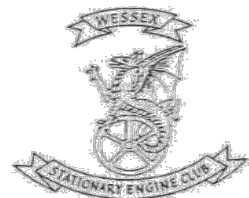




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CRANKING

44 Years of Publication



October 2023

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

Mr Brian Verrall

WSEC members will be saddened to learn of the death of Brian Verrall following a long illness. Brian was one of our longest-serving members and one who served the club in a number of capacities, serving on the committee until ill health forced his retirement a few years ago but continuing to help with the annual show in an advisory capacity. His funeral will be held at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Monday the 30th October at 12 noon.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Monday September 25th was Club night at The Old Down Inn, I was booked to give a talk on my time as an electrical apprentice, I had had some good times, I had already given a talk on them and I had some very bad times and this was to be my next talk.

Sad to say this never happened, the Club evenings have been of late very poorly supported. Monday evening we had five people attend, I do not think we can go on like this. If we cannot attract a larger gathering of members at our evening meetings, we cannot see that we can carry on in this way. Members of the committee spend countless hours working for you the club members but it now seems that you no longer want to give us your support.

I have just spent the best part of an hour going through the up to date membership list and find that the Wessex Club has 31 members in easy traveling distance of the Old Down Inn, can you please give us your support so that we are not forced to lose the use of the room at the inn, with only five people attending my hopes for the future of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club nights look very bleak.

Now onto something that I hope will be to your liking and that you the members will support, I have once again been asked to arrange a Christmas Party, this will be the old Down Inn. A party is only a great and happy event if you the members want it? - The only way I am going to know that is if you let me know that you would like to attend, so please give me a call on 01225 754374 and I will do the rest.

It will probably be just into the new year so don't be shy please let me know if you would like to come along.

Now many times I have written in this newsletter appealing for help, in 2024 as you know we will be staging our rally at our new site at Southwick, this is as most of you will know a large site and we off the rally committee need a few more volunteers to help run this event. At Bradford on Avon last weekend, 16th & 17th Sept. we had to rely on outside help to man the pay gate and other things, we cannot let this happen at Southwick, so if you can give the rally committee a little help please get in contact.

My latest restoration project is slowly taking shape, one 1922 Bamford Tulip top, that is in a very sad state, but I have now had the flywheels re-machined the crank case and cylinder block de-rusted and acid treated, the original Bamford trolley stripped, cleaned and repainted the wood work sanded and then varnished, the trolley being reassembled, the rest of the restoration is going to take up a lot of time and I need some cast iron welding done - any volunteers?

It seems that engines are still out there waiting to be found and put back into working order, I have lots of projects to get done, one being the total strip down of my 3" Marshal Traction engine, the rotten boiler inspector wants to inspect the outside of the boiler as well as the inside, ten year test I am not looking forward to this, as it is getting everything back in perfect alignment after the inspection.

Now just to end this report and to let all those kind exhibitors that came to Bradford Leigh and made the show a great success, the gate takings and very kind donation took our breath away when all was counted up, I still have some sponsorship to come in as I have been promised a very nice cheque, I will let you all know the final figures in my next report.

On Saturday the 7th October it was the club's sale at Cranmore I have to tell you all this was very poorly attended and showed the club in a very poor light to those that did attend. One trader that did take the trouble to attend was so appalled by the poor showing that he would not stay and drove away, with this and the poor attendance at Club meeting I fear for the future of our club.

On a slightly brighter note we do have some new crank ups and events being planned for 2024.

Please let me know if you want the Christmas Party.

Eric Gay, 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0NX Tel: 01225 754374

SOMERSET FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Well.....another good show attended by some Wessex members including some from the first kitchen gathering, at the Somerset Festival of Transport.

Oh....what a weekend, it may not have been the best weather although engines ran both days but the company was fantastic. There were many trips down memory lane.

Visitors spotted Nigel and Mary from Coleford, John from Wincanton. Linda Pike with the steam section and the Herb Gane and Edward Mills from Wooten under Edge.

Neighbours included Peter Pete Gear & Debbie together with Di and Steven Reed from Tiverton.

Others spotted were Barry Stevens with model boats. Andrew Martin and Andrew Crisp in the working section with tractors and saw bench and of course Mark Taylor (bones)

Anyway, it was lovely, thankyou everyone.

Sorry if I missed anyone please put it down to my age. *Mary Chapman*



Club member Anthony Andrews 1 1/2 hp Galloway engine attracted over 2100 'likes' on a Facebook group last month!

Whaddon Mince Pie Crank-Up

This ever-popular event will take place on Thursday 28th December, with engines running for 10am, please arrive from 8.30am or so. All in the barn as usual, but if the weather is pleasant then some may be able to go outside – Petter owners please take note ☺

Raffle in aid of Alzheimer's, raffle prize donations would be very welcome

Catering by Paula, those who know, know!! ☺

All welcome, non-members too, just bring proof of your insurance cover.

Please email or text me with what engine you would like to bring so that I know approximate numbers for space needed and catering.

Hope to have the adjoining buildings to accommodate more engines if need be!

If you haven't been before, then simply follow the Wessex Stationary Engine Club signs from the top of Whaddon Lane to BA14 6NR

Any other questions please give me a ring 01225 755448, mobile/text 07786 542782 or email using RGuley@outlook.com

Bradford-on-Avon Vintage Gathering, September 16th & 17th

This event came into being because the club lost its site at the White Horse country park, "No show in 2023", I could not let that happen, so a hunt started to find a venue for us to stage an event on.

This was no easy task, but one of our club members who I have known for quite a few years offered me the use of his land at Bradford Leigh and I met Clive on the site to take a look at the ground, it was just what the doctor ordered even with land adjacent for a large car park well wheels were set in motion. Now this event was run with the sole purpose of giving our members and friends, along with any other exhibitors a new event one that I very much hope will be staged again in 2024, on the same weekend as we did not clash with any other vintage show in the Wiltshire area.

Now the decision was made that if the event was to go ahead the club would support Dorothy house Hospice care, several members along with myself have in the recent past received such great help and support through very difficult times, it was now time to see what we could do to help them.

Posters were printed along with flyers and were distributed throughout the area, Westbury, Frome, Trowbridge, Bradford, along with other towns and villages, rallies I visited exhibitors were handed entry forms, posters and flyers, others were sent by post and Ted did the magic on our web site, entries began to arrive through the letter box.

Pearl and Steve looked after the engine entries, Sharon sent out entries for cars, our Liz did her bit in chasing the motor cycle gang and things began to come together.

By the weekend we had a very good entry of engines, tractors, cars, motor cycles, static displays, radio controlled tanks, miniature steam, children's fair ground and food, bar and traders, not bad in the short time we had to arrange all this.

The weekend, well Saturday was great with lots of general public, good weather and lots of exhibits to keep the public entertained. I wish I could say the same about the Sunday, I won't dwell on Sunday for too long, it rained and it rained, but a few hardy souls came through the gate, but we made no charge as many of our exhibitors had left us, we did ask if they would like to make a donation to Dorothy House and OH were we surprised by the generosity of the few people that did attend early morning I did not count what was in our milk churn but it must have been in the hundred pound mark if not more.

My thanks must go to Pearl & Steve, Ted, Catherine & Paul, Gordon and especially to Clive Compton and all his helpers over the weekend without the help of these kind people this event would not have taken place and a thank you is never enough. *Eric*

FOR SALE 650cc twin cylinder AJS CSR Motorcycle in first class original condition £5000, (never been messed about with) Want to recapture your mis-spent youth....? Please contact Ted Edwards in the first instance - 07751 918283

FOR SALE

Fairbanks Morse H type 2HP Low Tension
Fairbanks Morse Z type 3 HP Low Tension
Fairbanks Morse Eclipse Plumping set
Fuller and Johnson 1 1/2 Low Tension
Gillson Johnny on the spot 1HP High Tension
Amanco 4HP Low Tension
United C LT

All the above Engines are all in running order. Please contact Sam Jackson, Oldford, Frome on 01373 471157

WANTED small butter churn - can you help, if so please ring Eric on 01225 754374.



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

Deadline for copy submissions is always 20th of the month