hope that you have all looked at our list of events for 2019, the committee works very hard to plan all this please if you can give the events from your support.

The very worst news that I have in 2018 was the fact that Karen has to stand down as Treasurer, we are so very sorry to lose her, I myself cannot thank her enough for all the hard work and dedication she has given to the Wessex Stationary Engine Club, Karen is still going to look after the end of year accounts and deal with company house. My self and the committee thank her so very much for agreeing to do this for us.

I hope that in the near future we may have someone to take over keeping the day to day records for the WSCC.

On behalf of myself and the committee to express my own and the committees sincere thanks for all that you have done for us over the past years and for putting up with me and all the help and advice given to me on many occasions.

Last but by no means least our sincere thanks goes to Jackie Coles for her hard work and help, nothing was ever too much for Jackie and her cheerfulness was a joy that I for one will miss. From all your friends on the committee thank you so much and we, all hope your health gets better in the near future.

This ends the Chairman's report.

Treasurers Report: Karen Gumm reported that the club had made a loss of £755, down £1950 from the previous year, with a small amount still to come in. The end of year balance was £13,667, down £1163 due partly to lower membership, down from 221 to 213 and reduced income from the show, down £1173, with attendance being 100 down on previous years and an increase in cost mainly for improved toilets.

Wedmore brought in £182 for Alzheimer's, Westbury £66. The increase of £290 in club costs was mainly due to increase in postal charges, which are due to go up again shortly. The full details of the accounts will be printed in the newsletter in due course.

Presentations: Presentations were made by myself to Wendy Gane, and members of the executive. I on behalf of the committee presented a bouquet of flowers to Karen, I myself was presented with the editor's cup by Karen, and the club gave a presentation to our host at the Old Down Inn, Maxine.

Election of officers: All committee members with the exception of Karen Gumm stood for re-election, all were re-elected by votes from the attending members and postal votes.

Mr Gordon Guley asked what was being done in regards to the post of treasurer, at this time all committee members would be responsible for the club records and finance up until a new treasurer can be found. After a question from the floor about Wendy Gane's position as Membership Secretary, Wendy agreed that she would continue in the post.

Presidents Address: In the absence of our President, I read Roger's address. 2018 was a very busy season for us all and very successful year for the club. The event help at Whaddon Lane suffered as we had a heavy snow fall, hopefully it will not suffer the same fate in 2019 (March 18th). The club rally organisation is well under way, but as usual would welcome more help.

I am personally surprised of the lack of response to items announced in the Newsletter. Eric tried to get a Christmas party in place this year, he never had a phone call except one. With some 200 + members this was not good, resulting in it not happening, which was a great shame as last years was such a success. It is hard work and a lot of time for these different events to take place. It's your club, your events, your rally

SO PLEASE GIVE THE COMMITTEE YOUR SUPPORT. Here's to a happy healthy and safe 2019.

AOB: Mr Gary Sainsbury said that he had downloaded a 2018 rally entry form, how could this be? The committee were unable to give a firm reply to this, all forms on the new web site are current for 2019. Our old website is inaccessible.

The question was raised concerning the miniature Traction engine we were offered in 2016, this was never a concern of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd, as we never took on the offer of this engine in any way.

The question raised by Mr Gordon Guley concerning the newsletter was dealt with and is being proof read by Ted. The newsletter is in safe hands being edited by Sacha and now Sacha is taking on not only Editing but also distributing the newsletter, (please help if you can receive your copy by email, please contact Ted. This will save the Club Money).

There was a discussion by club members and the committee that we need some younger members in our ranks.

With no other business the meeting was closed at 21-30.

Eric Gay, Chairman

Post Script: after the meeting it was brought to my attention that the meeting was not well attended. The question was asked why we got such a good turnout at the new year's supper and we get so few at the AGM.

It is not only the AGM but our evening meetings could do with more support from club members, it seems that free food attracts our membership, but hard work finding speakers, and other events do not have the same effect, with over two hundred members in the club cannot we the committee have a little more involvement by the club members at our evening meetings.

Also with this year's rally being a special Ruston Hornsby event I would love to see our main event being supported by many more club members.

I look forward to seeing you all at Semington.

Eric Gay, Chairman

Club Events

Sunday 14 th April	Wessex Vintage Day, 10am-4.30pm White Horse Country Park, A350 Trowbridge. Details, 01225 754374
Monday 29 th April	Mr Tony Coverdale, The Later Avon Valley Copper and Brass Industry.
Sunday 12 th May	Crank up & Vintage Day, Tuckers Grave Inn, Nr Norton St Philip A366, 10 am – 4.30pm E-Forms & Details 01225 754374
Monday 20 th May	C/N Mr Mike Chipperfield. One week early due to bank holiday
Sunday 2 nd June	Wedmore Crank Up & Vintage Day, Sweets Tea Rooms & Museum, West Hay, Nr Wedmore, BS28 4UE, B3151, 01749 674402
Saturday 15 th Sun 16 th June	Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show, A361 Trowbridge to Devizes Road, at Semington, E/Forms & Details 01225 754374 or 01274 398210, 07796 162775
Sunday 24 th June	C/N Mr Roy Ackrill. From Gutenberg to Gates (early printing)
Sunday 28 th July	Crank up & Vintage Day, The Somerset Arms, Maiden Bradley, Somerset, Nr Frome. E/Forms & Details 01225 754374
Monday 29 th July	C/N Mr Barry Williamson. A Bristol soldier of the Great War
Monday 19 th August	C/N Terry Williams (Light Infantry) talking about the Poppy of Honour WWI, (arranged by Steve Pride)
Monday 30 th September	C/N Mr Terry Merritt Smith, Ration Books to Rock and Roll.
Saturday 5 th October	Cranmore Vintage Sale, A361, Frome to Shepton Mallet Road, 01225 754374, 9am onwards.

Monday 28 th October	C/N Model Evening I/C Steam, Boats, Meccano, Etc. Anything you like, Prize for best model or display.
Monday 25 th November	C/N The Wessex Quiz Night

Congratulations to Diana and John Emery who were celebrating their 56th Wedding Anniversary at the Club's Cranmore Jumble, A Celebratory exchange of gifts would take place later in the day after presents were purchased at the jumble (a Stone Hedgehog and a Runner bean Slicer) we wonder who got the slicer !.
Earwig.

Jackie

Stationary engine wanted at a village fete, one day event, Westfield, Radstock. Sunday June 2nd.
Please contact **Gerald Atherton** 01934 852670

Looking Back (Part 4) Cont.

The 8Hp A P Ruston Hornsby was collected by Bill and myself from Devon and brought back to Frome on a plant trailer that Bill had borrowed from his works, off loaded then gently rolled on 4ft scaffold tubes into the garage for restoration. During the winter months we fabricated a purpose built trailer which was supported on a Ford transit rear axle and springs and when completed we parked it up in an old redundant sub-stn that I rented off the SEB, The trailer never stayed there long as the locks were cut from the gates and the trailer was stolen. So for us it was what to do next? By chance I located an ex Water Board trailer that was identical to the ones we used at work with our O/H line teams and with the two long lids removed and the sides cut down to bed level it was just the job as it could carry about a ton (the Engine was 13cwt).

When we started restoring the engine there was very little to do. The Wico EK mag had a good spark and with every moving part well lubricated we soon had it up and running, It had two fuel tanks one for petrol and a larger one for paraffin and after warming up on petrol it ran very well on para. Bill noticed the crank shaft bearings had a bit of wear so we whipped them out and took them to a local engineer that did a lot of work for Bills firm and he soon had them back to perfection but he did ask us to provide him with the white metal in stick form about 18 ins long and the thickness of a thin pencil. This made us look up the white metal recipe and as near as we could get to it was tip into the melting pot several one inch wide sticks of grade "D" plumbing metal, a few sticks of tinmans solder and I think it was some antimony, when all this was fluid in the pot and not over heated we used a large ladle to scoop out and gently pour into an upturned heated length of 1 inch Angle Iron and when set the sticks were tipped out. In possession of the sticks of metal the engineer then gas welded slowly the metal onto the bearing shells leaving them looking like a Nux bar, then clamping the shells together in his lathe machined them out to the tolerances required and left the final fitting to us with hand scrapers . **Continued Next Month.**

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 April Newsletter is Tuesday 21st April 2019
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