



# CRANKING

June  
2008  
Thirty first  
year of  
publication  
[www.wessex-sec.co.uk](http://www.wessex-sec.co.uk)

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly newsletter

## From the Sump

I've been very busy recently and have not picked up a spanner nor been near an engine in weeks. So I was determined to have a day off and visit the Astle Park 1000 Engine Rally. It is just over 150 miles for me in Bristol & as in previous years I drove up on Friday evening, arriving at about 1030pm. I set up some stuff to "book my spot" and spent a cheerful Saturday exhibiting my Stuart Turner flat twin. Kevin and Carol Phillips & Keith from WSEC were also there with their Victorias running all day. A number of internet friends found me out and it was good to renew old acquaintance. Heavy rain was forecast, but I took a gazebo as you are now allowed to do & anyway it was not as bad as it was forecast.

As usual at Astle Park, there were some very unusual engines, all the engine pens being full. I was especially impressed to see a small early inverted engine that seemed to be a Troublesome Beast, going as often as it was stationary!

Some were slow to get their covers off, but by early afternoon when it had been dry for an hour or so, I think every engine was running – or at least on display. I didn't count them, but I bet there were **four hundred** engines present. Both Internal Fire and The Anson were represented with some impressively large engines, there were a number of models on display and the well organised Club Shop had a good selection of engines and related machinery on sale. In broader interests, there were a good number of Trader's Row stalls, fifty or so motorcycles and a similar number of tractors – "the biggest display in the UK" the man on the PA said.

At 5.30 I wrapped everything up and decamped to the Anson Museum along with about two hundred other enthusiasts and Geoff Challinor and a surprising number of enthusiastic volunteers ran around starting engines. As usual, there have been a number of improvements and additions, buildings extended & improved, the car park was better surfaced and larger & the "to be looked at" section bigger than ever. As I said to Geoff, it isn't that they've done something in the year since I was last there, they have done so much it is hard to keep up! Previous visitors will probably recall the big

## Moving the Metal

### For sale

**ATCO** Ride on Lawn Mower. Free to a good home – please someone take it away! .

Phone Ken on 01373 826265 (Near Frome)

**LISTER D**, On wooden trolley with rubber wheels, complete, runs well, needs sprucing up: £80

**ONAN** O5AJ-224PM. 28 volt 500 watt generator set in cradle. Matt green, meters, runs fine: £80  
(All in Shepton Mallet area)

All above, phone Richard on 01749 343876

**WANTED** Oil filler/drainer for **Ruston PB 1.5hp**.

Phone Richard Gill 01934 517322

**"Old Glory"**. Stack a foot high 80's & 90's – tenner.

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

All above, phone Kim Siddorn 0117 964 6818

**This column works - two trailers and four engines sold here last month**

**Let's have your engine and similar stuff that you have for sale up here for a month before putting it in SEM - you might see it at rallies if sold locally!**

twin cylinder steam engine at the end of the side building. This is now being extended & the steelwork is already in place and they have every hope of getting the various steam engines stored in that building up and running before the end of this year – another milestone passed.

In particular this year, I noticed the growing number of very early engines and these alone would make the trip worthwhile for anyone with a certain amount of oil in their blood. The inverted and little known Bisschop, for example. Of great simplicity and air cooled, this engine of 1870 was quoted as "5 manpower" but consumed town gas at an enormous rate, some 11 cubic feet an hour on full loads.

And so home, arriving at around 1.00am.

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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