



# CRANKING



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## The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

### FROM THE SUMP

With 2022 now firmly with us, we can hope that things will get better for the year ahead – with most people vaccinated to some degree and this new variant being fairly mild, we can look forward to a decent season of rallying and attending our favourite shows that we have missed over the past two years. I think I speak for all of us, but never in a million years did I think this pandemic would be still with us nearly two years on from the Whaddon Crank Up that took place a day or so before the UK lockdown in March 2020!

Many shows are now opening entries with more than one doing it all online notably Abbey Hill and Yesterday's Farming, albeit with a few teething troubles, it maybe the way to go as it saves considerable manual administration and passes etc can be emailed out and printed at home, thus saving on printing and postage. With many Clubs having had little or no income for 2 years, any saving is going to be very welcome I'd think. I think some of the popular shows will be over-subscribed as many try to make the most of things!

I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing Club Member Richard Cook well, he's been a little under the weather of late but will be back out on the rally field after a little operation being his usual happy smiley self. *David*

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, here we are at the start of another year, 2021 was a year that was nothing but trouble from beginning to end, I for one will not be sorry to say farewell to 2021 - it started bad, got a little better in the middle and only got worse right to the end.

Just three weeks ago on a Wednesday evening I received a phone call telling me that we could no longer have the site at Semington for our rally due to his son building a new house in the farmyard.

This news came after checking with the landowner three months previously and being told it would be OK to carry on as usual. You can guess how I felt when I got this news, my daughter and myself had already started to set out printing the entry forms for the coming year.

Well, this left me with the job of finding a new site and quickly! Luckily, I did have a few strings to my bow and a few frantic phone calls were made, this led to a meeting with the owner of the White Horse Country Park.

I am glad to be able to tell you all that a deal was done in record quick time and our rally for 2022 will be at The White Horse Country Park, Coach Road, Westbury Wiltshire, over the weekend of June 18th & 19th, this is on the main A350, the post code for all you with those clever sat nav things is BA13 4LX.

I will be only too glad to help with full details and any help you may require. Now this is a new site for us and I hope a new beginning, so may I please ask all you lovely club Members to please come and join us over the weekend we need to make our new venue and our new rally a roaring success.

The site has full facilities even with a very nice restaurant on site so that you can get a decent meal too.  
*(Many members would have attended the White Horse Classic Car Show last year, I'm sure you'll all agree it is a great location – Ed)*

One thing I do need is a nice Club member to come forward and take over the running of the craft section, due to illness our long-time steward can no longer carry on, so please if you can help, please get in touch.

Now many of you know the situation I find myself in and I will need as much help as I can get to make this new venture a success so if you can give help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.

It was not possible for me to attend the crank up at Gordon's farm in late December, but I did hear it went well with some new engines and new exhibitors not having attended before, I hope you all had an enjoyable day.

I wonder how many of you read the Vintage Spirit Magazine and I wonder how many members remember Andrew Mercer? For many years he was a Club member and attended many of our early Club rallies driving all the way from bonny Scotland would you believe and in highland dress with kilt and sporran.

He like so many others are getting on in years, but he and his brother are still collecting and restoring old implements. At one time they held an auction and sold over seven hundred lots, thinking they had finished with the vintage movement, but the bug had bitten and it was a deep bite, so now in their eighties they still collect and restore vintage tools and implements, it is a great article and if you buy a copy of the January issue of the magazine, it makes great reading.

Well, here it is at 4pm on New Years Day, so may I wish you one and all a very Happy New Year, take care everyone keep safe and well and let us all hope for a much better year in every way for 2022.

*Eric Gay, Chairman WSEC, 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 ONX Tel: 01225 754374*

## **OBITUARY**

It is with deepest regret that I have to inform you of the passing of Mrs Ann Salkeld from Pontypool, South Wales.

More senior members of the WSEC will remember Ann, her husband Emerson and family attending many rallies in the South West during the 1980's and 1990's.

I first met Ann and family whilst engine rallying, through the NVTEC in the late 1970's.

Ann was a very happy lady, she had been a school teacher and every time I saw her she always had a smile on her face. In later years she suffered from terrible arthritis. Recently having both hips replaced she seemed to be doing well. *Gerald Atherton*

## **Whaddon Farm 'Mince Pie' Crank Up – December 29<sup>th</sup> 2021**

The traditional Christmas Club Crank-Up at Whaddon Lane Farm, Trowbridge, that takes place during that strange time between Christmas and New Year, where nobody knows what day it is, always proves to be a popular event, with many members wanting get out with their engines and exhibits after spending far too much time indoors enjoying the festivities!

We are so fortunate to have the use of a covered but very well-ventilated barn, where we can site our engines on concrete and stay dry whatever the weather outside decides to do.

The weather forecast was decidedly dodgy for the day, so much planning had to go into which engines members could bring – those who had smaller engines that fitted into the loadspace of their cars and engines that had lovely custom-made tarpaulin covers had the advantage on the day!

Our numbers were a little down on previous years due to some members suffering illness, we wish them all a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you at events in later 2022.

Some 16 engines were in attendance, ranging from a Petter Atomic, Petter S type to a delightful Hartop and Tom Senior engines, plus a rather nice Blackstone 2 1/2hp engine owned by John Thorne. Perhaps the star of the show was Dennis Barnes beautifully presented 1912 Tangye AA engine coupled to a fantastically restored triple ram pump. It ran beautifully all day, pumping water around its circulating tank without leaking anything from the ram seals, it really is a lovely restoration, we were very grateful to Dennis for making the considerable effort to bring it along, as it is not a lightweight exhibit!

Another noteworthy exhibit brought along by Neil and Adam Troake of Wellington was the self-built model Field Marshall tractor, which was driving a DC dynamo via a belt drive, that provided the power for an array of light bulbs. Fantastic!

Gordon and Paula, our hosts, looked after us brilliantly as usual, providing tea and coffee, together with various cakes – and then the soups and apple crumble to warm us through! Thank you to both of you, we are so grateful to you both.

Over £160 was raised which will be donated as usual to the Alzheimer's Society. Many thanks to all who donated to this very worthwhile cause.

The weather took a turn for the worse during the event but being inside, we stayed quite warm and dry, pleasingly, it all cleared up before we had to load up and head home at 3pm

## 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.

Jan 29 - 30 Somerset Tractor Show  
March 19 – Club Cranmore Sale  
April 17 – 18 Internal Fire Museum Spring Crank Up  
April 23 Woodford Sale, Kettering NN14 4HD  
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 3 – 5 TractorFest, Newby Hall  
June 11 - 12 Rainscombe  
June 11 - 12 Wiltshire Steam and Vintage  
June 18- 19 Club Rally, White Horse Country Park, Westbury  
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*

## ROGERS PRIZED POSSESSIONS

Linda Pike is offering some of her late husband's engines and associated things for sale. Roger would love for them to stay in the Club, if possible.

### ENGINES



1925 Ruston Hornsby 3hp £3600  
1916 Amanco Choreboy £1600  
Petter W1 Lighting Set with dynamo £700



## PUMPS

Weeks Sprayer Pump £300

Red Goulds Pump 1 ½" (Works well and goes well with the Amanco) £250

Lister H1 Pump £250

Argosy Pump, single cylinder £125 – Restored in lockdown, unfortunately never got to use it.

No 2 Amanco Gear Pump £250

Green/Black Goulds Pump 2 ½" £350



## OTHER ITEMS

Stuart Tuner tank £10

Various Oilers £70 or £100 for the job lot

Drain Taps £10 each

Choreboy Ignitors £50 each (2 available)

Ruston Hornsby Starting Handle £20

Clarke Generator £150

Canvas engine covers £40 each - Kohler Engine 2kVA Generator Set £150 ono

## THE WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB, THE EARLY YEARS

It's a sad but inescapable fact that we are all getting older and new (preferably younger) members are therefore needed to keep the club fresh and active. Luckily we have new members joining us all the time and it is mainly for them that I give a brief history of the club, gleaned from newsletters, committee minutes and conversations with some of our founder-members.

In 1976 a number of enthusiasts had been attending local shows such as the Camerton Steam Rally and thought that some sort of organisation was needed to represent Stationary Engines at such shows, so they got together in Mary Chapman's kitchen to discuss the way forward. The decision was taken to form a club and the first meeting was duly held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1977, at which the name of the club was decided and a committee formed, headed by Eric Brain as Chairman and Mary Chapman as Secretary. The first paid-up member was no less a figure than the great David Edgington, who continued to support the club until his unfortunate death in 2016.

The first rally was held in 1977 at Kilmersdon and continued annually at various venues until finally ending up at Semington in 1991; it was also in 1977 that David Edgington was invited to be President, the Old Down Inn was first used for meetings, and the Club insurance scheme was initiated.

By the end of the year the membership was in three figures and things were looking good. The Club was by then heading to be the largest in the country and later played a major part in setting up the first 1000 engine rally at Longleat as well as being one of the first to become a limited company.

So what's changed in the last 45 years? Not very much! The membership has grown but is still in three figures, but now covers a large part of southern England and South Wales; meetings (when we are able to have them) are still held at the Old Down Inn and we continue to organise rallies and crank-ups plus we offer a competitive insurance scheme. The membership fee has increased from the initial £1 to a princely £17 and we have a splendid, printed newsletter rather than the typewritten sheets of 1977.

The annual show, missing for three years due to weather and Covid, will be back this year at a new venue at the White Horse Country Park near Westbury.

One thing that hasn't changed much is the reluctance of most members to get involved and join the committee or maybe write something for the newsletter, or even to help with the annual show or crank-ups, so this is an invitation to all of you to think about doing so and helping to ensure that the club continues for another 45 years.

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

Contributions to: David Lacey, 8 Dyers Close, West Buckland, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 9JU or (preferably) by email

[editor@wessexsec.org](mailto:editor@wessexsec.org)

**Deadline for copy submissions is always 20<sup>th</sup> of the month**