



Issue No: 2/17

CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



February 2025

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

A quiet time of year for us all, many of us not even out in the workshop as it is so cold presently unless you are like one of my friends who has a waste oil burner in his workshop where he burns clean used hydraulic oil, no mess, no soot, no fumes.....always toasty warm in there!

Hopefully you'll be busy entering your favourite shows for this coming season now, with some show applications being all electronic it does make it very easy to enter the event and get an almost instant confirmation of your entry rather than waiting patiently sometimes two weeks before the event to see if you have been successful in your entry, or finding out the application or event pass has been lost in the post.....

So hopefully next month when the weather might warm up a little, we'll be dragging out engines from their winter slumber and coaxing them into life! Hopefully none will have suffered any damage from water and frost and don't give you any headaches when trying to start them despite putting them away fully functioning!! *David*

CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd will be held at the Old Down Inn, Emborough at 8pm on the 31st March 2025. Zoom will be available if possible, the link will be emailed closer to the day. All members are invited to attend. *Secretary*

CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2025

Please be reminded that your Club membership (and insurance cover) will have expired at the end of December, it's 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

Here we are in February with March approaching fast and that means The Club's Annual General Meeting, this will take place at The Old Down Inn, Emborough on 31st March 2025 at 8pm. The members of the committee have all agreed to stand for re-election. Voting forms will be sent out shortly, we need members to attend this important event in the club calendar so do please attend if you are close enough to do so.

We have vacancies for members to join the committee and I would ask any member old or new to come forward and join the organising committee....new ideas and new faces would be most welcome. Another thing we are desperately seeking is a commercial vehicle steward for not only our main event at Southwick but also for our two day rally in aid of Dorothy House Hospice Care at Bradford-on-Avon over the weekend of September 6th & 7th to be staged at our new site at Bradford Leigh....can you help? If so please do give me a call on 01225 754374.

Our next outside event will be the clubs bring and buy sale at The East Somerset Steam Railway at Cranmore, just off the A361 Shepton Mallet Road on Saturday March the 22nd so dig out all those goodies that you no longer require bring them along to Cranmore and make lots of money so you can buy lots more vintage goodies, hope to see you there.

Now I know it's been foul weather, cold, wet and windy but you must get out in the workshop and polish your pride and joy ready for April the 5th for the crank up and BBQ at the White Horse Country Park with The West Wilts Society of Model Engineers, where else will you get free hot dogs and burgers and the chance to get a ride on a scale model steam train plus meeting up with good friends from both clubs.

It is hoped that in late September the club may be able to hold another crank up at Whaddon but a little different than what has been before, outside in the field with an evening light up with engines driving dynamos and generators. This, combined with an evening BBQ, will be one other thing for us all to look forward too. I will have to get the Petter Apple top and dynamo up and running I have not had it out for quite a number of years, just one other job to be done along with many more.

If you have a new project underway why not do a write up for our editor I know he would welcome any input to the newsletter with open arms. It is also a very long time since I have seen any input from our lady members and we do have quite a few. your input or ideas would be most welcome so why not keep away from the tele and instead take pen in hand and do a write up an article for the clubs newsletter.

I cannot afford a fancy electric vehicle - I do not know where they get their facts from on the pollution figures for older vehicles but checking some data I have, my old bus can be driven around forty miles a day for my entire driving life time and I will not create the same amount of pollution as the building of one electric car, can anyone tell me the logic in that??

The Federation of Historic Vehicle Clubs, that represents more than 500 clubs, museums, and individual members, aims to lobby the Government against detrimental legislation and restrictions that could impact the future of historic vehicles.

To secure a successful outcome the FBHVC needs dependable data. There are over 1.9 million historic vehicles recorded on the DVLA database. The survey encompasses all historic road vehicles, cars coaches, motorcycles, lorries, vans, motor homes, military, steam and agricultural vehicles. Help save our heritage go online and take part in the FBHVC survey **www.fohvc.co.uk/research** over 15,000 took part in the last time around so why not add your name to the list, for if we of the vintage movement are not prepared to fight for our freedom our freedom will be lost.

Eric Gay, WSEC Chairman

WHADDON FARM SPRING CRANK UP

Crank-Up at Whaddon Farm, Hilperton nr Trowbridge 16th March 2025 - 9am to 4pm
Hopefully the weather will be kind, we may be able to be outside!

Same format as usual raffle in aid of Alzheimer's (Raffle prizes are most welcome)

Refreshments available as normal

Club members and invited friends welcome – I look forward to seeing you all - *Gordon*

ENGINES SEEN ON ERIC'S RECENT TRIP TO SWEDEN

Eric stumbled upon this 30hp Calmo Surface Ignition engine on his recent trip to Sweden, located in a sawmill, I bet it sounded lovely thumping away and with the governor coming into effect when the blade was put to work.....



LOOKING BACK.....

I'm going to run a series of articles picked at random from the 'Cranking' archive – without being negative, reading some of the past event write-ups, I think you really did have the best times back then.

By the way, the archive is available to all Club Members on the Club Website, have a look, it makes for some fascinating reading.

The Jenny Jefferies Collection Trip

It was late afternoon one Saturday 29th of March when the phone rang & on the end of the line was Nigel Scorse, "How would you like to come up to Jennies again?" Well, I did not have to be asked twice, but it gave my very little time to make all the arrangements as the open day was the 20th of April.

I had to get a coach and then talk to members and try to fill the seats, so Monday I took the day off work (Poor old chap don't do a lot now) so that did not matter. First job...ring coach company and hope they were not fully booked. I am limited to the numbers I can take, so it has to be a 29 seater maximum and at short notice I was worried that I was not going to be lucky with 'Real Coaches' the firm I used last year.

My luck was in as the coach is generally booked each weekend. It took three calls to them in the end but all was well.

Next, ring Nunney Catch Cafe to arrange parking for the Sunday, that was fine.

Now as luck would have it we had a Club meeting on the Monday night and alas I had to take bookings on a first come first served basis. To all the club members I could not take, I may get another invitation next year & if so, I will do my best to arrange another trip. We left Nunney at 7am and after a short stop for us poor old souls that need to have a stop, we arrived at around 10.45am to spend a day seeing a collection of engines that you will not see anywhere else along with the most wonderful hospitality anyone could dream of.

To Jenny and all her helpers, I can only say Thank You so much, for a wonderful day From Myself and all the members of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club. *Eric Gay – May 2008*

CRANMORE BRING AND BUY SALE

Saturday March 22nd 8:30am - 3:30pm

East Somerset Steam Railway, Cranmore Station, Nr Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 4QP
Start the season by getting all those essentials to see you through the year.

DURRINGTON CRANK-UP



Five or so hardy souls made their way to the small town of Durrington near Stonehenge on a dry Sunday morning in February for a day out with their engines. Those familiar with the site will know it is simply a verge of grass beside the roadway to the recreation ground, not a huge area but nevertheless a good day was had by all.

Anthony Andrews was there with his Jap engine, Roger and Luke Sims were there with their beautifully presented Lister, Pete Gear took an engine I cannot

for the life of me recall what it was and I took my 1923 Petter Crude Oil Engine, it's first outing for nearly 3 years and my Ruston 1HR diesel engine.

We had a great day out, it wasn't too cold, it stayed dry and we were on our way home by 3pm. Definitely an event I'd go to again. *David*

CLUB MEETINGS SURVEY

It seems that since the lockdown people's behaviour seems to have changed and there is less appetite for going out in the evenings compared to pre-pandemic. To find out what you think I would appreciate a minute of your time to complete an online survey. Even if you live a long way away from HQ your opinion matters and you could help to shape the future of the club.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PK8ZG96>

VINTAGE DISPLAY AT HIGH LITTLETON VILLAGE FETE

We have been invited to display at High Littleton village fete on the 23rd August (Bank Holiday Saturday) 12pm to 5pm. Would anyone interested in attending please contact me as soon as possible, as I need to give an answer to the organisers. *Ted Edwards* 07751 918283

WEST LYDFORD CRANK-UP – Sunday 27th April 2025

Once again Herb has kindly offered the use of the yard at West Lydford TA11 7DL Please let him know if you are coming as it proved extremely popular last time.

Engines running from 10-4, arrival from 9am onwards, catering in attendance. Level hardstanding area, 30 or so engines capacity. Water and toilets available, donations to Alzheimer's as usual. There will be a raffle and any donated prizes would be welcome.

Those bringing bigger engines, suggest avoid Wraxall Hill, from Cannards Grave, take the A371 to Castle Cary, then take the B3153 to Lydford traffic lights, back onto the A37 towards Shepton and second left.

Any problems or questions please contact Herb Gane on 07836 349289

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

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

editor@wessexsec.org