



# CRANKING

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly newsletter

April  
2009

Thirty second  
year of  
publication

[www.wessex-sec.co.uk](http://www.wessex-sec.co.uk)

## From the Sump

The AGM passed off without incident, a good turn out from the membership of over fifty people. This year was the first where we had used the new postal voting system & I understand thirty two members took the opportunity to vote by this means. This represents about ten percent of our membership & it is good to see the system in use.

It was, however, pointed out by several people that the system could be open to abuse as there was no means of identifying the voter as a club member & I have no doubt that this will be sorted out by next year.

I was thinking the other day about the way we feel about our engines. Whilst our culture reveres & venerates our heritage & everything to do with it, we see it as separate & not of the modern world. The Industrial Revolution has cut us off from a past where everyday objects were just that & might continue in use for generations if they were still useful & functional. My father had tools in his woodworking box that have turned out to be nearly 200 years old. They were just tools & if the steel held a good edge, a chisel would slowly shrink as it got sharpened away, but it would not occur to my dad or any of his peers to set it aside as special or to replace it with a new one just because it was old.

Mechanised warfare, incredibly swift development & mass communication has made us look at objects from the past in a completely different way from objects made today. Even WW2 equipment is esteemed and valued as long lasting & built to a high standard whereas in fact it was built down to a price & had no real life expectancy past the end of hostilities.

Modern equipment is very much of the moment & has a very short life expectancy. Will we really be collecting the myriad of Chinese generators currently on the market for half a weeks wages in 25 years time? I bet we are!

We, of all people, should never fall into the common trap of modernity and view the past as somehow fundamentally different from today. Whilst the past is not a foreign country, we may well be the guides that can lead others within its expanding boundaries & keep a perspective on history.

## Moving the Metal

### For sale

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

**Wanted.** Braked trailer (750 kilo) to carry a 4hp Amanco. WHY?? Phone Richard on 01722 501017

**Wanted – Barnard W110 piston.** A piston from a Austin/Morris "A" series 848cc SV or very early Mini would do the job. Phone Tony 01373 464982

**Wanted.** Starting handle for Bamford 9hp. Crank 2 5/8". Phone Ron on 01749 870756

**Wanted. ABC engine.** Particularly 1915 250cc Firefly but anything considered. Good price paid for the right engine!

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

"Vapourising" small stack of old 'uns - £1 each.

**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

## Netley Marsh Rally, 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> July

**Exhibitor's donation.** I cannot see a reference to this on their website. so I phoned the Secretary this afternoon. It is true that there **will be** a charge of £10.00 to exhibit at this event again this year. This is a decision that is now made annually in order to recoup their heavy loss in 2007 when the event was effectively rained off.

## A Wrinkle & A Nod by Kim Siddorn

Finding material for making piston rings for bigger engines can be difficult. Various sources like old drain pipes might spring to mind, but the other day a new idea came up in conversation. Older cars had brake drums & they were made in a very good close grained cast iron. They have also been heat treated & exposed to the elements for a number of years. When I was an apprentice we used to call it mellowing.

Another source is brake disks. The very latest versions might not be cast iron – you'd have to check – but some are solid & others are ventilated – just what one might need for an oil scraper ring.

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 should be preferably typed or word-processed or even handwritten, (**if brief**), - 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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