



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter From The Sump

Well things aren't looking any better, a month on, in fact things are getting worse by the day – with another lockdown upon us, any chance of a late year Crank-Up diminish by the day.

With the short days and long, dark and dismal evenings this lockdown is going to be especially hard for all of us, so if you have friends or family who might be struggling a little, give them a call, they might be glad of a chat.

It is saddening to see shows in 2021 already cancelling, I really had hoped this virus would slowly diminish and we could get back to some sort of normality, but this doesn't look to be the case.

A few projects await my attention in the workshop, I need to acquire or fabricate a crank oil splash guard for my Ruston 1ZHR, as the small one that is there presently doesn't do a great job of containing drops of oil thrown about by the lovely open crank, passers-by to the engine wouldn't be too happy to walk away with oil-spotted clothes!

I am fortunate enough to have a bit of workshop space at home with an exhaust extraction system, so I can run engines safely inside – presently my prized Gardner 4VT sits in the prime position, coupled up to the system, this engine gets a decent run fairly regularly. It is also quite quiet, so that keeps the neighbours happy!

Lockdown 2 has brought further 'boredom' at weekends for me, so I have resorted to filing all my Stationary Engine Magazines into date order, I find it fascinating to look back at shows of yesteryear and in particular, looking at the For Sale section and the apparent bargain prices some rather nice engines were fetching back then. I think my SEM magazines date back to the 1980's, much to my wife's disgust!!

Till next month.....Take care, stay safe, *David*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well here we are with yet another lockdown; I was like everyone else, hoping that things were getting better on the Coronavirus front but it seems not to be - I just hope that all our Club members are keeping clear of this wicked disease at this time.

I only know one member that has succumbed to this virus and I am happy to say, is well on his way to recovery.

I have had news of a few new restorations and acquisitions, so it is very evident the Club is still very much alive and kicking.

One such being the rescue of a Lister A Type that has been lying rather unloved, outside in the open for some years. Being well and truly seized solid, it has been freed off, with a little work on the magneto and guess what.....this is now up and running! Another piece of our heritage saved.

After many hours of work on a friend's Burrell miniature traction engine yesterday, I took the engine outside, lit a fire praying the thing would run.....after about an hour with no steam pressure showing on the gauge I started to worry! So.....let's open the regulator and see what happens – the engine starts and runs well!!.....Maybe it needs a new pressure gauge?? Next to check the water pump that wasn't working.....it's not putting water into the boiler, not a good sign I thought, but I soon had this sorted. Checked the injector, well that works, so did the new hand pump that I fitted.

I still have one or two jobs to do but not bad after standing unused and unloved for many, many years.

I have been trying to keep in touch with as many members as I can in these troubled times.

Now if any of you need to know anything relating to the club or what is happening, please give me a ring, I am always pleased to hear from any club member that needs help in anyway.

If I would just like a chat, don't be shy just call.

I can also help with restoration work so if you are in need of anything do give me a call. My number is 01225 754374

Well with Christmas approaching and the dark nights well and truly upon us, maybe like me, you will not be going out into the cold workshop or shed as the old bones start complaining a bit when they get cold!!

I get fed up watching the television so what is there to do??

You could sit down and write an article for the newsletter (Please!!! *Editor*) or perhaps find a good book to read. I have quite a large number of books, many of which I enjoy so just hoping I do not bore you – I am going to list a few and hope you will enjoy them as much as I have done.

How about saving money?? Why not have a read of The Complete Book of Self-Sufficiency by John Seymour Interested in old crafts? How about the Forgotten Arts again by John Seymour, a National Trust book published by Dorling Kindersley Ltd in London?

Moving on now I know some of you will want an engine book - how about Beautiful Engines by Stan Grayson?

This can be obtained from Camden Books, Rode near Frome.

History in my home county of Wiltshire, The Age of Steam by Peter Stainer, published by Halsgrove House, Tiverton EX16 6SS

If you like history together with steam engines, how about Brown & May engine builders of Devizes. This is published by Alan and Ruth Rundle, from Boston in Lincolnshire

A great book for all lovers of motorcycles, classic British racing motorcycles by Mick Walker, Osprey automotive publishing of 59 Grosvenor Street London W1X 9DA

Last for now and a book that has given me endless pleasure is a Life with Steam by Joe Challis, published by Final Publishing from Swanage in Dorset.

Well I hope this is not too boring and may you get as much pleasure from these books as I have done

Once more till then – keep safe, keep well. *Eric Gay – WSEC Chairman*

FUTURE MEETINGS

Covid 19 has caused a great many changes in everyday life, and for us it has meant the loss of our annual show and most of our crank-ups. It has also caused us to lose our monthly meetings, but this can be looked upon as an opportunity rather than a problem, and we are taking up the challenge. Our November 30th meeting, which was scheduled to be a quiz night at the Old Down Inn, will now be held online through the medium of "Zoom", and will include a presentation on restoration subjects by member Geoff Wallis. The planned start time will be 8pm as usual, and as a bonus you will be able to have a few beers without having to worry about driving home.

This will probably be new technology for many of you, as indeed it is for me, but it's very simple as long as you have a computer with a reasonable connection to the internet. If you have a webcam and headset you will be able to contribute to the conversation, but even without them you can still watch, listen and enjoy the evening. Prior to the event everyone who has supplied an email address will receive further details and a link to Zoom and you just follow the instructions to join the meeting. I hope that as many as possible will join in, and those who are not connected can maybe have a social evening with someone who is – suitably distanced of course! If you have the necessary equipment and would like to join in but haven't so far supplied an email address, please let me have one ASAP to make sure you aren't left out.

We hope that the evening will be a success and Zoom meetings can eventually become a regular part of the club's activities; there is no immediate prospect of resuming our "Old Down" evenings so this might be the only way for us to stay in touch as a club. This technology will also allow members who live a long way from the Old Down to join in, have their say and enjoy the talks.

Unfortunately, we haven't found a way of including the raffle! *Ted Edwards, Hon Sec*

Please use **secretary@wessexsec.org** to ensure we have your email address should you wish to take part

CHARITY DONATION FROM WSEC

As we all know Charities are going through a particularly hard time recently. For a long time we have supported the Children's Hospice South West with a small contribution from our annual show, so the committee has decided on your behalf that as we have saved over £300 by not having to pay for speakers this year, we should to give that sum to them. It's a very small drop in a very large ocean, but every little helps. If anyone has any objection please let a member of the committee know by 14th December and if anyone would like to add to this donation, we would be pleased to hear from them – WSEC Committee

MARKETPLACE

Please note all Sales and Wanted adverts will stay in for 3 months unless you tell me otherwise!

FOR SALE Brooks electric motor, 3HP@240v, 2800rpm in good working order £60 or would swap for something small for my 1 1/2hp Alamo to run (Not water pumps) 01225 754374 *Eric*

SERVICES

Amanco igniters, checked over & rebuilt, RS1 magnetos, checked new condensers fitted if needed. Good RS1 magneto cases if any are corroded etc now with enforced lockdown is the time to let me have anything that needs attention, rather than finding something is not working at a rally, sometime! Not too far away.

Kerwin Harris 30 Hillcrest Avenue, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3NE Tel – 01872 273388

WANTED

Does anybody have an original Petter 'M' water tank stand or an EXACT replica? It should be approximately 19 inches square by 7 1/2 inches tall. I only require dimensions to build one for my engine.

Any help would be gratefully received - Gerald Atherton 01934 852670.

MY LISTER L

I've always wanted an early flick-mag Lister engine of some description, I find the action of the flick mag when running absolutely fascinating to watch, plus the sound as it trips!

Whilst enjoying a Sunday carvery lunch with friends in Cornwall, I learnt of an early Lister L that was available up on Dartmoor – we would be passing by on the way back up from Cornwall.....it was too good an opportunity to pass up on.



So a few messages and a phone call, we were soon on our way back up the A30, by 4.30pm it was getting decidedly dark, but with my wife as my co-pilot, we navigated our way (with a trailer full of engines and a trailer within it too!) to an address near Okehampton. It didn't look too far off the A30 looking at the map, but how wrong I was!! A twisty, windy bumpy old road (Yes, it was an A road apparently!!) brought us to a delightful thatched cottage, where I shoehorned the pickup and trailer off the road and walked in to meet the owner.

A treacherous walk down through his garden and into a paddock later, we arrived at his 'shed' where a delightfully original Lister L sat upon a Lister trolley! Quickly looking over it revealed a very original set, in very good condition.

A few pumps of petrol on the hand primer and a swift swing on the handle and she was away, sounding great.

A deal was done and I agreed to return the following evening to collect it. Fortunately, the engine has been moved from the shed to the driveway, which was no mean feat, given the muddy ground conditions!

There is nothing to do to this engine, it is wonderfully original and doing anything more than a wipe-over with an oily rag would be a travesty! So that's pretty much all I've done. I'm looking forward to getting this engine out to a rally or two next year.

It also has wonderful history, it was supplied on 6th May 1920 (my birthday!!) to Mr Henry Norrington & Son, of Exeter, so a great local engine. *David Lacey*

V	H	W	D	K	P	I	L	P	A	S	T	O	E	V
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G	B	E	R	N	A	R	D	H	T	E	R	M	M	L

BERNARD, DEUTZ, HARTOP, SLAVIA, TURNER, WILTON, NORMAN
 LISTER, PETTER, RUSTON, VILLIERS, JAP, GRAY, STUART, BAMFORD
 BLACKSTONE, AMANCO, CROSSLEY, GALLOWAY, BENTALL, COBURN
 TEAGLE, STICKNEY, STOVER, ONAN

Can you find them?

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the committee or its members. Although the greatest care is taken in compiling this newsletter the editor takes no responsibility for any errors or omissions

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Deadline is the 20th of each month