



Issue No: 5/18

CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



May 2026

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Clubs AGM (Report further down in this issue) was held on Monday 27th April at the Old Down Inn, attended by around twenty members of the Wessex Club, this is a very poor attendance when we have 258 members.

As you are all aware of we are in need of new Committee members but to date I am sad to say no one has come forward to help, the Committee is now down to four with two joining on zoom, I am sorry to say I cannot see how the Club can survive this sorry state of affairs; the fate of the Wessex Club is now in your hands.

The first events of the year that I have attended have been well attended, the crank up at Westbury, Herb's event at Lyford including the Roger Pike Memorial event and then the Westbury Transport Gathering at Bratton. This was better attended than last year and with great weather it was a good get together, the only thing that let it down was the sad state of the toilets on site, there were many complaints being made about them, with only two covering the whole site combined with a large number of exhibitors and public things got rather out of hand.

Sunday 3rd April was a trip to Lambourne for the rally, a great show as always but this year for some reason not so well attended as in the past, with a poor showing of engines, motor cycles, steam both full size and miniature, but still it was a good event. If you have never been why not put a note in the diary for next year it is well worth giving it a try.

In May I also attended the Breamore House Steam Working Weekend, well worth a visit, engines that you may not see elsewhere, plus the museum and Breamore House itself, not to mention the lovely countryside around this area and a walk along the Hampshire Avon is more than well worth the effort.

Now can anyone help your poor old chairman? My pride and joy is in need of new piston rings, one 2.5hp Bamford Tulip top, any help would be much appreciated.

The Club's annual rally is just a few weeks away, I would love to see some full steam on site, any one got any contacts please let me know, I have contacted quite a few owners but to no avail, we will also welcome any other vintage or interesting exhibits along with any old trade or displays for our working area.

Maybe you have something old or strange or something that you have but do not know what it was for or does, why not bring it along and put it on show and help us once again to have a great show to equal our event in 2025.

Well that's it for another month, I wish you all a very happy rallying year and hope to see you on my travels, I have booked into twenty shows this year, so I am going to be busy.

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

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*

THE CHAIRMANS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2025 was yet another good year for the Wessex Club in many ways, starting with our sale at the East Somerset Steam Railway, then on to the crank up & BBQ at the White Horse Country Park and others throughout the year, Herb's vintage get together at Lyford, the Roger Pike Memorial Crank-up plus our other events throughout the year.

Once again the committee that runs the Wessex Midsummer Vintage show once again did a wonderful job, I think it was the best show the Club have ever staged. Again, we made a profit so we once again were able to make a substantial donation to the Children's Hospice South West. I very much hope that the club survives so that we can carry on helping the life limited children of this worthy charity.

It is by staging events such as the Southwick Rally that helps keep your subscription for membership and insurance at a very reasonable price, one other club I belong to charges nearly three times what we charge and no insurance and I see a news letter once in a blue moon. Your club is so very lucky that we have a newsletter editor such as David he does a great job I know that he would be very happy to receive more input from the general membership.

Now if you want this to continue, we need your support for all the club events and meetings plus a few willing members to join the club committee - it is not a lot to ask just a couple of hours a month of your time.

There are still many enthusiasts in the stationary engine movement as was proved by the turn out at our first event this year at the White Horse Country Park and what made it even better was a visit by none other than the Editor of Old Glory Magazine, telling me this was the one of the best turn outs he had seen.

So keep an eye out for his report and photographs in a future copy of Old Glory Magazine.

Let us hope we can continue to run the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd far into the future

Eric Gay

NEW CLUB MEETING VENUE

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd is calling on its Wiltshire members to step forward and join the Committee. This is a great chance to influence the direction of the club while enjoying monthly gatherings with like-minded enthusiasts.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the 9th June at 8pm, held at the Wesley Road Club, 19-20 Wesley Rd, BA14 0AX in Trowbridge. It's a relaxed setting where your input matters and you might even get a pint on us. Plus, while you're there, you can browse and purchase from our range of club merchandise, including tee shirts, caps, and fleeces, all available on our website.

Why Join the Committee?

Joining the management committee doesn't require a huge time commitment, but it offers a meaningful way to contribute. The committee shapes the club's activities, events, and future plans. By becoming a member, you can:

- **Help plan events** that bring members together and attract new enthusiasts.
- **Support the preservation and promotion** of stationary engines and related heritage.
- **Provide fresh ideas** to keep the club vibrant and relevant.
- **Build connections** with other members who share your interests.
- **Gain leadership experience** in a friendly, supportive environment.

Many current committee members started just like you, attending meetings and gradually taking on more responsibility. Your voice can help guide the club's future.

What Happens at the Monthly Meetings?

Our meetings are informal but productive. Held at the Wesley Road Club, they provide a comfortable space to discuss club business, upcoming events, and member feedback. Here's what you can expect:

- **Updates on club activities** and upcoming shows or exhibitions.
- **Discussions on maintenance and restoration projects.**
- **Planning for social events and outings.**
- **Opportunities to volunteer** for various roles.
- **Time to socialise and share stories** about your own engine projects or interests.

The meetings usually last about an hour or two, making it easy to fit into your schedule.

How to Get Involved

Getting involved is simple. Just come along to the next meeting on 9th June at 8 pm. The Wesley Road Club is located in Trowbridge, making it accessible for Wiltshire members. When you arrive, introduce yourself to the committee members. We're always happy to welcome new faces and answer any questions you have.

If you're unsure about joining the committee right away, you can still attend meetings to get a feel for how things work. Many members find that once they see the friendly atmosphere and the club's passion, they want to take a more active role.

Club Merchandise Available for Members

While you're at the meeting, take a moment to check out our club merchandise. We offer a range of items that let you show your support and pride in the Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Available now on our website, you can find:

- **Tee shirts** featuring the club logo.
- **Caps** perfect for outdoor events and engine shows.
- **Fleeces** to keep you warm during cooler months.

Wearing club gear is a great way to connect with other members and promote the club wherever you go.

Why Your Participation Matters

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club thrives because of its members. Your participation ensures the club remains active, welcoming, and focused on what matters most: celebrating stationary engines and the community around them. By joining the management committee, you help:

- Keep the club's events fresh and engaging.
- Preserve the history and knowledge of stationary engines.
- Encourage new members to join and share their passion.
- Maintain a strong, supportive network for enthusiasts.

Every member's contribution counts. Your ideas and energy can make a real difference.

What to Expect at the Wesley Road Club

The Wesley Road Club offers a friendly and accessible venue for our meetings. It has a welcoming atmosphere with comfortable seating and facilities suitable for group discussions. The location in Trowbridge is easy to find, with parking available nearby.

The club also hosts social events, making it a hub for community interaction beyond just the management meetings. Whether you're a seasoned member or new to the club, the Wesley Road Club provides a great space to connect.

Final Thoughts

If you want to help shape the future of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club, now is the time to act. The next meeting on 9th June at 8 pm is your opportunity to get involved, share your ideas and meet fellow enthusiasts. It's a small commitment that offers big rewards in terms of community, learning, and fun.

We look forward to welcoming you and working together to keep the Wessex Stationary Engine Club strong and vibrant for years to come.

CLUB SECRETARY

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

ENGINES FOR SALE

- 2 x 1.5hp Jap engines
- 1 Lister D 1.5hp type reverse rotation
- 1 Lister D 1.5hp
- 1 Ruston Hornsby 1.5hp
- 1 Petter A type
- 1 Leek open crank gas engine

For all the above please call Mr Ted Durbin 01749 343877

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 each month (Copy deadline 20th of each month)

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

editor@wessexsec.org