



CRANKING

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly newsletter

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2009

Thirty second
year of
publication

www.wessex-sec.co.uk

From the Sump

The Sort Out season looms upon us, Newbury on Sunday 4th October, ours at Cranmore on 17th and Enstone on 14th November. Any others I should publicise? They are curious events when you think about it. The vendors expend great effort in bringing a huge pile of heavy, dangerous to move and generally quite unsaleable junk miles and miles across country, scattering amongst it a few little gems to be hauled blinking into the light by delighted buyers. These they bear away home, peering in their rear view mirrors at their treasure & grinning to themselves at their good fortune. Depending on nature, it becomes THE winter project or – much more likely – is sheeted down with the other silent “to do” lumps in the garden or jammed uneasily into a corner of the workshop. There, it will gather dust until its turn comes or it finds its way to another sale after interest has waned – or the owner dies!

But what happens to the bulk of the trailer's load? Does the vendor cart it around interminably until it succumbs to corrosion and just vanishes? Gets fed up and drops it on a scrappy as a Mixed Load? Dunno – I'm an inveterate buyer, me ;o))

When you've been to a few sales, you get a feel for a stall without really paying attention. Nicely polished brass, repainted stuff & (dead give away) tidy price labels almost always mean high prices.

Boxes and boxes of rusty old tools, broken injector pumps & just old tat needing only a cursory glance whilst moving. A jumble of stuff in glorious untidy array with rusty plums in the pudding of oily iron that are easily missed unless you stop & stare.

And the prices – no rhyme nor reason there. An engine in running order here for a tenner & twenty yards away, the same in derelict order for fifty! Is it a reflection of the vendor's interest or lack of it? Does he specialise in something else? Who knows?

I often think that I ought to get a stall – I've got enough stuff I don't love especially, the Good Lord knows, but somehow the effort versus likely rewards is never an equation I much fancy calculating. So, as the Fall of Leaf is upon us and the days shorten, I'll again venture forth with an empty car & a full pocket & come back with those positions reversed. I'm not alone though, am I?

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

Tap-tap – hello? Is this thing on? I'm beginning to wonder as I've had no requests for adverts & neither have I been inundated with articles. I am quite happy to write the bulk of the newsletter myself, aided by the one or two stalwarts that most ably write Good Stuff month by month – my thanks to them – but I'm sure we'd all welcome some diversity of tone!

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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