



CRANKING



Issue 5/16

May 2016

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

From The Editor

I am delighted that only a week after my first editorial hit your mats I have been sent and offered many articles to help keep your newsletter alive.

If this keeps up the four pages could become six , so thanks to each and every one of you.

The articles have a real human interest and it is good to get to know the people behind the engine obsession ! In fact I have a couple of articles that due to lack of space will be put in the next issue - but they will appear so please don't stop sending your work in !

Thanks to Alan and Dot for taking the time to send me such a lovely letter which really made my day, in answer to you, yes all my own work and for you I sign as myself !

Til Next Time

Karen

Social News

by Robin Lambert

Our Club Jumble is a good place to chat to our old friends and mates that we haven't seen all winter and find out how they fared during the winter months. Mike Snook had some bad luck with a fall in the driveway, falling on his face breaking his front teeth off at the stumps and leaving him with cuts and bruises. It was good to see John Kyte looking around the stalls, frozen like the rest of us. On his homeward journey the idler pulley on his van's water pump broke up causing the Engine temperature to soar, but after some very careful speed recalculations he made it home OK. A chat with John and Di Emery about their Christmas trip to Southern Australia to see their son was tinged with sadness as his house and all their belongings were destroyed in a bush fire. (More on this next month - The Editor).

Calendar of Events

Key CN= Club Night, E=Event

CN Held at the Old Down Inn Emborough at 8pm

May 23rd E- Crank Up Not Looking Possible due to lack of suitable Venue - Possible talk please see website/Facebook for late information.

June 18/19th E -Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show Semington NR Trowbridge

June 27th CN - Time Travel through the Mendip Hills

July 25th Talk by Mr Les Davis
CN - Isambard Kingdom Brunel
Talk by Mr Mike Rowland

July 31st E - Special event see end of 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

Note :-

The Gartell Light Railway Steam Show held on 25/26th June has been cancelled says organiser Steve Rod - lets hope this show can get back on track.

June 2016 :- Last Date for Submission 16th May

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Wessex Stationary Engine Club

April 2016 - Chairman's Report by Eric Gay

Lots to report on this month, the club has had a busy time, starting with :-

March Club Event - Cranmore Sale

I set out around 7.15 got to Cranmore just before 8, only to be met by Herb, who had beaten me to the venue and some sellers had already set up to make vast sums of money selling their goodies. The sale attracted just over 20 stalls, we raised the stall charge to £ 7.00, I did not get one complaint and some stall owners still say we are very cheap. Buyers also had to pay more £ 2.00, yes a 100% rise but things are costing more and we have to keep our heads above water, I had one buyer get very cross at this rise in entry fee, but what can you get for £ 2.00 nowadays, not even a cup of tea. The Café must have done well as once again they ran out of food, I can't make out why as they certainly know how to charge. Well by the end of the day the Club made a good profit. To all those who gave me a helping hand on the gate thank you very much.

March Club Night - Across America by Motorcycle

Our next event was our club night at the Old Down Inn, a talk and film presentation by Mike Chipperfield, on crossing America by Motorcycle, a 1950's 1000cc Vincent. We built the best I wish we still did, this country was at the top of the tree then, we are not far off the bottom now, (Enough Mr Gay - stop being political). Mike told us of his travels and of the people he meet along the way , many of then not believing his bike was built in 1950 , is 66 years old and can still be trusted to cross the USA putting 13000 miles on the clock with no breakdowns. The only thing that had to be replaced was the speedo cable. The item was with Mike within two days, being supplied by the Vincent owners club spares supplier in America, with a note saying NO CHARGE. There was a time you could get this type of service in Britain but sadly no longer. The photographs of the scenery as Mike travelled was breath taking. I WANT ANOTHER BIKE, all donations gratefully received. Everyone who came along on the evening had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with a great speaker and a subject that held everyone's attention. Thanks must go to Mike Chipperfield for giving his time to entertain us all so well, thank you Mike.

April Club Event - Vintage Day at the White Horse Country Park near Westbury, Wiltshire.

First I must thank Gordon Guley for all his help and hard work, we both went to Westbury on Saturday to set up stakes and ropes, this did not happen as we would have been drowned, the rain just poured down. With the weather like it was , I was worried about the following day but Sunday did improve being dry but the wind was very cold. I arrived just after 9am and was greeted with the a sight to gladden the heart of any organiser, people already on site unloading and setting up for the day ahead. It was great to see so many club members turn up to give their support to this event, we had around 30 engines along with a display of Manod steam engines by Bob Halem and a display of model tractors by John from Melksham, Brian Coles came up from Wells with his new engine only collected the day before and we did not know when this was last started, so it was a case of swing it and hope. At first not a pop but this was soon put to rights, thanks to Will Rogers for pointing out the igniter was not opening, and a few minutes later one Ruston IP was running, with a great big smile on Brian's face as his new toy sat and run like the proverbial well oiled machine ! (One down one to go Brian..) One other Ruston did not behave itself, the oil pump feeding the main bearings started to misbehave, but no doubt this will soon be sorted. Two long travelled exhibitors came down from Dorsetshire, Don Cutler with his Ruston and Nigel Toogood with the United. Robin Lambert had a great display, his hot air engines now all displayed in a purpose built trailer, very nice indeed. It was good to see Kevin and Carole Phillips with us and to hear that Kevin is getting on well, take care Kevin and thank you for coming along. The West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers ran some of their steam trains, it was just a pity it was so cold as this put off the public, we did not get a deal of visitors , perhaps we will have better luck next year. With few visitors and the cold wind most people started to drift away around 2.30pm and by 3.30 pm we were heading for home, so a big thank you to all of you for supporting this event and also to those that helped us clear up.

That's it for this month - I hope that you all have a good summer and lots of good rallying with lots of that sunshine - well we can live in hope at any rate !

Mells Daffodil Day 2016

As so often in life people can be attempting the same thing and have very different experiences. We have two great reports on the Daffodil day and as they are so different -I think they both merit a publish in this issue.

Mells Daffodil Day by Brian Verrall

The weekend started on Sunday afternoon 27th March when myself, Eric, Herbie, Dale , Gordon and Paula arrived on site to assemble the pens for the Monday event. As we were meant to start the sky opened and down came the rain, hail etc. The 1st hour was spent sitting in the vans, eventually when it blew over we managed to put in the stakes and lay out the ropes, by this time the ground was waterlogged.

On the day of the show I arrived at around 8.45 and joined the queue to get in. Fortunately Tony Millard was in front (an engine owner from the Bristol & South Gloucestershire Stationary Engine Club), and with some quick thinking from Gordon Guley a tow strap was connected between my camper and his landrover so it wasn't a problem getting across to the engine pens.

By about 10am a few more engines had arrived and set up, in total 15 exhibitors braved the elements out of a total of 56 who had booked in. So we had 17 engines running, a table of ongoing restoration work by Eric our Chairman , and a dot milk float motorcycle complete with churns and bottles etc. At least he was with people he knew since he was the only motorcycle exhibit !

The rain kept off until around 2pm and quite a few of the public turned up and as in previous years a lot of interest was shown. Needless to say more rain and hail in the afternoon made it very wet and slippery underfoot , especially for clearing up and getting out but anyone who got stuck did not have to worry , Gordon Guley and Spud Taylor were on hand with their tractors to give a hand to anyone who could not move or got stuck.

After a rather soggy day I would like to thank those that turned up and to anyone who helped with the ropes - your efforts were much appreciated.

We Almost Made It to Mells ! by Robin Lambert

Like most intending Exhibitors we were up bright and early for an 8am home departure which worked perfectly until we were stopped by flood waters only 500 yards from our home, with two stranded cars marooned in the lake and their leg sodden drivers standing on a dry spot looking thoroughly miserable, no doubt waiting for the recovery teams. So after a quick turnaround we diverted through the town taking our usual route. What did seem strange the temporary road signs were sending the Show traffic out of town on the Bristol Road diverting around Buckland Dinham and then the lanes to Mells. Ignoring the signs we took our usual route and a large tree was blocking half the main road just outside Mells village. We trundled on down into the village and took the usual right turn by the Village shop and I pulled over by the council houses and parked up after remembering the old saying 'five minutes reconnaissance can save an hour of toil'. I walked round the corner to the field entrance which was empty apart from the Vehicle Steward who said that it was not looking too good, they had gone to get straw for the entrance, our area had been roped off in the usual place but the field was very wet and was not being used as a car park this time. I squelched my way across to the Engine Area and knew in no way could we make it across the field. On my way back Phil Marshall came through the entrance, water gushing upwards from the wheels of a 4 x 4 saying ' can't stop have to keep going' , closely followed by Steve Baker in his car, but he only made it 20 yards and came to a halt. So the decision was made to return to base and offload the trailer. On our way out a lady in a huge jumbo size van had taken a wrong turn, tried to reverse in too tight a track and reversed into an electric pole causing the wires to dance up and down fortunately in unison, so no big bangs and flashes ! We spent the rest of the day at home in glorious sunshine wondering how the event went and what a shame such a nice event was stricken with bad weather.

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 .

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

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

V Imp - Top Secret Squirrel - Club Event by Eric Gay

Well it had to happen, I had just finished the Chairman's report, had my dry bread and jam for tea when the phone rang.

I was talking with a very nice lady, a very very nice lady indeed because she has kindly extended an invitation to members of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club to visit her families Steam & Stationary Engine Restoration workshops on Sunday 31st July from 1pm til 5pm.

Members will get a guided tour and then are free to wander round as you will, a small selection of refreshments will be served during the afternoon.

I have been lucky enough to have been invited to the premises a few years ago and it was a very special and interesting day out.

This is a **PRIVATE** invitation to Members and family only and I must **KNOW THE NUMBERS THAT ARE TO ATTEND SO I NEED ANYBODY THAT WANTS TO ATTEND TO RING ME ON 01225 754374 AND CONFIRM.**

The venue for this visit is not far from Devizes , Wiltshire but as I have been asked by the owners not to advertise this in any way except to our club members, on hearing from you I will forward the full details of the location, The rest is up to you, please give me a call and don't miss this opportunity.

PS. The collection is part of the Brown and May Trust.

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