



CRANKING

September
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Thirtieth
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www.wessex-sec.co.uk

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly newsletter

From the Sump

I had an e-mail the other day from a pleasant fellow who works for the National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI) at Wroughton near Swindon. This huge facility – seven aircraft hangers in 120 acres – holds some 20,000 objects in the care of what you and I would call the Science Museum in South Kensington. It transpired that there was a Heritage Weekend coming up & would I be available for a promotional visit to a shopping centre in the middle of Swindon during Friday 7th? Well, I thought I might.

I found my way to Davis Street car park with my Stuart Turner flat twin, specially polished up for the job. It is one of those engines that the public like, being small, approachable & pretty quiet now I've found a silencer for it. My contact appeared & within a few minutes hard barriers were erected, engine located, coffee's purchased and Risk Assessments signed. I was a little concerned to note that one of the "moderate" risks was of interference by drunks, but this proved unfounded as the day progressed. My first concern was that I'd left the starting handle in the car, but it was only a short walk past Devon Savouries – yummy pasties! - & the little flat twin was soon purring away.

I had a minder, one of the NMSI staff set to watch over me, no doubt to ensure that I did no lewd act in the name of the Museum & we were soon Exchanging Information as though we'd known each other for years. It appears that the Heritage Weekend in September may well have been the last for some years as – unless their HLF grant bid in December is successful - they will only have FOUR staff to keep the stored items secure and conserved. London appears to neither care nor want the responsibility of exposing their 20,000 objects to the public gaze, being more concerned with clearing South Kensington display galleries of objects and renting the space out as offices as it makes better financial sense. Such is the state of our Museums Service in Britain – underfunded & poorly managed with the wrong targets – their new logo is "Inspired". Really?

Anyway, our visitors in Swindon were roughly divided into three groups. The young men who did not have a clue that they were looking at an

Moving the Metal

For sale

Briggs & Stratton ZYP gen set, restored. **NOW £140.**

Wolseley WD 1.5hp on trolley, restored. **NOW £160**

Bamford EG1 1,5hp on trolley, restored. **NOW £170**

Lister D & H1 pump on wheels, restored. **NOW £170.**

All above - phone Mr P. Newton. 01373 812461

Kerrison Predictor generator. Complete & mounted on a trailer. Never seen another! – ready to tow away. £350.

JAP 2A driving a small compressor. On a steel carrying frame, Unusual first exhibit. **NOW £85**

WW2 **Lauson engine** driving a small compressor. On a steel frame. Even more unusual first exhibit. **NOW £85**

Both restored & painted to a high standard.

Petter A1 on four-wheeled trolley. Still in its Admiralty grey paint. Frugal first time starter. **NOW £85.**

Petter PU8, rare WW2 marine engine on wheeled carrying frame. Not run for a couple of years **NOW £85**

WANTED - "Stationary Engine " Magazine. Now only missing 16,17,18,19,24-34,36. Have early copies to swap!

All above – phone Kim Siddorn 0117 964 6818

Amanco 3hp. Restored & ready to exhibit. £500.

Phone R. Savage. 0117 962 2028

Amanco 2.25hp. £650 ONO. Restored using many new items & mounted on 4-wheeled trolley. Was exhibited at Mells 2006. Getting too much for me now.

WANTED - Flywheel magneto for 1.5hp Ruston PB. Must be complete & with brass starting dog.

All above - phone Richard Gill – 01934 517322

Allan scythe/mower. Circa 1950. Spare engine.

Generator, needs attention. £30.00.

All above - Parsons, 01761 452565

Chaff cutter. Good condition - £20.

Grindstone, foot operated £25.

All above, phone Dennis Hudd 01225 754749

Drummond lathe. Good condition, bench mounted with .1/4hp motor. £80.00 - phone Gordon 07941 724625

Elddis 400/2 berth caravan. Very tidy van, in excellent condition, 3 way fridge etc - dry stored by non smoking owner. £1,850

Phone Robin on 01373 463526

engine, women of various ages who were interested because they thought their husband/partner/brother would like to see the Heritage Days and older men who knew very well what they were seeing & with these I had many an interesting chat. However, no-one gave me a lead to a dry stored, original, in situ Ruston Hornsby 7 IP, complete with its generator.

But it was nice to sit in the sun & watch the girls go by!

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. The editor reserves the right to change, edit, augment or lessen your Deathless Prose and asks all to note that opinions expressed in this newsletter may or may not represent club policy

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