



CRANKING



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

That's a wrap for 2021 – a difficult and sad year for many, but we did manage to do a little more than we did in 2020 which we should be very thankful for. With no Club Rally, the Club has had very little income over the year, so let's hope 2022 allows us to stage our Rally and raise some funds for the Club.

It is really pleasing to see WSEC flourishing with a healthy membership and a good Committee - as I sadly do hear that similar Clubs are struggling to attract Committee members, it has got so severe that some Clubs may be forced to close, which will be a big shame, as their excellent rallies and events will also disappear too. Let's hope the members can be found.

November and December have been busy months, with my Open Day in Wellington being a great success and the late-night shopping/Craft Fair engine light-up display I attended at Bicton Gardens near Budleigh Salterton in Devon keeping my engine addiction fed somewhat! Event reports a little further in this issue.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Whaddon Crank-Up on 29th December where we can look forward to a good selection of engines and exhibits running under cover, regardless of the weather.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your lovely feedback regarding *Cranking* over the year, be it in person or by email, it really makes it all worth the while. Also, due thanks to contributors who have sent over articles and write-ups for me to include to keep it interesting and varied.

I wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year - *David*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, the end of the year is with us and it is time to wish you all a very happy Christmas and may you all have a very happy New Year. Let us hope 2022 will be a better year for all of us and that by some miracle we can say goodbye to Coronavirus. I have just been able to get my booster jab - I had to travel to Corsham to get it but that did not matter, I am just thankful that we are so well looked after by the NHS.

Now over the years I have visited a fair number of Aladdin's caves where many old engines came to light and more than a few ended up at Rutland Crescent. I never thought I would ever see another, but out of the blue I got a phone call, asking me if I could take a look and give an idea of what they may be worth.

Well arrangements were made and I went to see what may be lurking in this hoard - I was astounded - I never thought I would see anything like this again, engines, pumps, spares, old magnetos, tools, nuts bolts, line shafting and a huge amount more.

I thought my engine buying days were well and truly over but you know how it is when you are suffering with Rusty Old Iron Syndrome (ROIS) and one old engine.....yes you guessed it, ended up in Rutland Crescent. A Bamford tulip top of 1921, very sad looking but all there and sitting on its original Bamford trolley. It will be a long and painful restoration (could be painful to the wallet) and it is going to be some time before I can get the spanners to work on it.

Two other things I came away with were two magnetos; one being a German flick mag, the other a low tension unit of unknown make, plus a couple of drip feed oilers and an old tin 1/2 gallon oil can and a mag from a Lister D all for the price of the engine, it will be a bonus if any of the mags should work, I shall keep my fingers crossed.

I am still trying to put together a calendar of club social events for 2022, but I am having no luck finding speakers for our evening at the Old Down Inn, I know I have asked before and I may be getting on your nerves, but any help would be nice. Now once again due to this blessed virus our monthly meeting at the Inn

had to be cancelled and with no other meeting arranged for 2021, I fear that nothing will take place until 2022, Oh please let things get back to normal as soon as possible.

I note from reading the last newsletter that we are still attracting new members to our club and to the stationary engine hobby, this is good news and I welcome you all, may you all have a long and happy time as members of the W S E C, and if I can ever be of help in any way, please give me a ring on 01225 754374.

Well, that's yet another report from your chairman, once again a Happy Christmas to everyone, take care keep well keep safe. *Eric Gay*, Chairman WSEC.

WELCOME to new member Kevin Goss – We hope you enjoy your Club membership; we look forward to seeing you at one of our events in the near future.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

You will find a membership renewal form with Cranking this month, all members who have not renewed by March will be deemed lapsed. Remember you can re-join online too using the Club website.

WHADDON CRANK-UP

The Club Crank-Up at Whaddon Farm near Trowbridge will be taking place on Wednesday December 29th at Whaddon Farm, Hilperton, Trowbridge BA14 6NR from 9am – 4pm.

There will be refreshments available, donations gratefully received which will be donated to charity.

A great event, not to be missed, an opportunity to get out of the house and enjoy your engines whatever the weather. For those who haven't been before, there is water available kindly supplied by Gordon. The access to the farm is via a single-track lane, you'll think you are going the wrong way (I did, the first time I went!!), but you'll soon see the SWEC Crank-Up signs, follow these, you won't go wrong. Pull into the farmyard and you'll see the barn on the right-hand side. Plenty of room to unload and then park up your cars and trailers.

TAPPETS TEA-TIME TEASERS

I hope that you have enjoyed the quiz questions this year. December's bumper collection has a festive feel - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

- 1) Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?
- 2) Who is generally recognised as writing the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (also known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas")?
- 3) Snowflakes are often portrayed as being 6 sided but studies suggest that less than what percentage of snowflakes exhibit the ideal six-fold symmetric shape? a) 0.1% b) 1% c) 10%
- 4) A Bellini is flavoured with which fruit?
- 5) From the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Special of 1971 can you complete this quote - 'I'm playing all the right notes but ...'?
- 6) In 'The Gingerbread Man' fairytale, who or what devours the gingerbread man in the end?
- 7) What stick would you put into a mulled wine?
- 8) The Australian external territory of Christmas Island is in which ocean?
- 9) In the novel A Christmas Carol, which is the first ghost to visit Scrooge?
- 10) What is a female turkey called?
- 11) Driving Home for Christmas, was written during a car journey back to which town?
- 12) In the Christmas song 'Let it Snow' what has happened to the lights?
- 13) Which Christmas hit for Harry Belafonte in 1956 is now widely performed as a Christmas Carol?
- 14) Which famous scientist who developed the three laws of motion, was born on Christmas day 1642?
- 15) Which wordless children's picture book by Raymond Briggs was first published in 1978?
- 16) In Matthew's version of the birth of Christ in the Bible he mentions the arrival of the Magi. Who or what are the Magi?
- 17) Pepparkakor are very similar to gingerbread cookies but much thinner, hard and very crisp and are found everywhere over Christmas in which Scandinavian country?
- 18) How many Drummers Drummed in the twelve days of Christmas?
- 19) How do you say 'Merry Christmas' in Spanish?
- 20) What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?

Bonus Questions - Below are several anagrams of words associated with Christmas. Can you sort them out? Good luck.

- 1) lens bell jig
- 2) cleaning skews
- 3) helm the be
- 4) knife scanner
- 5) jacks fort
- 6) resist rematch
- 7) coordinates
- 8) age roughened ribs

CHARITY DONATION

On behalf of the Committee, a big thank you to all who contributed to the Alzheimer's Society for which a sum of £352.00 was raised at the Sweets Tea Rooms at Wedmore in September. A cheque was sent last month to the Society and I have received a thank you letter from them:-

"We can achieve so much more when we come together. Thank you so much to everyone at Wessex Stationary Engine Club for uniting against dementia and raising a fantastic £352 from the Crank-Up at Sweet's Tea Rooms in Wedmore" – *Caroline Turley, Treasurer, WSEC*

EVENTS CALENDAR 2022

Below are dates gleaned by myself and others for events that are going ahead at this point in time for 2022. Let's hope we can get back to a near-normal season of rallying in 2022.

Dec 29 - Club Crank-up at Whaddon Farm, Hilperton, Trowbridge BA14 6NR 9am – 4pm
Jan 1 – Junction 24 Bridgwater Livestock Market New Year's Day gathering of cars, trucks, tractors etc
Jan 29 - 30 Somerset Tractor Show
March 19 – Club Cranmore Sale
April 29 - 2 May Abbey Hill, Yeovil
May 21 - 22 Three Okeford, Shillingstone Show
May 28 - 29 Castle Combe Steam Rally
May 28 - 29 Organford Classic
June 11 - 12 Rainscombe
June 11 - 12 Wiltshire Steam and Vintage
June 18- 19 Club Rally at Semington
June 25 – 26 Morwellham all-makes Engine Rally, Tavistock, Devon
July 9 - 10 Sedgemoor Vintage Show TA9 3RH
July 9 - 10 Pilford Heath
July 16 – 17 Ducklington
July 16 - 17 Durrington Vintage Show
July 22 - 24 Netley Marsh Steam Rally
July 22 - 24 Boconnoc, Cornwall
August 5 – 7 West Somerset Railway Association Steam Fair, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton
August 5 - 7 South Cerney Steam Rally
August 5 - 7 Purbeck Rally
August 13 -14 Bridgwater Classic
August 20 - 21 Yesterday's Farming
August 25 - 29 Great Dorset Steam Fair
August 28 - 29 Honiton Hill Rally
August 28 - Wallop Gathering, Andover
September 10 - 11 Longstock Rally
September 24 - 25 Somerset Festival of Transport, Frome
Sept 9 - 11 Swanage Railway
Oct 1 - 2 Burley Steam Gathering

This listing is for guidance only, please verify the show details before travelling. If you have any information to add to this listing, please do get in contact. *More info to be added as time goes by. Ed*

HELP REQUIRED!

Your chairman needs HELP! Can any member skim a set of flywheels for me??

They are 19ins diameter so one will need clearance of 10ins above the lathe bed or can anyone recommend a company that may be able to undertake this job for me please?

If you can help in any way, please give me a call on 01225 754374

EVENT REPORTS

Dave Lacey's Open Day/Crank-Up at Wellington – 4th December 2021

I'd toyed with the idea of a small crank-up/open day at my premises in Wellington for a few months – and with the cancellation of a local winter Crank-Up I decided that now was the time to do it, without fear of stepping on any others dates and fixtures. Saturday 4th December arrived, I got to my yard at 6am and started getting things ready. By the time 8.30am arrived people started arriving, so I became chief car park marshal, getting peoples cars/vans/motorhomes and trailer parked so we could fit as many in as possible. The weather forecast wasn't the best leading up to the event but during Friday it started to look better and we only had to contend with a few short rain showers during the morning.

Many people arrived and soon every parking space was taken and more, my neighbouring businesses kindly allowed people to park on their land. I was taken aback at how many people turned up, with some travelling from North of Oxford, St Ives in Cornwall, together with many from Wiltshire and North Somerset.

I think I counted 14 visiting engines together with as many of mine that I could get out to display and run; we had the luxury of some indoor space together with outdoor areas for those noisier/smokier engines!

The tea urn was refilled 5 times over and we got through 8 pints of milk, many thanks to those who brought along nibbles and food.

It was great to get as many of my engines out as possible and to see many people chatting and making up for lost time, as many hadn't had the opportunity to see each other for many months.

I'd like to thank all Club Members who took the time to bring engines along and make the day what it was – a great success! *Dave Lacey*

Bicton Botanical Gardens Late-Night shopping – Light Up – 10th December 2021

Valerie and Simon Lister, owners of Bicton Gardens invited a few lighting sets to set up around the courtyard at Bicton for their Christmas late-night shopping evening. We had a total of seven owners displaying various lighting sets that evening, it created a fabulous ambience to the evening. The most common remark we heard was "What a lovely smell" as some engines were running on Kerosene. There was a really good footfall with many interested people looking and enquiring about our exhibits. Exhibits to note were a Lister CS trailer mounted generating set brought along by Club member Adam Troake, a rather nice Lister M petrol/paraffin engine belonging to Karl Buckingham that just ran beautifully all evening long and my Fairbanks 1 1/2HP engine running a Crompton 50v dynamo. A great event that we will hopefully return to next year. *Dave Lacey*

TAPPETS TEA-TIME TEASERS – ANSWERS

- 1) Blitzen (Blitzer)
- 2) Clement C. Moore
- 3) a) 0.1%
- 4) Peach
- 5) 'not *necessarily* in the right order.'
- 6) A fox
- 7) Cinnamon
- 8) Indian Ocean
- 9) Jacob Marley
- 10) A hen
- 11) Middlesbrough
- 12) They've been 'turned down low'
- 13) Mary's Boy Child
- 14) Sir Isaac Newton
- 15) The Snowman
- 16) The three wise men/kings
- 17) Sweden
- 18) 12
- 19) Feliz Navidad
- 20) "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby

Anagrams: Answers

- 1) Jingle bells
- 2) King Wenceslas
- 3) Bethlehem
- 4) Frankincense
- 5) Jack Frost
- 6) Christmas Tree
- 7) Decorations
- 8) Gingerbread House

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 for copy submissions is always 20th of the month