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CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



April 2026

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Here we are already in April and our second event of the year staged and gone. The Crank-Up at The White Horse Country Park, in conjunction with the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers and what a great turn out we had, it just goes to prove the stationary engine movement is still alive and quite well.

Now the Club had a visitor at our Westbury event, none other than the Editor of the Old Glory Magazine, Mr Peter Love. He spent around three hours taking photographs and interviewing all those taking part, he told me that it was one of the best events of its type he had seen, so watch out for the article in a future copy of Old Glory Magazine.

He then went on to take photographs of the trains and activities being run by the West Wilts Society of Model Engineers.

It was creeping towards 11.30am so it was time to light the BBQ and start cooking so that the hungry hordes could be fed.....not an easy task as the wind was very strong and getting the fire to burn took some doing but I won in the end and cooking commenced, it is surprising how fast 50 sausages and rolls disappear.....it must be because they are free, I think I must have been the only person on site feeling warm for around 1½ hours!

Trouble was the lung infection I am trying to get over had to rear its ugly head and I became very breathless once again and ended up sat in the car for a while till I felt a bit better...I hope things improve, the sooner the better.

Bob Hallam and myself have been to Basingstoke in early April to the model traction engine show, I hope I can attract a few more entries for our rally in June. We are also looking for full size steam exhibits can anyone help with this?

Still not feeling on top form, restoration projects have had to come to a halt...I was hoping to have my 2.5hp Bamford Tulip top ready for some shows so that I could show the two together but this may be a fading dream, we will have to wait and see, I hope I can succeed.

I have over twenty events planned for this year but with the price of fuel still rising are we going to afford to travel?? Thank you Mr Trump! (How to buxxxx the world in one easy move.....the man is totally unhinged and I am being polite. But this is getting political I MUST STOP.

Now they say everything happens in threes, well that is very true, first I needed a new mattress, then would you believe then the vacuum cleaner died, then it was the turn of the washing machine, the drum bearing and shaft failed but would you believe the drum shaft and bearing is all one unit, like the nice man said the cost will be more than a new machine, so I had to raid the bank account once again, 'tiss looking a bit sick, any donations will be gratefully received!!

Just one thing more I can recommend - Shark rechargeable vacuum cleaners, it takes half the time to go over the full house than it did with my old Henry cleaner.

Just come my way is the very sad news that long time club member Tony Jones has recently passed away, Tony was there at the beginning of the Club and has been a supporter of our events over many years.

Tony lived in Hilperton for many years and ran the Tony Jones Garden Parties, engines all around the garden, this was a little before my time as a Club member but know this went on for a number of years. Tony was often on the phone to me giving me encouragement and thanks for my input into the club, I will miss our chats on the phone and our meetings. At many events where he would be with his camera, Tony must have taken thousands of photographs over the years. Tony will be sadly missed by all that knew him. The Club would like to express our sincere condolences to all Tony's family and friends.

With the Club rally looming ever nearer can any dear members give us a little of your time? We need a few good people to help on the pay gate, four members for two hours each day should cover our needs please help us if you can and give me a call on 01225 754374, your help will be greatly appreciated

Eric Gay, Chairman WSEC

THE WESSEX MIDSUMMER VINTAGE SHOW 20th & 21st June

Well it's not long to go until the Wessex Midsummer Show with entries coming in but there's always room for more so please get them in if you want to be part of it.

Room for more Stationary Engines, Cars, Commercials, Motorbikes, Tractors or anything unusual If you know of anybody who may be interested to come and bring something along then please tell them

The Show is organised by only a handful of volunteers so if you would like to come and give a hand on the day then please do come forward

Help will be needed with setting up the Show Field, Help with Litter Picking and Stewarding the Vehicles to and from the ring and on the Exhibitor and Public Pay Gate

You never know but you might enjoy being part of it

Any Questions then please don't hesitate to let me know either on rally@wessexsec.org or give me a ring on 07507 501819

Chris Celford, Rally Secretary

Obituary - Edward 'Ed' Carp

Edward Carp (Ed) died on March 9th after a long illness. Husband to Gloria and father to Edward John. Ed's working life started before he left school on the family farm at Mere. On leaving school he worked at Griffins Garage at Mere to learn all aspects of of the motor trade. This was followed by two years National Service which took him to Malaysia. Upon his return he met Gloria and when she reached 18 they got married. They had a son, Edward John. He then started working for Godwins Peat (a firm which is still in existence today) After some time he moved to Kellands Agricultural Engineers doing repairs on farm equipment locally.

After a while he returned to the family farming business taking over from his father, milking cows. In his spare time he and Gloria would repair other people's tractors and equipment. They eventually retired and moved to the bungalow at Ashcroft.

It was here that they built a first-class workshop where they could store and restore stationary engines.

They have always been firm supporters of the WSEC and other vintage events locally. Edward will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

One of the things I will remember is Ed's family grew the same runner beans, saving the seeds every year since 1913 to the present day....I was lucky enough to have been given some seeds, they are excellent croppers and I call them "Ed's Beans" - Herb Gane

TARMONKEY ENGINE COLLECTION OPEN DAY

We raised an amazing £945.52 for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance at our open day. Thank you to all Club members who came along and had a great day with us and supported such a worthwhile cause. *Dave Lacey*

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB REACHES 50 YEARS

As many of you may know 2026 it has been fifty years since the WSEC was founded.

So 2026 being the fiftieth anniversary of our club, what are we going to do to celebrate this event? Well...I have the answer to that question, I have a site at Bradford-on-Avon and over the weekend of October 3rd & 4th 2026 we will be staging the 50th Anniversary rally.

The event will also support Dorothy House Hospice, so I want the support of every dear club member to make this event a roaring success, entry forms are now ready and will be distributed at Southwick over the weekend of the 20th & 21st June plus the other 20 events I have booked into this year. Also available on the Club website and there is a copy attached with this newsletter.

Now with 200 members I am sure that many of you know people with many types of vintage exhibits so please pass the word around!

If you would like to give a helping hand in running this event do please let me know, we will need help, I hope to stage the event as a great friendly show just as they were back in the day, with a massive BBQ on the Saturday evening. *Eric Gay*

ROGER PIKE MEMORIAL RALLY

Sunday 19th April dawned bright and sunny and many engines filling Herbies field by 9am. I was busy in our pop up cafe making up 100 cheese rolls with the help of Carol. Debbie and Carol also sold the raffle tickets. We had a scrumptious selection of homemade cakes which proved very Popular!

We had 37 engines lined up, the enclosure had to be made bigger to get everyone in!! Many different types and styles of engines – Nigel Scorse with his delightful St Mary's gearless engine, Richard with his Jaeger, John with his Gilson, there were Petters, Listers and many more. The Roger Pike Memorial cup was deservedly awarded to Roger and Luke Simms with their beautifully restored Ruston Hornsby AP6.

Ian brought along a miniature ploughing engine which him and his Dad built from scratch. Donations collected in the churn for the food totalled £252, the raffle raised £161 making a fantastic donation of £413 for Dorothy House.

I also received an outside donation of £10 making the total I gave to Dorothy House £423 My thanks go to everyone who came to support us and Herb Gane for the use of his premises and the ladies who helped me....I couldn't have done it without you all. *Linda*

CLUB SECRETARY

We still need to fill this important position – can you help? **Contact Ted 07751 918283**

What does the Club Secretary actually do?

The Secretary helps keep the club organised and running smoothly. It sounds formal, but in practice it's mostly straightforward admin.

Main tasks:

- Keeping basic club records up to date (members, committee details)
- Taking simple notes (minutes) at committee meetings
- Sending out meeting notices or emails
- Handling general correspondence (emails, occasional letters)

- Making sure key documents are filed and kept safely

For the company side (Company Limited by Guarantee):

- Filing an annual confirmation statement with Companies House
- Keeping director and officer details up to date
- Making sure basic records are maintained (nothing complicated)

What it's not:

- It's not a full-time job
- It doesn't require legal expertise
- It's not something you have to do alone—support is available

Time involved:

- A few hours a month, plus a bit extra around meetings or annual filings

Support:

- Other committee members will help
- Simple online systems can make the company paperwork very easy

In short: it's about keeping things ticking over and making sure the club stays properly organised.

SWEETS TEA ROOMS CRANK UP

May 30th 2026, 9.00 AM – 4.00 PM

Blakeway, Wedmore, Glastonbury BS28 4UE

Raffle, Refreshments

Please do not arrive before 9am as it is dangerous to queue on the road
Further info please contact Herb Gane 07836 349289

FOR SALE

- The Imperial corn mill, design reg 1917, imported into the UK by Canadian Importers Ltd, Avonmouth, Bristol. Very uncommon. Good working order, £350
- No 2 Climax pump on trolley. Good working order, £250
- Lister D, older restoration, on trolley, wants to be recommissioned. £70
- Ruston Hornsby 1½ – 2½ hp PB, Villiers flywheel magneto, on trolley, was restored a fair few years ago. £300
- Crank-guard for 1¾hp Gray. £20
- Pulley for Amanco Hired Man? Good order. £20

Contact Phill Marshall 01761 471461 Bath area

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

Contributions to: David Lacey, 8 Dyers Close, West Buckland, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 9JU or (preferably) by email

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