



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AUGUST 2019

I was hoping for a quiet month, well that's not happening just a few days ago I got a phone call, one I could have done without. It was from our vice chairman and our car, commercial, and military rally steward, The bad news was that Tony had decided that he was resigning his posts held in the Wessex Stationary Engine Club, Tony had told me a few weeks ago that he could not take over as Club Chairman, this is partly why I have decided to remain in the post of your chairman.

Tony tells me that it was a very hard decision to make, but the travelling involved and the cost, he has over a hundred mile round trip each time he attended committee meetings at the old down inn or at Trowbridge. I have lost a very valued member of the committees and I would like to thank Tony most sincerely for all his help and support over the past few years, Tony you will be missed by all of us and especially by me. Thank you once again for all you have done not only on the main committee but also all the help and hard work you put into the running of the Wessex Midsummer Vintage show. This leaves the club requiring a vice chairman, we have over two hundred members in the w.s.e.c. there must be a member willing to come and join us, I am also now in need of a person willing to take on the roll of car steward, someone to take over as commercial vehicle steward.

My very good friend Gary Sainsbury has stepped into the roll of military steward for 2020, The rally is the main contributor to club funds, and I know I keep asking for help from our club members but a little more help would be most welcome so if you can help out please give me a ring.

At our last club evening we had a great talk and film presentation by Barry Williams. A Soldier or the great War. We had 15 members present, this was very poor for such a great evening, most speakers make a charge as well you know but our raffles do not cover the cost.

I have just read a report in one of the Vintage Magazines concerning the Sedgemoor Vintage Club. I had to read it twice to make sure that I was not dreaming. They get on average 70 members at their evening meetings, I feel that it may be difficult to keep paying out for speakers.

I know that our members are scattered over a wide area but I am sure that a few more could come along so why not make the effort you just maybe surprised at what you missed.

Eric Grey

August 24th- 26th Bank Holiday weekend

There was so much going on this weekend including the Dorset Steam Fair, Honiton Hill Rally, and Henstridge Airfield I am sure some of our club members were exhibiting at all of the mentioned large events, we went to a favourite of ours at over wallop situated sort of between Andover and Stockbridge. A Sunday only event situated on the village playing field its always well supported with displays of vintage and classic cars, Tractors and motor cycles, stationary engines and a giant car boot sale plus ring events showing farming methods from years gone by, Quite a lot of our club members exhibited here with Nicky and peter who brought along their recent Crossley acquisition and it was nice to meet my neighbour Roger Parkins and his good lady who brought along their early Lister D driving a domestic water pump. Our club Chairman Eric was busy circulating leaflets to promote The white horse Show at Westbury country park on Saturday 14th September and ourselves we just travelled light this year displaying two hot air fans one of which was powering a tiny vintage model engineering lathe that was kindly given to me by an old friend Thank you Jeremy owing to the blazing sunshine and unbearable temperatures, the show started to disperse around 3pm, as those attending were slowly getting burnt to a crisp the exact opposite of last year, when it was washed out by mid-day. I should say a big thank you to organiser Tony Macey who dose most of the work to put this event on. Well done Tony hope to see you again next year.

Robin

Corsley Show August Bank Holiday Monday.

For us this is about as near we can get to a great little village event, just ten minutes and three miles up the road and we are there, for this event I don't believe any entry forms were sent out this year as the grape vine tells me so I was a bit on the apprehensive side on turning up at the Exhibitors entrance as to explain my presence. But it was no problem I was directed to my setting up area next to the toilets (handy I thought)and also close to the huge flower and produce marquee. We weren't too long about setting up as we were there early and made a bee line for the trade stands, we never seen them all as Jackie's mobility range is limited so back to our van we went. Within sight of us were some nice classic cars including Liz and Arthur with their cherished ford mustang, their pal mike had a great display of second world war memorabilia neatly place around his military jeep. Not far away was a huge Ferris wheel for the children to ride on and I could hear the ring events taking place. What I enjoyed watching all day long was half a dozen model tanks all radio controlled and quite large in size one even had a collapsible bridge on top which it could unfold and lay across a stream, back off and pick it up again very cleaver engineering. When moving the tanks even sounded like real ones and you could hear their gears crunch as the moved up a cog. But the real fun was when they strayed from their area and mingled with the visitors they would slowly move towards the children or a dog stopping a yard away and as their prey moved back a bit they would creep forward, great stuff was this watching the animals and children's reaction. To sum up a really nice day out but as like Sunday the sun and heat took a lot of sticking and by mid-afternoon most decided to pack up and return home.

ROBIN

Broughton Vintage Festival of Transport

With one of our favourite Rallies at Beaulieu cancelled this year I could recall seeing an ad in our newsletter for S.E.Exhibitors at Broughton, I had to think where this was too and then I recalled working in the area many years ago. It was just off the A30 midway between Salisbury and Stockbridge. With only a day prior to the event I rang the organizer and he said we have a mammoth amount of entries in this our fourth year but do come and we will squeeze you in somewhere. The sports field was only available to the event after six pm on Saturday as that was when the cricket teams stopped playing so I joined the already forming queue of tractors and living vans and, we were directed to our setting up area. Saturday arrived and the field began to fill up, the classic cars were fantastic, around two hundred I would guess, and even a vintage helicopter flew in and landed, it was based at the army air corps museum at middle wallop which as the crow flies could have been only a dozen fields or so away. The flying machine was Italian, manufactured by Agusta with just a glass bubble for the two crew. It had a six cylinder petrol engine and the back end looked like it was made up of long lengths of half inch water pipe. Around the field were lots of vintage jumble stalls, food vans, and all that we would expect to find at a vintage rally. We had a very enjoyable day here and were kept very busy all day explaining how our machines worked.

Robin.

Club Events

Monday 30 th September	C/N Ration books to Rock and Roll – Mr Terry Smith
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

KERWIN HARRIS

I overhaul, rebuild and refurbish Amanco igniters, I could also supply new ones. I have a small number of inlet, exhaust and igniter springs for Amanco. Also a large collection of assorted

engine literature. Call me. 01872 273388

Obituary

It is with great sadness that I must announce the passing of Mary Verrall after suffer a recent set-back. Mary and Brian have been members of the club since the beginning, some forty years ago. Most of you will have known her and will appreciate all she did for the club. She will be missed, and my thoughts go out to Brian and family.

I was saddened to here of the death of Des Clarke, although not a club member Des from Trowbridge was very well known in engineering circles, he had a vast knowledge of steam engines and was very well known in Wiltshire were he could often be seen helping out with the Westbury scale railway. For many years he ran the engineering workshops at Trowbridge college and was a big help to me during the seven years I spent there building a steam engine and boiler. Des will be sorely missed and will have passed on many of his skills to all who knew him. Our condolences go out to his family.

Robin

Get well soon

Get well soon to Dot Watts. We send our best wishes. Dot is having a lengthy spell in hospital and is probably one of our most senior lady club members. We wish you well Dot and a speedy recovery.

Robin

Last date for submission in the Newsletter is the 20th of each month.