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CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



Jan 2026

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMANS REPORT

That's Christmas over for another year and now looking forward into 2026, with a year's activities to plan!

We have one problem that has just come my way as many of the clubs problems do - this is the loss of the site at East Somerset Railway at Cranmore for the Roger Pike Memorial Crank Up. We are in need of a new venue for this event.

If any club member can help out with finding or suggesting a site, please get in touch with Linda or myself so we can stage this event in September 2026.

Now our other problem is that we still do not have anyone to take on the post of Club Secretary, now I have to tell you that if this is not filled it will be quite difficult to keep the Wessex Stationary Engine Club running.

I myself, like all other members of your committee work exceedingly hard to give you the members a full list of activities and meetings plus a couple of two-day vintage rallies each year (Southwick & Bradford-on-Avon). What other club does that?? I have been told that we do more for our members than most other engine Clubs.

With over two hundred members we must have someone willing to help keep the Club running; we would love to hear from any member, male or female who would be happy to help, you will get all the support and help you need and a very warm welcome from all members of the committee.

Now with me being rather ill for the last couple of weeks I have not been able to see our host at The Old Down Inn, so at this time no date has been fixed for our New Year meal and get together at the Old Down so you still have time to book a place at the festivities, just give me a ring (01225 754374)

Now what with being unwell, restoration projects have been the last thing on my mind but I am going to see a gentleman with a vast collection of goodies in the week or two all being well he has a fractional hp engine I would like to get my hands on, just something else to play with. I will let you know if I end up parting with money and maybe David will print a photo or two of it.

Feeling a bit better the other day I did line out the new splash guard for the 2.5hp Bamford, I could sit at the kitchen table and do this. I hope it soon gets warmer so that I can get back into the workshop, finish the Bamford restoration (with luck) there will be an article in the Old Oil & Gas Engine Magazine covering the work put into this restoration.

Now please do not forget March 7th 2026. There is a great deal of money waiting in people's pockets just to spend at the Wessex Bring and Buy Sale at the East Somerset Railway and you selling all those goodies could make a small fortune, hope it's a bit warmer, see you all at the sale.

Now wonders will never cease not only one but two vintage rallies have phoned me with an invitation to exhibit at their event, true I have attended both over the last few years, but how gratifying it was to be thanked for attending and a please come again your passes will be in the post shortly. Well that's the first two.....only fourteen more to enter if I do the same as in 2025!

Last on the list is that the Rally at Southwick. Over the past couple of years it has been a great success, but we cannot sit back and hope for the best, we must keep working to improve our show. Now you can all help by requesting entry forms for the event and handing them out at events that you may attend. If you know of exhibitors, displays for our ring, other activities, Traders, re-enactment groups or anything you think could be a further attraction you can give me a call (01225 754374) and I will do the rest.

Well that's it for now, all that's left is to wish all club members and friends a very happy and above all a peaceful New Year. *Eric Gay, Chairman WSEC*

EVENTS 2026

The Wessex Club is well known for its many crank-up events and similar, often at interesting venues alongside other attractions, be it the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore, The West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers at Westbury, you can always be assured of good Club (and independent) events throughout the year to attend. I'm going to try and compile a list of both Club and other small local events here. Most are on the Club calendar but not everyone has access to that. More info on these events nearer the time.

- Cranmore Bring & Buy Sale, March 7th 2026, East Somerset Railway, Cranmore, 8am onwards
- Crank up at The White Horse Country Park, Saturday 4th April 2026, inc a free BBQ
- Lydford Crank-Up 19th April 2026, raffle will be held.
- Sweets Tea Rooms Crank-Up on 30th May 2026 raffle to be held. Any queries ring Herb on 07836 349289. More info to follow
- Wessex Vintage Show at Southwick over the weekend of June 20th & 21st

CRANMORE BRING AND BUY SALE

Saturday March 7th 2026

Sellers from 8am

Buyers from 8.30am

East Somerset Railway

Cranmore Station

BA4 4QP

Any queries – call Eric 01225 754374

Whaddon Mince Pie Crank-Up

The eagerly awaited Christmas Crank Up at Gordon's Farm just outside Trowbridge was well attended by some 25 or so engines – I didn't count them. The weather was chilly but dry and the wind wasn't too bad so it didn't feel too cold – with more than a few engines running outside, it was a well attended and successful day.

As always, the ladies kept us fed and watered very nicely, the home made soups and crumbles really kept our core heat up – big thanks as always to Paula, Debbie and Sue for looking after us so well.

>Pictured right is the Brownwall engine whose owner had travelled a long distance to the event



Attending engines included John Thorne's Harrop gas engine which ran faultlessly as it always does, I took my early 3hp Ruston AP engine, Paul Goldsmith made the huge trip all the way from East Anglia with 3 Lister D engines which all found new homes in the South and South West!

<Pictured left is Pete Gear's impressive Hornsby oil engine which ran really well all day long.

A raffle was held with some great prizes, thank you to all who donated prizes and bought tickets, together with the donations for the refreshments, the event raised £348.07 for Alziemers Society.

We were all loaded and on our way home by 3.15pm as the weather became colder but remained dry so most engines got home in the dry if not a little salty! *Dave Lacey*



Lister H (Sounded lovely)



Amanco



Pilter Engine (Bebadged Stover)

TARMONKEY CHRISTMAS CRANK-UP

Taking place a day before Gordon's event, I envisaged this to be a fairly laid back and informal get-together for us like-minded souls between Christmas and New Year – but how wrong I was! By 10am the whole estate was pretty much filled with people who wanted to bring their engines along for a winter run.

Thankfully I was a little more on the ball this time and had set up the tea and coffee area the day before – that's always an important bit to get right as the Cornish contingent turned up by 8.30am and needed refreshment! Always good to see you guys up our way ☺

Most of the engines were already down on the floor and ready to be pushed out, huge thanks to Roger and Luke Sims, Ian Bisset and others for your help and assistance in doing this, I'd never have got half as many running without your help.

It was a busy day, keeping engines running and tended to was a hard task, but we had most out and running, but the ones tucked down the side in the lean-to didn't make it out this time.

It was hard work starting the hot bulb surface ignition engines as a keen cold breeze definitely took the heat off them, but with the exception of one, (Petter S Type 5hp) all were running. Bleeding the fuel through and tightening a fuel pipe nut, it went CRACK and that was the end of that. A simple fix but no time on the day to do so.

By 3pm we were all getting a bit cold, so people started to pack up. The attending tool van did a good trade in tools, blue paper rolls and rags, it's always worth a look around Matthew's Alladin's cave of useful tools and stuff.

Draining the water off various engines and pushing them back inside, I was all done by 5pm and ready to put my feet up!



A great day spent with many friends, sorry if I didn't get to speak to you, it wasn't intentional, I was just super-busy!

See you at the next event in March, hopefully the weather will be just a little warmer and slightly less breezy so I can run more hot bulb engines as I'd seemed to pick the windiest spot that day!!

We didn't have a charity collection this time as all food was provided by those who attended – a big thank you to those who brought food along, I didn't think it was all going to go – but it did!

Dave & Hayley Lacey

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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