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CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



August 2025

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I start this newsletter report with some very sad news, many of the older members of the club will remember Mary Butter. Mary was for very many years our newsletter distributor, this was when club nights would attract around thirty plus members.

Mary would hand each member present at the meeting their copy of the newsletter and record the names of those that had been handed a copy, the rest Mary would send out by post, this she did for more years than I can remember.

Mary lived in Trowbridge at Wyke Road, later after her husband Reg passed away Mary moved to the other side of the town to Lodge Court, I would often meet Mary in town on a Wednesday, often she would be waiting for her bus to take her to Hilperton and a garden centre where she worked for very many years, she was still working there one or two days a week. I will miss our chats sat on a bench in the Shires shopping precinct, I am told that Mary passed away in her sleep at home. To Mary's family and friends the Club extend their sincere condolences.

Now only last evening the committee held its monthly meeting, the discussion covered a variety of subjects one being the setting up of a library of useful names and contact details for firms or people that can repair items manufacture replacement parts, magneto repairs, welding, laser cutting etc., so we can list these at times in the newsletter, I am sure this would be of help not only to new club members but old hands like myself. Please if you can help or supply names please give me a call, I will check if they are willing to be included in a listing

Plans are already under way for 2026 crank ups, rally and other delights just for you the club members, now if you know of a venue for an event, crank up etc. please let me know or if you want something different, your committee are here to help. Now having to cancel Bradford on Avon due to the lack of interest, on the 6th September there is an event in Trowbridge Park and before that on August 25th at Southwick BUT YOU MUST CONTACT MARK TAYLOR ON 07926266926 DO NOT JUST TURN UP AS SPACE IS LIMITED

Now it was many years ago that the Wessex held a engine raffle, well would you believe we are going to do it again, (win an engine for a five pounds = five tickets That can't be a bad deal, more details in due course. This coming weekend I will be on my travels once more down to deepest darkest Somerset, to Yesterdays Farming, this is always one of my favourite events, so in a few minutes time I must see if I can find an engine and get loaded up ready for an early start on Saturday morning

Last weekend was spent at South Cerney, The Gloucester Extravaganza, it was their 50th year. I have never seen so many vehicles on a rally site in all my years; the exhibits were endless, one would have needed all week to see every one. They had over 200 engines and the other love of my life steam engines, showman's engines, engines driving saw benches,

engines of all descriptions, I hope I can get a few to come and join us a Southwick next year. So if you know a nice steam engine owner please let me know as we want to increase the steam presence at our main event.

One new thing already booked is a re-enactment group (civil war) sorted out by Tony Lawrence that will be something new for 2026

Well that's it for another month keep well and safe everyone and enjoy the rest of the rally 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*

HEAVY HORSE AND COUNTRY SHOW, 21st September

I would like to give a mention to the Heavy Horse & Country Show, to be held at the Shaftesbury Turnpike Showground, Motcombe Road, SP7 9PL on the 21st September. They have been very welcoming over the last few years, but poorly supported by the stationary engine fraternity. For entry forms please contact me. *Ted Edwards* 07751 918283

NEW YEAR PARTY?

Now I know the following may seem a bit early but one has to plan ahead, NOW DO YOU WANT A NEW YEARS PARTY? If so now is the time to pick up the phone and let me know. I need to know numbers so that I can make the necessary arrangements with the Old Down Inn and let you all know what will be on the menu, So please let me know if you would like to be included in the clubs new year party. *Eric*

WELLAND STEAM RALLY REPORT

Welland Steam Rally had always appealed to me, but the prospect of camping away from your engines, engines in pens and hilly ground sort of put me off....but I needn't have worried.



What an utterly bonkers event!! If you want to watch balls-out tractor pulling at 1am under floodlights, heavy haulage tractors pulling huge loads up and around the playpen at 11pm, live music, vintage earthmovers shifting huge volumes of dirt and rarely seen trenching machines in action – just to name a few, this is the place for you! Some will remember it as 'Steam in the Sahara' due to the incredibly dry conditions – but I'd take this over rain anyway!

Oh and probably the longest bar I've ever seen, with great friendly service at very reasonable prices – oh and the 15 – yes FIFTEEN Showman's engines generating power that ran some of the fairground rides outside the beer tent into the small hours on Saturday evening. It was kind of surreal to watch the rides kick in and watch the ammeters beside the dynamos shoot up to 200 amps and beyond.....

The camping was spot on, not far from all the action but a nice quiet spot. Toilets plentiful and CLEAN!!

Engines being in pens was a bit daunting to start with but I soon settled in and found my neighbours to be great – Ed Baker and Paul Riddell amongst others – I was in good company. Ed with his lovely early 1900's Petter Handyman and Paul with his Petter Light set up. The theme this year was Petter engines and boy did they have a display! I'll admit I didn't count but there had to be 70+ pollution pumps out on display and more importantly, running.



Ranging from 1 1/2hp up to 24hp, petrol, kerosene and heavy oil models, there was something there for everyone.

Notable engines for me were Paul Neave's beautiful Petter S type of 21hp which ran beautifully, to Bob Lester's 8hp totally original Petter M. Sadly due to work, I couldn't get to the light-up on Friday night which I am told was epic! We did our bit on the Saturday night though.

Welland 2025 – you were a blast, a big well done to the Stationary engine stewards Matt and Josh Pomeroy, you did us proud! It was a fab opportunity to meet up with online acquaintances from all over the UK and Europe. I urge any of you to attend next year's event, being the 60th anniversary event, it promises to be bigger and better than ever. See you there? *David*

ROGER PIKE MEMORIAL RALLY

The Roger Pike Memorial Rally takes place on Saturday 20th September at the East Somerset Railway, Cranmore Station, Shepton Mallet BA4 4QP with arrivals from 8am.

Will your exhibit win the coveted Roger Pike Memorial Cup? Bring along your shiniest and best engine, get that Brasso out and see what happens.

There's a nice café on site that serves up some great food.

No need to book in, just turn up and we'll have a great day as we always do at this fab location. *Linda*

EDITORIAL NOTICE

If, for some reason, you are experiencing issues receiving the Club's Newsletter or know of someone who isn't receiving it, please contact me directly on 07927 794342

Any problems can be sorted very quickly rather than moaning at the wrong people who then have to contact me! We had a new membership system recently and a couple of glitches have come to light, which have been corrected. *David*

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.

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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