



Issue No: 12/17

CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



Dec 2025

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE SUMP

Here we find ourselves at the end of yet another year – where did that go?? It seems we were only at Abbey Hill Rally not long ago.....but that was May!

As we find ourselves heading towards the New Year, I'd like to thank those few who have sent interesting articles for the Newsletter, it is much appreciated. It's a shame I can't seem to entice more of you to send in a few words and photos of your restorations, events etc.... Wishing you a Happy New Year - *David*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well here we are once again heading at breakneck speed towards Christmas, probably Christmas day will be over before you read this newsletter I do hope that all the members and friends of the Wessex Club have a great time over the festive period and may the New Year may be kind to us all and above all thing let it be a peaceful, that would be the best thing that could happen.

Now 1 know I keep on but I am doing my best to arrange a New Years evening meal and get together at the Old Down Inn, I am not getting much feedback so if you want an evening out, a good meal and a get together with other members and friends of the club NOW is the time to ring me.

Just a week or two ago myself and another long serving member of the Club went on a little trip to see a collection of engines and a great deal more, I do not know if I shall ever be forgiven, as this cost him a good sum of money, buying two engines from the collection. I am going back myself very soon and may end up parting with money as within the collection are a couple of small engines I would like; one being steam the other petrol, I first have to see how big a dent it is going to put in my wallet.

The Committee has discussed the setting up of a club service library, not books but names and addresses of companies that can supply a service, well let's start with two that I can recommend.....

NovaCast, Bower Hill Trading Estate, Melksham SN12 6TT.....it's all in the name, you want a casting, well that's the place to go. 01225 707466

Knee's Agricultural, Ashton Mill, County Way, Trowbridge, Laser & water cutting of metal Vapour Blasting & Shot Blasting Service, Unit 5, Hopton Industrial Estate, Devizes Wilts. 01380 726083

Peter Abbott Nuts, Bolts, Screws...vintage threads available Marston Trdg Est, Frome BA11 4BD 01373 461261

That a start I hope to add more in the near future.

(Perhaps we could compile a separate pull-out section for this.....?? Editor)

I am also trying to obtain names and contacts for any speakers for our evening meetings at The Old Down Inn for 2026, if you know of anyone that could give a talk on any subject, it does not have to be on engines but that would be nice so if you can please help. I have been told that The Wessex Club runs more events than many others so please let us keep up the good work and help the Committee to keep the Wessex Club alive and well.

I am still looking for something small and interesting to drive with my Alamo 1-1/2 hp engine so if you have something lying around unused give me a call I may just part with money. There we are until next year and all that's left to be said is a very Happy New Year to you all.
Eric Gay, Chairman WSEC

EVENTS 2026

The Wessex Club is well known for its many crank-up events and similar, often at interesting venues alongside other attractions, be it the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore, The West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers at Westbury, you can always be assured of good Club (and independent) events throughout the year to attend. I'm going to try and compile a list of both Club and other small local events here. Most are on the Club calendar but not everyone has access to that. More info on these events nearer the time.

- Cranmore Bring & Buy Sale, March 7th 2026, East Somerset Railway, Cranmore, 8am onwards
- Crank up at The White Horse Country Park, Saturday 4th April 2026, inc a free BBQ
- Lydford Crank-Up 19th April 2026, raffle will be held.
- Sweets Tea Rooms Crank-Up on 30th May 2026 raffle to be held. Any queries ring Herb on 07836 349289. More info to follow
- Wessex Vintage Show at Southwick over the weekend of June 20th & 21st

Whaddon Mince Pie Crank-Up

Even though this event may well have taken place by the time some of you read this, it might be of interest to some.....Ed

This ever-popular event will take place on Sunday 28th December, with engines running for 10am, please arrive from 8.30am or so. All in the barn as usual, but if the weather is pleasant then some may be able to go outside – Petter owners please take note!

Raffle in aid of Alzheimer's, raffle prize donations would be very welcome

All welcome, non-members too, just bring proof of your insurance cover.

Please email or text me with what engine you would like to bring so that I know approximate numbers for space needed and catering.

Hope to have the adjoining buildings to accommodate more engines if need be!

If you haven't been before, then simply follow the Wessex Stationary Engine Club signs from the top of Whaddon Lane to BA14 6NR

Any other questions please give me a ring 01225 755448, mobile/text 07786 542782 or email using RGuley@outlook.com

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