



# CRANKING

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

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly

## From the Sump

We are bowled over by the first class response we've had so far! Over sixty members had responded when I wrote this in the middle of September and it is clear that our members are passionately concerned with the well-being of the club. With a membership of over three hundred souls, so far some twenty percent have replied. What these members have written will be collated and statistics prepared. A précis of their comments will also be made. These will be submitted to the October committee meeting for their consideration. If you have not already done so, **you only have a few days now to complete & return the questionnaire and the deadline will be first post on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October next.** Don't let this opportunity slip by of having your voice heard! Results of the questionnaire will be published in the October Newsletter.

The time approaches when many will be putting away their engines for the winter. I always make a habit of running the carburettor dry of fuel & draining whatever is left in the tank. Modern fuels don't take kindly to sitting around for months & fresh petrol is always a good idea for the first start of the season. Take the end cap off the magneto whilst the engine is still warm and waft a little air over the points – "fan it with yer hat" as my uncle Bill used to say! Ozone is a corrosive gas & is manufactured when the points spark slightly at opening & closing. Trapped in the points chamber, it will eat away at the smooth points faces, both corroding them and building up an oxide layer. Rotate the engine to top dead centre with the valves closed & grease & cover the exposed bore of open crank engines.

Security should be second nature as our Iron Charges get ever more valuable. Look at your workshop with the eye of a thief – how would you get in if you lost the key? If you can, so can others. If you have a main door, put your heaviest engine up against it, jack the trolley up on blocks and remove the wheels. Hide them or better still put them in another place entirely. Naturally, you've made a note of all the serial numbers, taken

## Moving the Metal

### For sale

**Lister A type**, 1925 single flywheel, angled exhaust caged valves, Rally condition with original maker's cooling tank & three way tap etc. Trolley needs much attention. £340 ono.

**Wico** A series magneto. V good condition with impulse unit. £35

**Vauxhall Vectra**. 120K, top of the range, excellent order. Sold with new MOT at time of sale. £890 ono  
All above, phone Eric Gay - 01225 754374

**BSA Winged Wheel**, Circa 1052. Fitted to ladies dropped tube frame. Barn fresh, 90% complete, magneto reworked. Needs TLC – offers invited. Phone Peter Stacey on 01373 47328

[benstacey@aol.com](mailto:benstacey@aol.com)

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

Phone Richard Gill 01934 517322

**WANTED** Triumph twin WW2 genny or parts.

"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 – 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!**

photos from various angles & written brief notes on unusual features & identifying marks – chipped castings & the like.

I've just rebuilt two modern 240 volt 2.2kva generators at a very reasonable cost. Usually, when the genny stops producing current, it is cheaper to replace it than fix it. A modern (last fifteen years or so) generator has standardized tolerances, bolt sizes and fitting dimensions. If anyone would like details of a reliable & honest chap I've come across who has a whole container load of old, new stock alternators etc, I'd be happy to pass on his contact details. Usual disclaimers, of course.

**Go & fill in your questionnaire NOW!**

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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