



CRANKING

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly newsletter

August

2009

Thirty second
year of
publication

www.wessex-sec.co.uk

From the Sump

As you'll see opposite, I'm advertising the small book I've published recently to complement & augment the current series of articles in SEM. This is a service that we would be delighted to offer all members of our club as there must be many with decades of knowledge and expertise to set down for posterity. I've said before that I would very much like to publish anecdotes and stories from our member's experience of engines in their everyday lives. Sadly, the majority have come from Robin Lambert who was kind enough to find me articles written by his old friend Albert Critall some thirty years ago. We are collecting now the engines which powered industry & agriculture for a hundred years and if you used engines during your working years, I would very much like to publish your memories of them in this newsletter.

Another aspect of this interest is, of course, manufacturing and information about stationary engine production even fifty years ago is very hard to come by. Since the war, so many firms have been bought up, amalgamated and taken over, each time the records of the purchased company going out with the rubbish. At the same time, long serving employees often go too, close to retirement and glad to get out with money in their pocket rather than serve a new and probably uncaring master. Their stories are of interest to us all and – once again – I'd be delighted to be able to serve in a minor way and give all those silent years a chance to speak again. It isn't as though we were short of big companies with Petter & Lister bracketing our geography. Please do get it down so others can share the best years of your life!

As a matter of interest, I had my book printed in Latvia (on the east of the Baltic) and it cost less than half what it would have cost to have it printed in the UK. This meant that I could afford to do it and to get my research into as many hands as possible – practicing what I'm preaching, see!

Finally, the September (not August) meeting will be consulted about the Theft Insurance I have been looking into for our members. Basically, it needs 25 of us to buy into the scheme to make it cost free for the club, well under 10% of our membership. If you can't be there & wish to support it. please respond to me direct.

Moving the Metal

For sale

Petter 8hp. 1919, M type. Class One prize winner, totally rebuilt reluctant sale. Best offer near £1.200. Phone Eric Gay - 01225 754374

Enfield "Sloper" Diesel. Apparently in good order, free with compression. I'll never get around to it!
JAP 55 twin cylinder. Ran fine the last time I tried. Probably never used in anger! Swap for something small & interesting or £140.00 for either (not both!).

"Somme to Beverley by Way of Sunderland"

A history of the ABC engine at war, 1915 to 1971 - By J.K. Siddorn. 70 pages, 80 photos and line drawings, cardback. Published by the author – address below. £4.99 including UK postage. £5.99 Worldwide (Sterling only accepted)

A comprehensive history of the stationary engines, APU & GPU units built by the All British Engine Company Ltd. Based upon the text of the series of articles that appeared in Stationary Engine Magazine during 2009. The work includes new information, corrections and eighty contemporary photos, line drawings and adverts - and the captions are accurate, capacious and exhaustive!

Birthday? Christmas is coming – an ideal small gift!

Special notices

The Wessex Heavy Horse Society are running their usual event again this year. It is their 27th annual show and will take place on Sunday 27th of September at the Turnpike Showground off the B3081, the Gillingham to Shaftsbury road.

I know that WSEC members have supported this event in the past & Mike Horler has asked me to invite engine entries through the newsletter.

Please contact Mike on 01761 470694.

WSEC Social do! - Skittles and Supper evening at The Royal Oak Corsley on October 10th at 7-30pm. You need to let Diana know you are coming, so ring to book your place on 01373 464982.

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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