



Issue No: 9/17

CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



Sept 2025

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I am sat here wondering where this year has gone, they seem to go by faster than the one before! I have exhibited at 15 events this year with one more to go in a couple of weeks time. It may seem a lot but as you may know I am now on my own and why sit at home being alone. If I had to choose the best event out of all that I have been to it would be a difficult choice, two stand-out above the others but this is not saying the others were not good in their own way - I enjoyed every single one and met some very nice people. The two that stand out are Stoke Row near Reading, the other just a week or two ago, Fordingbridge, my first time at this show and if you have not been put a note in the diary for next year.

I must say that it did not get off to a good start as when I arrived at just past nine on the Friday morning the lady at the exhibitors gate said I was late and would have to park up and wait till the Saturday. That did not go down to well and we had words, me telling her that I could not be held responsible for the delay in road works at Salisbury and did she want some adverse publicity, the gate soon opened and a great show it was, it comes highly recommended.

It was a pity that my pride and joy did not want to play and refused to run on the Sunday! Soon found the trouble, don't leave this rubbish they call petrol in your tank for any length time as it attracts water and even the Bamford will not run on water.

The committee has been hard at work with plans for 2026, the first event will be on April 6th at The White Horse Country Park, along with the West Wilts Society Of Model Engineers. There will be entry forms for this event; last year this was not the case and too much food was purchased. Herb is arranging a crank up a Sweets museum and Tea rooms. Plans are already going ahead for Greenhill Farm, Southwick, over the weekend of June 20th & 21st 2026. I know this is early but we must find some willing hands to man the pay gate over the weekend, three people just to do 2 hours a day please come and give us a bit of help for without more help we cannot carry on. More future event dates for 2026 to follow soon - *Editor*

It is a great loss to the rally committee that Ted has hung up his rally hat and boots, we now need a rally secretary Lady or Gentleman, this is not as daunting as it may sound, we need someone to take the minutes at our committee meetings it takes about two hours a month, please someone come and help out, we need you.

There are still people interested in our hobby as at the North Cotswold Rally near Bourton on the Water, just opposite me were three young people at their first rally with three Lister D type engines, we all rallied round and in no time we had two out of three running, the third a bit past redemption.

The latest restoration project is making progress, new splash guard, new tank, a new valve push rod is being made, by Knee's Agricultural in Trowbridge (laser or water cut to pattern) The original is well past its sell by date, pitted and very rusted, why spoil the ship for a halfpence of tar, well its only money anyway. It was very kind of Paul Allan to come and give me a hand putting the crank and flywheels back in the engine, Paul lent me the use of his engine crane, job done in a very few minutes, thank you Paul. So progress is now being made, a bit more painting to do, the flywheels and a couple of small bits, you never know it may be running by Christmas.

That reminds me....I have to take some more photographs for the Old Oil & Gas Engine Magazine with second instalment of the restoration article, have to oil my writing finger so as I can tap the keys of the computer in the right order.

Last Saturday it was the gathering in Trowbridge Park, beginning of carnival week, I was born and raised in Trowbridge, I knew that the people of Trowbridge are pretty apathetic, all day and I only spoke to three people, most just walked by without a look, sometimes I wonder why we bother.

My neighbour just down the road told me they had visited the park on the day but we did not see you, well they came in to the park by its main entrance and we were right adjacent, perhaps they had closed their eyes at that moment. I really cannot see how they could miss us. Well that's another report done, keep well and safe and enjoy the rest of the season. *Eric*

CLUB SECRETARY WANTED

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to plead yet again for support. I have been secretary of the Club for around eight enjoyable years and seen the membership drop almost to double figures then rise again to the 200 or so we have at present. But time and what comes with it is advancing at what seems an alarming rate; so now, while I have enough of my marbles left, it is time to pass it on to another, preferably younger, person. One who can take the Club onward and upward into new futures.

I will not hide the fact that the post carries with it quite a lot of work and responsibility as it is also that of company secretary, which has legal implications. I would urge anyone thinking of standing to read up and be fully aware of what they are taking on. It also carries with it the possibility of great satisfaction. It must be obvious to all that your chairman will not be able to continue for too many more years and we are already looking for a treasurer, so in a few years it will probably be a completely new management team and you could be at the heart of it.

To be successful in the future you will need to have sufficient office skills to handle the everyday paperwork, good enough knowledge of IT to cope with minor problems that will crop up from time to time and the free time to spend on it. If this sounds like the sort of thing you would enjoy doing why not get in touch and I can talk you through the rest of it (and there is plenty!). I do not intend to stand for re-election at the next AGM so if nobody else steps up we could be in a bit of trouble.

On a lighter note the show was a financial success, so we may be able to keep the subs as they are for next year. *Ted Edwards*

CHICKERELL RALLY REPORT

The Chickerell Steam & Vintage Show, near Weymouth – I went last year as a day exhibitor and had a great time. This long-established rally in its usual slot of the first weekend of July, I feel it now carries the honour of being the biggest vintage show in Dorset since the demise of the GDSF.



Although nowhere near the scale of the GDSF, Chickerell manages to pack an outstanding amount of exhibits and entertainment into its show fields and the public really do come out in force! Steam are of course represented in strong numbers between miniature and full size, Commercials and tractors too had a vast selection from WW2 to the modern era.



Us stationary engine enthusiasts and public alike were spoilt with what was on offer in the section. The section leader went to great effort to select an incredibly varied choice of engines, everything from working models to large oil engines from the turn of the last century. It was vital to have an information board present with your display if you fancied a sit down or a drink. I do not recall ever having to

answer so many questions before, which is an absolutely fantastic part of the hobby.

A Samson Oil Engine built by the Campbell Gas Company was one of the more less-seen engines on the rallyfield. A very crude and unique looking engine, with a rough history of actually being a boat anchor for 20 years! Other big engines included a Gardner VT hot bulb 2 stroke, using ropes to assist with cooling. Still looking factory fresh after a few rallies was the "Invincible" engine built by A & E Woodward, exhibited by Adam Troake. There was also power from a National Oil Engine, Two Ruston Hornsbys, Tangye Type M, Japy 13E and a Lister K!

Smaller engines made up the rest of the section, with not too much alike. Len Gillings displayed his absolutely fantastic Gardner 1AV from 1926. Possibly the most satisfying valve gear of any engine. Open crank power came in the form of a faultless engine built by John M Smythe Co, Worthington by Ingeco, Two sizes of Ruston Hornsby APR, Rolled Hopper Amanco Hired Man, a smaller Czech Lorenz among many more!

Vertical power had no shortage either, We had a very early Petter Jellymould 2 stroke, a Moteur-Omnium, one of (if not the earliest) examples of a Lister D genset, 3hp Blackstone, Monitor PumpJack, and a multi-cylinder Kohler genset

The entertainment at Chickerell is always a big draw and this year did not disappoint. Definitely a show I'd recommend. The tractor tun into Weymouth on the Saturday evening for fish and chips was great fun too. *David*

CRANMORE SALE - SATURDAY 25th October

Wessex Stationary Engine Club Bring and Buy sale at The East Somerset Railway, this will take place on Saturday the 25th October from 8.30am onwards, you still have lots of time to find all those goodies in the shed, all those things you knew you wanted but never used, so why not bring them along, make loads of money and then you can spend it on more goodies! East Somerset Steam Railway, Cranmore Station, Nr Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4QP Further info, please contact Eric 01225 754374

COME AND START AN ENGINE DAY AND BBQ

CORSHAM ROAD BRADFORD ON AVON, OCTOBER 12th 2025 AT THE PREMISES OF Mr CLIVE COMPTON (COUNTRY MINI SKIPS) CORSHAM ROAD, BA15 2RP

A large collection of engines many have not been started for some years plus a motor roller with a Scot two stroke engine (like a motor cycle). Members are invited to come along on October 12th just bring a few tools and face a challenge, this will be a fun day and something quite different from our usual crank ups plus we will also do a free BBQ so you are fed. For this to go ahead I must know numbers as soon as possible so if this fun day with a challenge is something you would like to be a part of please give Eric a ring on 01225 754374.

Don't worry if the weather turns iffy we can operate under cover in the large workshop or barns, now if you have spares, engines or other engine related bits you want to dispose of bring them along.

Now how about you female club members...are any of you interested in laying on a cake stall or something similar why not come and join in on the day but again please let me know.

Now if anyone needs further details you know who to ring, let us try and make this a day to remember, have fun and face a challenge. *Eric*

CLUB MARKETPLACE

WANTED - For Stuart Turner Sandhurst open crank engine - Amal type 622 carburettor

I am still looking for a small barrel type butter churn

If you can help with any of the above ring Eric on 01225 754374.

Has anyone in the Trowbridge area an engine crane that I could possibly borrow for a couple of hours, I need to lift the crankshaft and flywheels back into my latest restoration project, namely a Bamford 2.5hp tulip top. If you can help please give me a call.

Editors Note – All For Sale/Wanted adverts will run for three issues unless I hear differently.