



CRANKING

March
2007
Thirtieth
year of
publication
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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly

From the Sump

Now that many of us are clearing some space & wondering what to belatedly start on, touch up or simply polish for the coming season, I mull over once more the old decision – restore or preserve? There are polarized opinions and those like me in between that judge each one on its merits.

I've found that many a rusty looking blob responds to a day's cleaning & a good wipe over with a rag liberally soaked in an oil & paraffin mixture. This will restore colour to the paint, discover a good deal of as yet un-noticed paint & quite change the look of the engine from "as he left me" to "working engine". Polish the flywheel rim with a wire brush & repeat as required.

I've heard it said that things are different with bikes, cars & steam engines. I know little of the latter, but a good deal about bikes. In the current market place, tidy, clean unrestored examples of motorcycles are sought after and command a price at least as high as an ordinary restoration. I do not refer to a conkers job that will always fetch more as they appeal to those with deep pockets who prefer to sit on a box & look at 'em. Please note I make no value judgements here having occasionally done just that in the past.

Recently, I've seen an interesting point raised by a restorer who sees paint in the same light as a worn bearing or piston. It is not one I had considered before & I shall have to mull on that before deciding.

Dispassionately, as I have some pretensions to being a historian, I must be in favour of presenting the past as it survives as a first choice. Painting an original surface is a course that can only be taken once and in this context, I feel that intelligent preservation is best. Just my opinion, of course.

I went to the vintage sale at Cranmore on 3rd March. Well attended with lots of interesting stuff to look at, many staggered away clutching new toys! The café did an excellent bacon sandwich and the weather was kind to us. As usual, a good morning out and a taster for the Sodbury Sort Out at Chieveley (M4/A34) on Saturday 14 April.

Moving the Metal

For sale

Allan scythe/mower. Circa 1950. Spare engine.

Generator, needs attention. £30.00.

Lister L. 1923, 5HP. On a trolley & ready to rally. £250 ONO. Free delivery within 20 miles of T/ Cloud.

Trailer. Flat bed 5' x 3'. Pin hitch.

All above - Parsons, 01761 452565

Amanco 3hp.1917. £750 or near offer

Fairbanks Morse 3hp Z type. 1918. Low tension Plugoscillator igniter/magneto. £700 ONO

Both Class One & good runners on steerable trolleys. Neither have been rallied for many years. Both above-Phill Marshall, Timsbury. 01761 471461

Large dynamo getting on for 3' across. Originally from a big commercial welding set. Appears in pretty good order, but I've not the means to test it. It would look great on a big Crossley or Ruston. Haggle around £80 or swap for something that interests me. **No sightseers please!** Kim Siddorn, 0117 964 6818

Lister D, Petter A 2 x, Villiers Diesel. All except one Petter are dismantled but complete. They were all "roundtoits" but now the owner finds himself without the incentive to finish them. He wishes to encourage young engine enthusiasts and they are free to suitable homes. **WARNING!** They will need collecting from Brighton! *Further details upon application to the Editor.*

Wanted

Triumph WW2 generating set. The one based on the Speed Twin engine.

"Stationary Engine" Magazine. Pre number 49 to complete my collection.

Both above - Kim Siddorn – 0117 964 6818.

Desperately Seeking....whereabouts of **Lister D11 S/No 81802** with a view to repurchase if possible please. Last seen mounted on mahogany coloured trolley in Somerset area. Eric Brain, 01761-452633

Articles, cartoons, photos etc are always very welcome – this is not a one-man band, but an expression of all our thoughts and experience. Submissions can be handwritten, (if brief), typed or word-processed - it is the content we're after, not the grammar or spelling, so please don't feel your efforts will be ignored. Opinions expressed in this newsletter may or may not represent club policy

Post to the Editor

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