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CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

That's the Christmas festivities done and dusted, everything has been packed away for another year. A lot of bugs doing the rounds and striking people quite low for a while – I hope you've managed to avoid them, if you have suffered, I sincerely hope you're feeling better soon.

Plenty going on in my workshop presently, I finally plucked up the courage to put a couple of flames to my fairly recently acquired Petter VST24 (Twin cylinder S Type engine of 24hp) and with a bit of help and encouragement from a friend I was pleased to get a pretty decent tune out of it. It's an air start engine, so I'm looking to devise a mechanical device to be able to start it on the rally field.

Also another triumph after looking at it, perhaps slightly scared of it and what might happen when it fires into life, was running my Swedish 20hp Avance surface ignition engine. It has a most interesting hit and miss governing system which is fascinating to watch. *David*



CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2025

Please be reminded that your Club membership (and insurance cover) will have expired at the end of December, it's really easy to renew online by visiting <https://wessexsec.org/> Thank you to those who have already renewed. Any problems please get in touch using the details provided on the membership page.

Also, a very warm welcome to the new members to the Club who have joined recently. We hope to see you at one of the many events we have planned this year.

Membership cards with insurance details have been printed and have been posted. *Ted*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well here we are at the start of another year, I hope you all had a happy Christmas and let us hope we all have a peaceful and happy new year. I am beginning to plan the events that I hope to attend in 2025, I guess that many of you will be doing the same. I am told that there will be two new events coming up in future one near Devizes and the other at Rowde, just outside of Devizes. I have no details at present so we will have to wait and see.

With this very cold weather the restoration of the Bamford has come to a stop at the moment I am not going to venture out into the work shop as the old bones will not like it one bit so I will stay indoors and try to find things to do, like cleaning, washing, cooking and other domestic chores as they say a women's work is never done.

While I was in Sweden I was lucky enough to visit the Husqvarna museum, showcasing 330 years of Husqvarna history. We all know about the motorcycles but it was all the other items that they made it really did make the mind boggle – from guns for the Swedish military they progressed to a Royal small arms manufacturer to a modern global industry. The museum is

housed in the now oldest factory building completed in 1868. The company is best known for its sewing machines, motorcycles, small arms and of course forest and garden products. But it also has a rich history in white goods, early microwaves, washing machines and other kitchen items, to see the huge number of other products that were made by the company is staggering.

The Husqvarna Museum is beautifully situated at the waterfall of the Husqvarna River, a short walk from the museum you will find the old village where the gunsmiths lived in the 18th & 19th centuries.

Now moving on to more modern times the DXR 310 demolition robot, a self-designed demolition robot that was developed in record time by a small team in Jonsered, Gothenburg, the machine can cut through concrete up to 16 inches thick with 143 tons of pressure, without vibrations or noise, one very clever machine.

Now dear members have you seen the new magazine for engine enthusiasts, if not I would recommend that one finds a copy as soon as possible, I was astounded when I received my first copy, the quality and content is absolutely fantastic and for the very first edition it is beyond reproach, I look forward to the next edition.

I very much hope we can all support this very fine magazine with articles, adverts for sales and wanted.

Talking to our newsletter editor at Gordons crank up at Whaddon Lane at the end of December he would welcome more input from members to help him fill the clubs newsletter. Don't worry about grammar and spelling as I am sure that David will not mind; he can be relied on to correct any glaring mistakes.

The last thing this month is I have a small Bamford flour mill sitting in my workshop it is for sale if you are interested why not give me a call and we will discuss the price.

Eric Gay, WSEC Chairman

WROUGHTON SCIENCE MUSEUM

Now on to some news that you may already know about but there may be a number of members that do not know what the science Museum has been up to.

They have just completed a project at Wroughton near Swindon with an outlay of wait for it £65 MILLION, the new building known as the Hawking's Building is named after the late professor Stephen Hawking, a fitting tribute to a great man. The building houses over 300,000 historic items. The unit is now open for the general public to visit, with guided tours, school and research visits, I for one will be going sometime in the coming months, tour dates are available to book allowing you to get up close to the Science Museum Group's collection of objects from science, technology, engineering, and medicine

I am told that you will be led by an expert guide you will encounter incredible, world changing objects in their new home and discover their stories, you will get stunning views of the vast facility and seeing the staff of the museum caring for the treasured artefacts.

Now if enough members are interested I would be willing to organise a club visit to Wroughton Science Museum, but you will have to let me know if you would like to go The only down side is the entry fee, concessions @ £16 50. Other tickets at £27 50 I have seen the photographs of the interior and what is on show my thoughts is that it would make a fantastic day out.

WESSEX MIDSUMMER SHOW

Now the rally in June of last year, believe it or not made a profit and on Tuesday the 7th January the committee of the M S V S elected to make a donation of £500 00 to the Club's chosen charity namely The Children's Hospice South West, a cheque is now on its way.

This is only possible through the support of our club members and others that makes the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show so successful. I have worked out it has been around 21 years since we started to stage a two-day vintage rally first at Cheddar, then Clutton, then back to another venue at Cheddar and then to Semington, where we stayed at Semington for sixteen years believe it or not until the Bonds built a house on the site and did not want us there again.

The club has been very fortunate to acquire the use of the land at Southwick, plans are well under way for this year's event, being our 21st anniversary, we want to try and make this the best event yet, your poor old chairman would like to appeal to every club member to come along to Southwick over the weekend of June 14th & 15th 2025 and help the committee make this a year to remember.

Now the show would not happen unless it was for the very hard work put in by the members of the rally committee, this is made up not only of club members but others from outside the club and the vintage movement.

The committee is always looking for more members to come and join us and everyone is made most welcome (Want some information?? Please call me on 01225 754374)

No show can ever succeed unless it has willing hands to help in the organising and running the event and people that can find exhibits from all sections of the vintage movement, I did ask in my recent report if any club member new of any exhibitors with any type of exhibit at all that we the committee can contact to please let us know we will do the rest. *Eric Gay*

WHADDON FARM CRANK UP

The weather was kind to us on Sunday 29th December at Whaddon Farm – I think we had 27 engines attend, all running with no fail-to-start situations!

The weather was so pleasantly warm and dry, a few of us set up outside the barn, enjoying some glimpses of glorious sunshine too!



Attending engines included Pete Gear's Allen Oil Engine, a very nice Lister D generating/lighting set, an early Petter Atomic and Dennis & Chris Barnes with their beautifully presented gas engine with dynamo.



As usual, the catering was of the highest quality, the home-made soups, the crumbles were all to die for and warmed us up. Thank you to Paula, Debbie & Sue for looking after the very important refreshments, it is much appreciated by us all.

We even had a visit from a reporter from The Wiltshire Times and member John Sims was featured in their report a couple of days later.

After enjoying a good day playing with engines we



counted up the final total from the raffle and donations and it totalled at £304.57, well done to you all.

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness we hear of the death of Roy Chapman. Roy, who lived at Horningsham near Longleat, passed away on the 30th December. He had been a Club member for many years and loved exhibiting his engines. Roy will be missed by all who knew him and our condolences go out to his wife, Christine. *Robin Lambert*

DAVE LACEY TARMONKEY COLLECTION OPEN DAY

I'm having another Open Day on Sunday 23rd March 2025, Club members would be most welcome to attend (Many have already said "We're coming!") - there's usually space for an engine should you wish to bring one along. Please get in touch with me (Contact details at the foot of the newsletter) or click 'Going' on the event itself on Facebook, so I have an idea of how many might turn up. Hopefully we'll have some better weather this year. Tea, Coffee, Soup, Sausage Rolls and cake plus a raffle – all proceeds to the Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance. Please bring a raffle prize. David

YOUR THOUGHTS?

What is the collective noun for a gathering of Stationary Engines? Anybody got any good suggestions, just for a laugh? A clattering of...? A gaggle of....?
Get in touch with your suggestions!

CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

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Please put a note in with your name and address that you require the magazine to be posted to.

FOR SALE - Two wheel, braked, galvanised caravan chassis with jockey wheel and four corner jacks. Overall width including wheels 7' (2.1m), Overall length 18' (5.5m). Ideal for engine mounting or trailer conversion. Please contact 01934 852670 *Gerald Atherton*

For Sale:- Belt driven barley roller. Contact [Ted secretary@wessexsec.org](mailto:secretary@wessexsec.org) or 07751 918283

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the committee or its members. Although the greatest care is taken in compiling this newsletter, the editor takes no responsibility for any errors or omissions

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