

The Ed's Brief Briefs...

Very many thanks... to those of you who have already coughed up the necessary readies and rejoined WMTC for 2026. I know Chairman Steve has already mentioned it, but here is the usual little New Year nudge from BtE to the rest of you! Go on, you know you want to – just fill in all your details on the membership form, and get it back to Membership Sec Nick with the necessary dosh – easy peasy! And if you are paying by **cash**, please put it, together with your completed application form, in a **sealed envelope with your name on the front**, it makes it a lot easier for Nick to sort everything out later! Thank you...

I am pleased to say... that, having now been vetted, no errors (as if!) were found in the club accounts which were enclosed for members with the last Smalltalk. So you may now include those, unaltered, in your WMTC files!

Well, it's come and gone... Our first **lunchtime** meeting that is, on 7 January. We thought it worked out quite well, and intend to do the same in January next year.

We are also considering a lunchtime meeting **later his year** – perhaps in August? And one suggestion is to make it more of a social meeting, rather than the usual 'theme' format – perhaps a 'Mini Swapmeet'? Another **possibility** is to have it on the **Saturday after the first Wednesday** – so the 8th of August rather than the 5th – which would mean the 'workers' would be able to attend. The only downside to this is that we understand the pub gets very busy on Saturdays with football teams, so perhaps not ideal...! Anyway – let us have your thoughts! Are you happy to make the January meeting lunchtime again next year, and what do you think about another lunchtime meeting in August, possibly on Saturday 8th? We look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Club Nights... Well, it had to happen! A couple of tweaks to the programme set out in the last Smalltalk... As we are hoping to have a speaker on the former RAF Melksham at Bowerhill in March, we have moved 'Sky High' night from August to March, which will leave August free for our other suggestions (above...). And as 2026 sees the 70th birthday of Corgi Toys, we will incorporate celebrations of that event with our June 'Pre 1960' night!

Advance warning... that Nick Mason's 'open house' weekend at Middlewick House is set for 6 and 7 June this year – an ideal opportunity to drool over his fantastic collection of cars. But if you fancy going, advance booking is essential – no entry on the gate. See middlewickhouseopengarden.com. And a plus, it's all in aid of Wilts and Bath Air Ambulance, and the Wilts Bobby Van Trust.

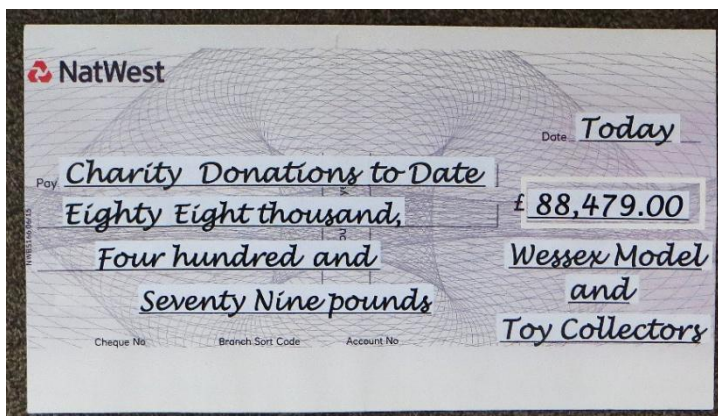
And, of course, the usual... final reminder that you **MUST enter your car registration** on the magic machine when you arrive at the Milk Churn, or you may incur an **unwelcome fine...** Should you forget, or enter a wrong number, and **get a nasty letter** looking for some money, **don't delay**, contact the pub as soon as possible (**01225 706496**), explain the situation, and they **should** be able to cancel any fine...

Barry the Ed

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**And don't forget - 4 February is
AUCTION NIGHT!**

**This is where we are at the moment...
Let's hope we will see a nice increase!**



The WMTC Christmas Meal!

3 December Club Night

Wow, it's that time again – our one purely social evening of the year, the WMTC Christmas meal... So just where did those last twelve months go?

Well, what can I say? It was – as usual – a great night, with 30 members and guests enjoying the festive occasion. As well as the Christmas meal itself, all the usual attractions were there – Christmas hats, crackers, a table full of raffle prizes, and, of course, Ricky's usual fiendish three-part quiz, engineered to tax what little brain power we have left!

The Milk Churn looked after us very well – particularly Chloe, who dashed around all evening making sure all the plates and dishes went to the correct tables!

Star prize in the raffle was a hamper laden with goodies, which went to lucky guest (and former club member!) Andy Warfield.

At the end of the evening Ricky divulged the answers to all the quiz questions, and everyone had a count-up of correct answers to decide the winner. Well, who'd have thought it, it was none other than the leader (and sole member...) of our Irish contingent, Mr Ashley Jones! Well done, Ashley, a box of chocs has never been more justly earned...

Here are a few pics of the jolly occasion...





<-<-<-
The raffle table

->->->
The hamper!



Ricky reads out the quiz answers...

Agriculture/Tractors

7 January LUNCHTIME Club Meeting

Well – something different to start the new year, and a **first** for WMTC – a lunchtime rather than evening meeting! We thought this would spare us the hassle of a night-time drive to the Milk Churn, but of course it made life difficult for most of the workers still amongst us, who weren't able to make it... Even so we had a good turn-out, with thirteen members coming along to enjoy a spot of lunch before our usual 'show and tell' session. The thirteen included three who usually find it difficult to make the evening meetings... I think everyone who attended enjoyed themselves, and no doubt your committee will be having interesting discussions to decide if or when we should repeat this experiment!

So – first off the blocks was **Peter Harris**, one of those not often able to make our evening meetings. Good to see you Peter! As we have seen in the past, Peter is well into lead figures – particularly Britains – and had a good selection for us to admire...



As usual **Brian G** came along with some unusual items! Here are just a few of them...

First up, a name I had never heard before – Kondor. Their tractor was clockwork powered, and, according to the box, the lucky owner had no fears because the 'spring will not break', and you 'cannot overwind'... There's a challenge to any self-respecting youngster back in the day!



<-<-<- More rarities – this time from another unknown name – Kayron Playthings of Woking. As well as these two they made a set with a horse and roller.



And finally from Brian – a Charbens Tractor Tree Wagon. Yes, I've heard of Charbens!

Don managed to wangle some time off work to join us for this experimental lunchtime meeting and brought along this trio >> From the top: a King and Country 1/30 David Brown Airfield tractor, complete with WRAF driver (Bet she's Scottish!); then a similar 1/76 David Brown Airfield Tractor by Oxford Diecast; and finally a 1/72 kit by Lead Sled of an RAF Fordson N tractor, part way through being finished by Don...

Uncle **Bob Burnett** can be relied upon to bring something different for us to see, and this meeting was no exception! Below left is a Crescent tractor and hayrake, with two 'land-girls' in charge. It was produced from 1949. Below on the right, and dating from 1927, is a Tootsietoy Huber Star tractor. Around this time Tootsietoy had come under new management, the range was greatly expanded, and this was one of the new models.



And finally from Bob, the very impressive Chad Vally Fordson Major, in 1/16 scale. This was made from 1962, and has a clockwork motor wound up by the 'starting handle' at the front. As Bob said, how unusual that it seems to have been sold in this nondescript plain cardboard box... You would have thought they would have presented such a cracking model in something a bit better... But perhaps this was an early example – I have seen pics online of it in a much more attractive coloured pictorial box.



Next up was me – **Barry the Ed** – with my old favourite, the Dinky Toys 27f Estate car (actually a Plymouth...). So, what's that got to do with Agriculture/tractors, Lloyd? Good question – but for some reason Dinky included it in the 27 series, which *was* all agricultural – the tractors and trailers etc. The series also included the 27d Land Rover, but back then that was very much a farm vehicle (and not a 'Chelsea Tractor'...).



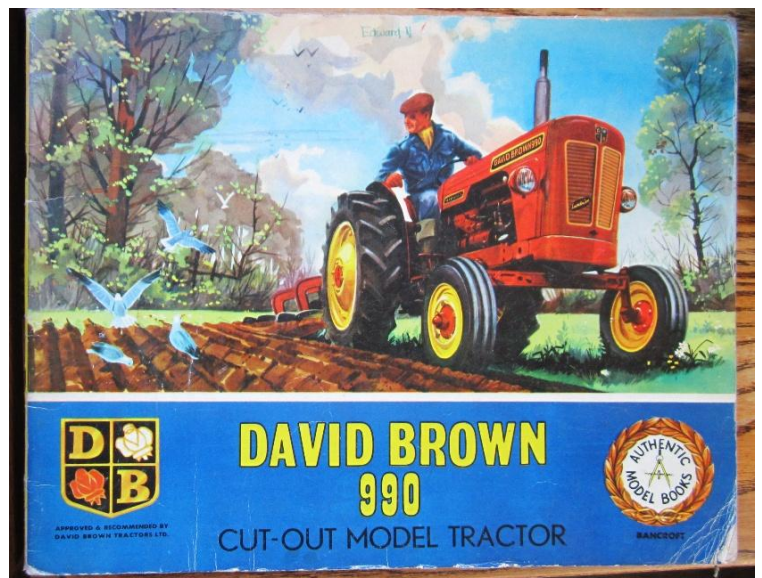
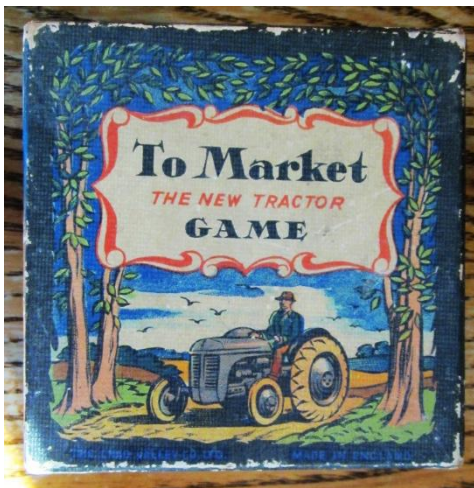
And here we have **Alex's** offerings! Yes, you've guessed it, from his band of 'little old ladies'! (I am beginning to think we should make them honorary members...)

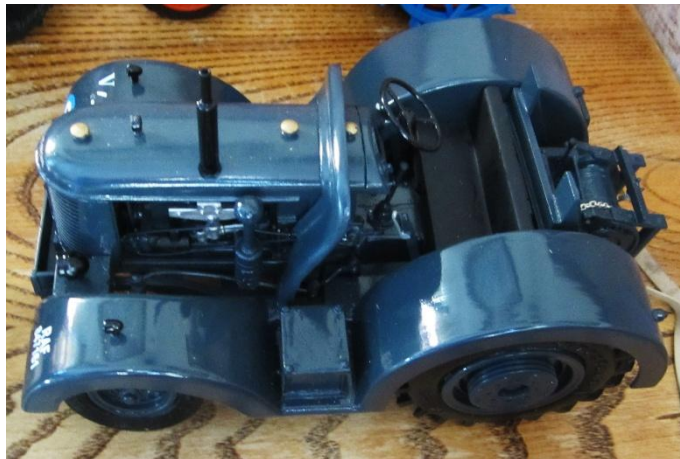


Some nice old Dinkies, including that odd beast, the Elevator Loader, which Alex said earns its keep by delivering sweets to grandchildren/great grandchildren!

Above right is a cute little (Ferguson?) tractor, which Alex has repainted, and replaced the missing rear wheels with Dinky items.

It was good to have **Mike and Mary B-C** with us, with a table-full of interesting items... Below left is a little board game by Chad Valley, which included some really tiny tractor 'playing pieces', and, to the right a cut-out David Brown tractor, which in the small print says is 'Approved and recommended by David Brown Tractors Ltd'... But Mike wouldn't let me have a go at putting it together!





More of the Boyd-Camps goodies...
 Above left is a Nuffield Universal tractor by Denzil Skinner.
 Above right, a David Brown RAF tug by G&M Originals.
 And on the right, a David Brown Cropmaster tractor, possibly by Raphael Lipkin – a name new to me, but who made toys (including other tractors...) under several trade names – LRL, Plaston, and Pippin. Eventually became swallowed up by the Lines Bros/Tri-ang conglomerate.
 Anyone out there know any more about this one?



Growing up in a small Devon market town, it wasn't unusual for the young **Graham Vanstone** to often see tractors parked among the cars, and as a result agricultural items featured strongly in his Dinky toy box. Sadly none of his childhood toys have survived, but he has since built up a good collection of his favourites from back then.



While the 27g Motocart (far left) is perhaps an unusual vehicle to see on a farm, Graham remembers a very large farm which had a similar three-wheeled vehicle, very like the Dinky Toy.

Ok, who have I missed?

Ah yes, bringing up the rear was none other than He Who Must Be Obeyed, AKA Chairman **Steve!** Well, we all know that Steve is a Corgi man through and through, so no surprises with his display this time around... Well, just one!



My word - lots of tractors... And even an ERF lorry coming from the dairy farm with its load of milk churns!

But, hold on, what's this? See, there is hope! Steve also had this lovely little pre-war Dinky Toys 22e Farm Tractor – very colourful and cute!



And that was it – a most interesting first lunchtime get-together.

What did those of you who were there think – shall we do it again? **Let us know!**

BtE

All facts, opinions, comments, criticisms etc. contained within Smalltalk are the responsibility of individual contributors (especially if anonymous!). The Ed just keeps pedalling as fast as he can to try and keep up to date...!

Your 2026 Committee comprises: -

Chairman:	Steve Clements	devizesdiecast@aol.com	01380 725322
Vice Chairman:	Doug Male	malesatone@btinternet.com	01225 755043
Zoom Meister:	Ashley Jones	pickfords1630@yahoo.co.uk	07516 478830
Membership Secretary:	Nick Male	njmale007@gmail.com	07905 546287
Ed/Treas/Sec:	Barry Lloyd	barrylloyd1946@gmail.com	01179 866503
	Bob Warfield	bobandjill1945@gmail.com	01373 864820
Co-opted Committee Members (AKA SLH – Steve’s Little Helpers):		Alan Sharpe and Don Stevenson	

WMTC meets at The MILK CHURN, Commerce Way, Melksham SN12 6AD, usually on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month from 7.30pm, but just occasionally at lunchtime, 12 – 2.30pm.

The club loves to receive **any** feedback from members, so please email us at wmtc25@aol.com
And don't forget to email your contributions for **Smalltalk** to the Ed at barrylloyd1946@gmail.com
Or, send by post to: **Barry Lloyd, 36 Windrush Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1QP**

WMTC Diary Dates

All information – including swapmeet dates – is given in good faith, but it's best to check first **BEFORE** making plans! Club events, or events where the club will be represented, are in **BOLD**.

1 February	Kidderminster Toy Fair, Kidderminster Harriers Social Club, Stadium Close DY10 1NB
4 February	Club Night – Charity Auction in aid of Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance
8 February	Kempton Park Toy Fair, Kempton Park Racecourse, TW16 5AQ
10 February	Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN (SCF)
14 February	Exeter Toy Collectors' Fair, The Matford Centre EX2 8FD (BDF)
14 February	Kidlington Toy Fair, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road OX5 1AB
21 February	Sandown Toy Fair, Sandown Exhibition Centre, Portsmouth Road, Esher.
21/22 Feb	Bristol Classic Motorcycle Show, Shepton Showground BA4 6QN
22 February	Lostwithiel Toy Fair, Lostwithiel Community Centre, Pleyber Christ Way, PL22 0HE
1 March	MSMC's Windsor Swapmeet, New Windsor Community Association, Hanover Way, Windsor SL4 5NW
4 March	Club Night – Sky High Night – with a <u>possible</u> speaker on former RAF Melksham at Bowerhill...
8 March	Shepton Mallet Toy Collectors' Fair BA4 6QN (BDF)
10 March	Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN (SCF)
17 March	Royal Wootton Bassett Toy Fair, Memorial Hall, SN4 8EN (SCF)
28 March	Bristol Indoor Toy & Train Fair, BAWA Health & Leisure Centre, Southmead Road, Filton BS34 7RG
29 March	Mega Malvern Toy Fair WR13 6NW (BDF)
1 April	Club Night – Figures Night
12 April	NEC Toy Fair – Hall 18, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT

SCF = Steve Clements Fairs

BDF = Bulldog Fairs (Stu Vowles)

Our Chairman Steve of Steven Clements Fairs (SCF) kindly offers WMTC full members

ONE FREE ENTRY to all his fairs, on production of a valid WMTC membership card.

BUT PLEASE NOTE – this offer applies ONLY to Standard Entry times, NOT EARLY ENTRY

Steve had discovered a problem
with working for himself:
When he called in sick
he knew he was lying.

*Wow - here we are, already a twelfth of the way
through 2026... Frightening!!*

But plenty of exciting 2026 WMTC days ahead of us...

Best wishes to all of you - and keep smiling!

Barry the Ed

