



CRANKING

May
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Thirty third year
of publication
www.wessex-sec.co.uk

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly newsletter

From the Sump

The days of seeing that shimmering mirage over a cup of petrol are over. In the 'States, 300 million gallons of petrol are lost annually to evaporation at service station fuel pumps. To stem this, the US Government have dictated that fuel be less volatile at atmospheric pressure by being less inclined to atomise and turn into vapour. Not a problem for the average modern car on common rail EFI at injection pressures starting at 40psi and a non issue for direct injection at 2000psi plus. But for owners of aging machinery it may be, particularly those with lower start off port velocities either due to large size relative to displacement or cam overlap. Essentially, that carb tickle now turns into a predominantly unbroken trickle flowing into your combustion chamber with little or no atomisation.

Keeping it very basic, since the demise of tetra-ethyl-lead from fuel, refineries have to achieve the correct octane value by using a much greater proportion of aromatic (light) fractions and even dissolved propanes. The fuel does the job but has a much reduced vapour pressure and, especially important for all of us with "summer" toys, a very poor shelf life.

Even though my informant's Vincent twin was fitted with electronic ignition, it repeatedly wetted the plugs during starting. He has now forgone basic unleaded in favour of the Premium grade and instead of tickling the carbs until they foam slightly from the tickle pins at the top, he just looks for slight moisture at the base of the jet block slot at the gland nut.

I'd be very interested to hear any reports from our members about starting and running problems & it may well be that more and more of us find that cans or "Easy Start" become more of a necessity on cold mornings.

Obituary

The club is sad to report the death of Bristol member David Coates. David was 66 years old and was a long serving member of The Wessex Stationary Engine Club. He was an active member who attended many of our events. Sadly, David died in hospital after suffering two heart attacks. Our condolences go out to his wife Brenda, his children and his grand children.

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

J. Kim Siddorn, 9, Durleigh Close, Bristol. BS13 7NQ or by e-mail to kim.siddorn@blueyonder.co.uk.

Moving the Metal

For sale

Fairbanks Morse 2" rotary pump, flatbelt drive. good unrestored condition. Rotates freely. No Trolley £175 ONO. (*Ashcott.*) [Phone 01458 210929](tel:01458210929)

"Ferm" wood turning lathe, type FHB940. On tradesman built timber stand. 5 turning speeds, 36" between centres. As new, buyer collects. £110.

All above, [phone Tony Davis 01373 464982](tel:01373464982)

Bentall Pioneer. 1919, hardwood trolley. All correct, impulse Magneto. Needs painting. £1,200

Petter 8hp. 1919, M type. Class One prize winner, totally rebuilt, reluctant sale. Best offer near £1.100.

[Phone Eric Gay - 01225 754374](tel:01225754374)

Lister D. 18DH. Sold to Lewis & Son, Kettering on 9/9/37. On a four wheel oak trolley. £90 ONO

[Phone Phil on 01933 386800](tel:01933386800)

JAP Model 55. The unusual vertical twin! & apparently unused. Easy starter. Very sexy finned manifold. Apparently in good order. Might swap for something small & interesting. £140.00.

Both above, [phone Kim Siddorn 0117 964 6818](tel:01179646818)

Stationary Engine Magazines. July '95 (257) to Dec '06 (393) in six official binders. £50.

"On Four Wheels". Complete in 11 official binders.

"On Two Wheels", 8 binders. All in good order.

REDUCED! £30 a set. [Phone P. Riley 0117 932 4345](tel:01179324345)

WANTED

Set of four 6" or 8" iron wheels

[Phone Richard Gill on 01934 517322](tel:01934517322)

Lister L type. Fuel & oil pipes to & from the pump & crankcase vent, (the square holed one).

[Phone Graham on 07843 583855](tel:07843583855)

JAP model "O" or similar. WHY? Anything considered **Wheels, 5-6" OD** anything considered.

[Phone Ralph 01275 892944](tel:01275892944)

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

Triumph twin WW2 genny or parts.

All above, [Phone Kim Siddorn 0117 964 6818](tel:01179646818)

Engines required !

July 17th (only) Frome Lions & Rotary club's "Grand Gala Fete". Open 11.30-5.00. The fete usually attracts around 5-6,000 people so is a reasonable sized affair. The venue is the Old Show Field. Rodden Rd, Frome, a large open field near the centre of town between the new hospital and the cricket club. Contact Tony House [01373 461314](tel:01373461314)