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CRANKING

45 Years of Publication



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The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Monthly Newsletter

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Here we are once again racing towards our main event of the year and by the time you read this it will all be done and dusted. We have a very good entry of exhibitors ranging from Stationary Engines, Tractors, Motorcycles & loads of cars. I've had a phone call just yesterday, "Can I bring nine cars to your event?" - The answer to that was a very quick yes, bring them please! We have some full size steam engines as well as miniatures and something new will be two very nice young ladies entertaining us with music from the forties & fifties, they entertained us at Herb's crank up at Wedmore a couple of weeks ago. Another new attraction will be the steam railway giving rides to the young and not so young, plus we have the Guild of Dyers, Spinners and Weavers coming to join us from Lambourne so we should have a good event.

The weekend of 6th & 7th June I headed off with my friend Bob to Rainscombe Park, near Marlborough, the weather gods were not kind and it was very cold and Saturday afternoon it was continuous rain, it is so disheartening when this happens, not many folk know the amount of work and effort that is put into getting an event like Rainscombe and our own at Southwick up and running, then to have it ruined by the weather. It is not only the loss of the effort put in but the financial cost that is involved and has to be met then there is trying to find the finances for the coming year, who would want to be an events organiser??

It was a few weeks ago that I was booked in to the Steam & Working Weekend event at Breamore House, near Fordingbridge. A nice event lots of steam plus trade stands and a lot more. I arrived around 8.30am and was placed at the far end of the engine line, the ground was very uneven and with a small engine it was difficult to place the engine. But I persevered and things were fine. It was after lunch that things took a downward turn in a big way, the ground on which the engine stood was far from flat and the engine fell over I tried to save it but I am not so agile as I once was. The oiler was broken off and the front steering of the trolley damaged. Now what would you have done in this situation?

I went and got my car and trailer so that the wreck could be removed taken home, repaired and returned on the Sunday. This did not please the steward and I was told in a very insulting manner that I should not remove the engine till after 4pm as no vehicle movement was allowed.

Strange as this same person was driving around the site earlier in the morning in a vintage vehicle, plus the fact that full size steam was allowed to move, so why not me with a damaged exhibit, must be a law for some and not others.

Anyway the engine was removed and taken back to the workshop only to find that the damage was much more severe than I thought with the oil tube broken off within the cylinder, the repair took sixteen hours of work making a complete new bottom half to the

oiler, removing the engine hopper and extracting the oil feed tube no easy task as it had been in place since 1916.

With the engine repaired I thought my troubles were over, but oh no I got a phone call from a senior member of the Wessex Committee, he had been contacted by the organisers of Breamore to tell me that I would not be welcome at any of their future events. What a load of cowards not having the courage to tell me face to face and going behind my back it was not my fault that my exhibit got damaged and if anyone from Breamore reads this they may have the courage to apologise, but I am not going to hold my breath.

Now once the Event at Southwick is over it will be full steam ahead to organise the two day show at Bradford-on-Avon in support of Dorothy House Hospice Care.

Please enter this worthy event it will be staged over the first weekend in October with entry forms available from the Club's website or give me a call and one will be sent to you.

Now if any members would like to give a hand in the running of this event do please give me a call, well had better end here for this month or David will not have any room left in the Newsletter.

Eric Gay, WSEC Chairman

SWEETS TEA ROOMS CRANK-UP EVENT REPORT

May 30th proved to be a very good day for the Club Crank-Up on the Somerset Levels. The weather was kind to us and we had 27 stationary engines of all types and sizes from all over the South West in attendance. We had Villiers, Lister, Petter, Amanco, Ruston Hornsby, Pilter and a Norman marine engine. An Allen scythe joined the display. A trusty steed tractor displayed by Tony Champeny was on display next to Ken Barnett with his collection of oil cans. We were also supported by the VMCC and also a good number of cars were present. Notable vehicles were a 1953 Standard Vanguard brought along by Paul & Caroline Atkinson. A Morris 1000 was brought along by Bryan and Yvonne Giles.

We raised £152 from the raffle and donations for the Alzheimer's Society, thanks to the hard work of Carol Phillips – thank you ever so much for your efforts.

We were entertained in the afternoon by The Liberty Girls singing songs from the 1940's. Oh boy!! Were they good!!

As always thanks to the Sweets Family for the use of the excellent venue, Phil Harris for all the help he gave before, during and after the rally. Thanks also to Ted Edwards, Jo & Graham Watson for all the work they put in too. I'd also like to thank those who brought along their engines to the day even though there was a lot of other things happening that day. *Herb Gane*

ROYAL BATH & WEST SHOW STATIONARY ENGINES

December 2026 I was at the Top o' Town car park vintage gathering in Dorchester when somebody walked up to me, asked if I was Dave Lacey to which I replied with a reserved "Yes" – wondering what I have done wrong but it was all good – Steve Rodd introduced himself and asked if I could gather a few engines to add to the display line at the Royal Bath & West Show in May. I didn't take much persuading and within a few days I had around 16 victims confirmed which was great.



Entry packs soon arrived and the day to get in and set up was soon upon us. Early worries that we didn't have enough room were unfounded and we soon had our display line in place. A truly FANTASTIC display by all, many who are Club members. We were situated on one of the show entry points so we enjoyed a decent footfall throughout the day, with many enquiring people asking about our engines.

The weather was kind and not too hot, we were looked after well on the line with a proper water supply on each line, this made it so easy to fill tanks both for cooling and pumping.

I'm not going to list the exhibits but we had some truly fantastic engines, implements and people that weekend and I'm truly grateful for you all taking the time and effort to come along and make the display as good as it was. Special mention must be made to Trevor Wilcox and Steve Rodd for inviting us to put on this display and their general help throughout the event.



I think we behaved well enough to be invited back in 2027.....watch this space! *Dave Lacey*

ANDY MERCER

I have been informed that Andy Mercer, who some of our older members may remember, passed away in his native Scotland last week. Some orders of service are available to anyone who cares to contact me.

Free to good home. A small quantity of new Lister spares, believed to be LR1.

In the first place please contact me. Ted Edwards 07751 918283

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.

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*

ABBEY HILL STEAM RALLY 2026

The eagerly-awaited season opening event at Yeovil proved popular this year, with nearly 200 engines entered and very few no-shows. We were situated in the lower field area by the Rugby Club itself and there were very few gaps in the extensive lineup making for a very good visitor experience. A wide variety of engines were on show – one that got my attention was an air-start Gleniffer diesel engine – a big lump of iron but nevertheless an interesting and quirky one at that.

I exhibited my trusty 8hp Petter Atomic diesel engine which was driving a 3kw generator which powered my array of lamps and most importantly, my kettle! It's an easy engine to rally, it runs all day just needing a fuel top up every 6 hours or so depending upon load. A much easier engine to rally than perhaps an S type.



Of particular interest was the engine dynamometer kindly brought to the event from Welland Steam Rally – watching the various steam and diesel exhibits being brought to their knees as the load was dialled into the Henan and Froude water brake dynamometer was quite thrilling. I think the prize for the best and most courageous display was from the Fordson tractor of Scott Nagle, who, if you follow him on YouTube, you'll know of his many 'adventures' and this hedgerow find Fordson. Following it being dragged from a hedge and a basic

overhaul of the top end of the engine, a turbocharger was installed with great results (nearly 100hp!!) YouTube Link below for more entertainment!

www.youtube.com/@scottnagle2

The thundering roar of Mike White's McLaren 1148 'Hercules' driving the dyno with a long belt was most impressive indeed, with the ground literally shaking as we stood and watched in awe. An amazing experience. Let's hope it returns next year, as it was a real crowd puller. *Dave Lacey*



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 - 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)

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