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CRANKING

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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I am sat writing this report on the way to recovery from a serious lung infection. I have not been a well boy and am still having breathing problems, I have to have another cardiogram on Thursday.....I hope they do not find that I am on me way out.

Now on to club news....the last club members evening. This was to be a bring a model evening at the Old Down Inn and a prize would be awarded to the member with the best model of any sort. ONLY ONE MEMBER brought along a model. He brought along three small steam models, guess who? And only six people attended the meeting.

I was hoping that I would not be the last Chairman of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd, but if this is the response to the hard work put into the running of the club I must tell you all that the end is in sight.

It has already been the feeling of the committee members that we could have to close the club in 2027; this could mean no more crank ups, no more Southwick rallies, no more insurance and where will you find ten million pounds worth of public liability insurance at the price we charge you?

No more newsletters to help keep you informed of club activities and much more, the newsletter is there for you, the club member it gives you a chance to air your views if you so desire. This will be a loss that you will find near impossible to replace.

I belong to a model club, it costs me three times that of the membership of the Wessex and believe me I am lucky if I ever see one of their newsletters plus they do not include any type of insurance. Over the years I have made many good friends as I am sure most Club members have, but this will vanish if the club folds in 2027.

The Annual General Meeting is planned for 27th April, this IS YOUR CHANCE to make your voice heard, I have appealed to members to come and join the committee and help keep the Wessex Stationary Engine Club alive and running. It would appear that members do not want to help and they would rather see the club die than give up a little of their time to help keep the Wessex Stationary Engine Club surviving.

I very much hope I am proved WRONG, If you want to put forward any points, comments, views or talk to me concerning the club and the future I am at the end of phone, I do not bite and would be pleased to hear from any member concerning any subject. Now you all should know my number by now but if not try 01225 754374.

My newsletter arrived just a couple of days ago, it would seem that poor David had little to fill the newsletter last month, It is still winter and I am sure that you cannot find exciting things to watch on TV every night so why not write a bit for our newsletter, if I can do it any one can! It has not got to be endless pages, just perhaps a bit about your latest restoration, or a rally you went to last year, or even rallies you hope to attend in 2026 or even how many kittens the cat had.....it all helps fill the newsletter.

Well being laid low and being most unwell for nearly a month, restoration projects have been the last thing on my mind, with the main restoration project stood in the garage untouched, but that does not stop the wheels of industry turning, just a couple of months ago I came across a Stuart Turner 400.

Well I could not leave that laying unloved and alone so it came back to Rutland Crescent, it is in quite good order with only cosmetic work needing to be done at this time. It is sat on my kitchen table looking a little more loved than when it came my way. It has to be fitted to a base and have a new petrol tank made; the one that came with it is rather battered so I hope to make a nice brass one, I just need a piece of 3" or 4" brass tube.....can you help? I have a very nice brass shell case this will replace the aluminium cooling tank it came with, should look quite nice when finished, I just need to get well.

One of our club members is looking for exhibits for the Motor & Steam Show, to be held on the 30th & 31st May, at Lockey Farm, Howden, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 9JH. More info call 07984 180436.

March 7th was the Bring and Buy sale at Cranmore. Unfortunately, I could not attend (first time ever) so I have had reports from other members of the committee, the attendance was not great and from what I am told it was all over by 11am.

I hope someone booked a date for October as soon as I know I will print flyers so that they can be handed out at other events throughout the year.

The Bring and Buy sale at Salisbury cattle market is on the 11th April, I hope I may see you there.

I have just had my Vintage Spirit Magazine drop through the letterbox, along with the Vintage Spirit Year Book, well worth getting hold of a copy, try Smiths (or whatever they are called this month!) before all are gone.

The Rally at Southwick is a work in progress - we are looking for exhibits from all classes in the vintage world, if you know anyone that would like to attend with any kind of exhibit please do tell them to give me a call on 01225 754374.

One thing I am looking for is a good Cornish Pasty vendor, any help would be much appreciated. *Eric Gay, Chairman WSEC*

ROGER PIKE MEMORIAL CRANK UP AT LYDFORD

This event will take place at the Lydford Agricultural Store, Lydford on the Fosse TA11 7DL on Sunday 19th April

Gates open from 8.30am, who will take away the coveted Roger Pike Memorial Trophy this year? For more information please contact Herb Gane 07836 349289 or Linda Pike 07814 619846. All donations will go to Dorothy House

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Limited will be held at 8pm on the 27th April 2026 at the Old Down Inn, Emborough BA3 4SA.
All nominations to the secretary.

TARMONKEY ENGINE COLLECTION OPEN DAY

Well the Tarmonkey Spring Crank Up went from strength to strength in 2026!
We had a total 115 engines up and running which is a record! Thank you to Suzy for counting them all for me.

I had all of my engines out on display with the exception of one, I think there were 4/5 that didn't get a run simply due to no time and one due to a fuel system failure.

Absolutely blown away by the amount of people who came from near and some very far! Notably Carlisle, Cumbria, Sussex, Whitchurch, The Midlands, Cornwall, The East Coast, Lincolnshire to name a few. Thank you for bringing along your engines, from small to big!!
The weather was cold but dry until about 1pm where it became a little drizzly but this got us wrapped up at a sensible hour and the raffle underway, with many having 4-6 hour journeys home ahead of them it was a blessing.



Too many people to thank but I must make special mention of my wife Hayley who made all the sandwiches, arranged delivery of all the cakes and cooked up all the hot food on the day from 6am. There was NOTHING left apart from a few bits of cake which have since found new homes. A big mention to Niel Troake who helped massively in keeping the hot water urns topped up during the day, a very important job.

Many thanks to my team of assistants in helping me keep all the engines running - this was no easy task.....in no particular order thank you to Adam Troake, Paul Riddell, James McGrath, Luke Stagg and Matt Harrington.



Mention must be made to all the raffle ticket sellers and to Matt Harrington for calling out the numbers so brilliantly again and getting through a huge amount of raffle prizes swiftly. Also many thanks to those who donated raffle prizes and just as importantly to those who bought tickets - we've raised a record amount on the raffle and have dropped the yellow Air Ambulance collecting pots into their office and hope to have a figure very shortly. Early indications are that we have exceeded last year's figure raised by some considerable margin.....

I used over 50 litres of petrol and 80 litres of diesel over the whole weekend, plus probably 20 litres of engine oil and I think only two ran out of fuel (no names mentioned) I've got four days of putting stuff away in four different locations but slowly we will get it done, at least the weather looks to be dry. *Dave Lacey*

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

The following are all FREE

- Quantity of amp/volt meters for switchboards.
- Large quantity of NOS 7" bolts for trolleys.
- Large quantity of vintage pipe fittings, all sizes
- Quantity of cast iron vintage jacks.
- Cast Iron 12" blade saw bench on electric motor, Bristol maker, could easily be connected to be run by an engine.
- Quantity of galvanised pipes suitable for exhausts.
- Quantity of timber suitable for trolleys.

Phill Marshall 01761 471461 Bath area

I read this recently...

School doesn't suit everyone.

I spoke to someone who teaches HGV mechanics to 16–18 year-olds and his experience really proves that. He's had teachers tell him that kids are "hopeless" or "a waste of time" but he's never had a single young person he couldn't turn around once they were given something practical and meaningful to do. When these students work with their hands, learn real skills and see the purpose in what they're doing, they often thrive. They gain confidence, direction and end up becoming productive members of society. Not everyone is meant to sit at a desk all day. We also need people who can build, repair and keep things running. Just because someone doesn't shine in a classroom doesn't mean they don't have talent - it just means their strengths lie somewhere different. *Richard Crouch*

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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