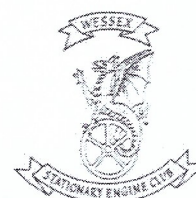


CRANKING



Issue 6/16

Jun-16

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

From The Editor

We were all shocked to hear of the death of our long term member and president Brian Baker and also Jan Hall the lady who had volunteered to be our Commercial rally Steward within two weeks of each other - our thoughts go out to their families at this sad time. On a lighter note - it looks like the sun has finally arrived, lets hope that it is here to stay to ensure some good rally weekends this year and we can leave the wellies at home for a change ! For me I am able to get out in the garden for an hour a day and shed some of the winter weight gain on the jungle I used to call a garden. I hope to see you all at the Annual Rally (yes it is midsummer already !!) the show gets bigger and better every year thanks to the 11 months preparation by the rally team so don't miss it.

Til Next Time

Karen

Social News

by Robin Lambert

The Westbury Transport Gathering went off very well but it was so cold when we camped on Friday night, (minus 2 degrees recorded in the van next to us), we returned home for Saturday in a nice warm house and bed.

It was good to see Adrian Grant back on the event scene after two heart attacks, so well done Ade and take things slowly.

I did have a brief chat to Mr and Mrs Roy Chapman who were just looking round and Roy told me his good lady had a bad fall at home, ended up in hospital and is making a steady recovery so well done to her.

Our grapevine tells us that David Edgington is off colour and would like to suspend his help in the S T Eng Magazine so no more emails and letters please until he is back up and running on all cylinders.

Calendar of Events

Key CN= Club Night, E=Event

CN Held at the Old Down Inn Emborough at 8pm

June E - Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show

18/19th Semington NR Trowbridge

June 27th CN - Time Travel through the Mendip Hills

Talk by Mr Les Davis

July 25th CN - Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Talk by Mr Mike Rowland

July 31st E - Special event see May Newsletter

August 29th TBC

Sept 11th E Model Engineering and Railway Show - White Horse Country Park, Westbury

Sept 26th CN - An illustrated talk on Cross Manufacturing & Engineering - Mr Rodney Cross

Oct 8th E - Vintage Sale at Cranmore - East Somerset Steam Railway

Oct 31st CN - Quiz Night Anne Kempson

Nov 31st Model Evening (alternative hobbies)

WANTED :- The Committee have asked that anyone who feels they would like an issue raised for discussion at our monthly committee meeting please contact Eric Gay, he will put it on the next agenda.

July 2016 :- Last Date for Submission 20th June

Post :- Mrs Karen Gumm

15 Tower Hill

Dilton Marsh

WESTBURY

Wiltshire

BA13 3SP

E-Mail :- karen.gumm@btinternet.com

Tel :- 01373 822461

Find Us at :- www.wessexsec.org

and like us on Facebook

Wessex Stationary Engine Club

Obituary for Brian Baker - by Eric Gay

It is with great sadness that I write this report, for I have to tell you all of the death of our long term former Chairman Brian Baker. Brian served the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd for many years. Brian had a very serious heart attack last year but he fought his way back to health. I have been told he terrorised the streets of Shepton on his electric scooter, just like he did years back when he rode motorcycles. He raced motorcycles in moto cross, we called it scrambling back when he and I took part. Brian often told us of his motorcycle exploits. In his working life he rose to the post of foreman in a motorcycle workshop and this was the source of many of his tales.

When Brian became a member of our club he was working with his brother Ray, they took dents out of cars that had gotten into scrapes and were bent or broken. Brian was good at that, I myself owe him a debt of gratitude for the work he did on one of my vehicles.

Brian and Ray for many years ran a year end gathering at the workshop they ran together at Evercreech. We had some good times and fun at those get togethers. In his post as Chairman, Brian spent nearly 14 years keeping the Club at the top of the Stationary Engine movement, he did not only serve as Chairman but took on the role of newsletter editor as well for many years. He did this job admirably, but as we all know one can't do everything to keep the Club going, and Brian handed over the reigns of the newsletter editor to Kim. I worked alongside Brian as vice chairman for all his time as Chairman, we did not always agree with each others ideas for the Club, but we always came to a happy compromise and most times he got his way, God bless him.

When Brian gave up the post of Chairman and I took over, I knew he would be a hard act to follow, but he was still active as our President, he was a great help to me. It was with his help we were able to stage the two Christmas parties, one at the Court Hotel and one at our current 'home' The Old Down Inn. Brian sorted the entertainment for both events. The last time we spoke he was hoping he may be able to come along to Semington this year, but this was not to be. Brian was taken very ill again suddenly with a serious chest infection leading to pneumonia and although he fought hard again it was not to be.

On behalf of all Club members I should like to express our sincere condolences to all of Brian's family at this very sad time, goodbye old friend, rest in peace.

Chairman's Report - May 2016

Our meeting at the Old Down Inn on 25th April 2016, was a first for the WSEC and the pub, a real live Barn Owl was brought along by Mr Chris Speering to give us a talk on the owls of England. I for one learned a lot. I thought I knew a bit being a country lad but how wrong can you be? I always thought the dish around the owl's eye was to collect as much light as possible, not right Mr Gay. It is to help collect sound and transfer it to the owl's ear, just like a radar dish. Now did you know that?, see this club is not only for engine nuts but for general education as well! It was a very enjoyable evening, it was a pity more members did not come along as it was requested at the Christmas party and cost more than our usual budget for events. But never mind I appreciate there are others things going on that make coming difficult at times.

The Westbury Vintage Gathering was again a well attended event and thank you all for coming, I hope you did not suffer too much from the cold. I did not count all the engines but we must have had 30 along with other exhibits. The West Wilts Society of Model Engineers ran their steam trains, but we were a bit down on general public, must have been the cold weather. Now with luck and a fair wind we can do it again in 2017, how about bigger and better- lets see what we can do.

Please do not forget your invitation to the steam and stationary engine workshops near Devizes on the 31st July. **You must let me know** if you would like to come along (free tea and cakes cant be bad!), so please ring me to confirm on **01225 754374**.

The Westbury Transport and Vintage day run by Keith and Will Miller was a good weekend, well attended by Wessex members, The sun actually shone but again it was still a bit cold. Keith has had a new shoulder (thanks to the wonders of modern medicine) and I know you will all want to wish him well.

Our Rally looms, any help setting up from Wednesday onwards and clearing up after the event would be most welcome. Lets hope the sun shines on us as we have once again a very good entry of exhibits.

Looking Back by Robin Lambert

It was on Mothering Sunday weekend that memories of almost 37 years ago came flooding back to me when our Daughter and Granddaughter took Jackie and myself out for a day at Longleat on a deal that Mums go free and the Kids and Grandads are charged. Having driven up from the main Entrance and starting to wind down the Estate road with the Big House Sand Park in full view, flash backs of the 1979 and 1981 Stationary Engine Magazine 1000 Engine Rally came flooding back to me as if it were yesterday.

'Eric and Ann Brain's tent was just there' I said, 'they were doing the check-ins as all the Exhibitors rolled to a halt as directed.' This huge event was put together and organised by David and Doreen Edgington with lots of WSEC members and friends backing them. A few on site meetings with Lord Christopher prior to the event was of course a must and he was so helpful, he more or less left it to us as to what we did after pointing out the huge area he made available.

One of the duties assigned to me and my old friend Bill was drinking water for the large Camping area and I knew a local farmer who would give us the loan of a three 7ft tall 6ft wide round PVC containers that once held concentrated cordial juice, which having been washed out were fine but that water still had a twinge of Peppermint, Lime and Orange which was novel when making a cup of tea ! We required a strong trailer to move these tanks and Bill said 'I have just the job I will pick you up at 3am and we will collect it and drop it over to Longleat'. So, in the early hours of the darkness I could see why the early start, the trailer was

a Mobile Home Chassis some 30ft long and 9ft wide and best to move it whilst no one else was on the road !

Marking out and roping the enclosures never took long and the next we knew the Field began to fill up with Exhibitors. Some of the light sleepers were disturbed by roaring lions, barking seals and screeching peacocks !

On the Saturday evening an Engine Men's Supper took place in a large marquee with several hundred meals prepared by ladies of our club and helpers. Probably our most farthest flung member Andy Mercer, all the way from Scotland dressed in a kilt and all the refinery, received a rapturous applause when entering the marquee, all that was missing was the bagpipes. Its strange how one can remember all those years ago but not what we had for tea last night. Looking back all this time ago a young school boy and his dad were looking round the engine enclosures and he in turn, is still looking round and now exhibiting with his son. He is of course, Jamie Coates, who along with his son Luke, are helping to carry our hobby forward, so well done to Luke's grandad for setting them off into the right direction.

Christmas Down Under

by John and Di Emery

We were all set for our trip to Australia, new passports, visas etc. This time we were going for Christmas, suitcases packed with T-shirts, shorts and Christmas presents and we were to meet for the first time our brand new great granddaughter, this was an exciting time. As previously we would stay with our son Steve and daughter-in-law Joanne. Then came the devastating news, there had been a major bush fire north of Adelaide and their house had burnt to the ground. Everything was gone, photos, furniture, pictures and souvenirs, all the things that go to make a house a home, had been devoured by flames. They were so lucky to escape with their lives. The fire was only minutes away as they drove off barely able to see through the smoke.

The question now was do we still go? Everyone said we should, they needed us there so we went as planned. We could find accommodation somewhere. Lots of their friends had offered to put us up. When the day came to begin our journey we wondered all the time what to expect when we arrived. What we found was that they were well established in a rented bungalow almost fully furnished. Friends had given them clothes, furniture, beds, kitchen utensils, food, money, TV just about everything you could think of ! The generosity of folks brings a lump to your throat. Not surprisingly the trauma of it all had affected them badly, but our arrival eased their minds to some extent. After a few days we decided to go on our prearranged trip to Alice Springs and Ayers Rock. This too helped them back to normality. Christmas came, sprouts and all, contrary to popular belief it wasn't a BBQ on the beach. It was indoors, curtains pulled and the air con on full blast side with the temp outside being 44°.

Continued on next page

From Page 3

Boxing Day was trip to Old Tailem Town, sort of half museum and half scrap yard with a lot of old vehicles, many far beyond possible restoration, but interesting all the same. There were streets of shops just as they were in times gone by. Settlers cottages were re erected, even one made of cow dung, but pride of place goes to the engine shed, claimed to be one of the biggest engine collections in the country. There were Austral, Bagshaw, Clutterbuck, Moffet Vittue, McDonald and Roseberry engines, rarely if ever, seen on our shores , all under one roof. Surely a sight to behold. Don't forgot to visit next time you are in Southern Australia.

All to soon it was time to face that tedious journey home, We had a good holiday and were happy to leave our family in a more peaceful frame of mind than when we first greeted them.

Sales

Please note all sales will stay in for three months and then cleared unless you tell me otherwise- please let me know if anything needs changing next time. Thank you

Fuller & Johnson 2.5hp 1923 Hit and Miss
Fully Restored on nice trolley £ 850.00
Amanco Brassed bodied magneto drive gear
for 4ph engine, will fit 2 1/4 hp , Full working
order £ 300.00
Hemmings Steam Boiler (model boats) this
boiler has never been used, gas fired , as
new £ 400.00
Amanco 2 1/4hp cylinder head £ 100.00
Old Fire Extinguisher, riveted make a good
cooling tank £ 15.00 ono
Water Hopper for Ruston PT 1.5hp £ 5.00
The Motor Electica Manual 1936 £ 15.00 ONO
The Penguin Car Handbook 1968 £ 10.00 ONO
Pitmans Motorist Library :-
Book of the Rover 1937 to 1959 £ 15.00 ONO
Hillman Hunter Owners Manual £ 5.00 ONO
Hillman Avenger Owners Handbook £ 5.00
The Book of the BSA 1936 onwards £ 25.00
Set of 5 Vauxhall overhaul training manuals
(full set) £ 20.00 ONO
All Above Ring Eric Gay 01225 754374

Ruston DHP 2PR open crank 2hp with Brand new
magneto £ 1000.00 ONO
ML Mag Right Hand Rotation £ 85.00 ONO
Wicow Book Mag with copper cover £ 175.00 ONO
All above ring Matthew (evenings only) on
01747 870516

4 Ply motor home cover, new fits all up to 6m
long £ 50.00
Wheel Clamp £ 10.00
Tank Crew No 2 cooker, dixie and strap £ 100.00
(as issued to all AFV crews 1950-1980's)
All Above Contact Peter Stacey 01373 472328

Petter A1 Good Runner no trolley £ 50.00
Coventry Victor Flat Twins x 2 £ 50.00 , one
for spares.
Lister D non runner £ £30.00
All Above Contact Tony Lawrence 01264 398210

Petter Engine 5hp Diesel, some frost damage
ideal for spares or to restore £ 30.00
Jap 3A engines x 2 - Ideal for a beginner - make
one good one £ 20.00
All Above Contact Brian Verrall 01934 743460

Fuel Tanks and Crank Guards Made
Tel :- John Hedges 01635 268359 or
Mobile :- 07831 410473

Double 17 Rung Aluminium Extension Ladder
£ 45.00 Good condition
Ring Robin 01373 463526

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