WESSEX SMALLTALK

No. 253 – December 2026

The Newsletter of Wessex Model and Toy Collectors – Founded 1984

Hello all! Gosh – another year (almost) gone… I've said it before, and I'll say it again – where does the time go? Well, wherever it has gone, the best thing we can do now is to look to the future and what 2027 has to offer!
And whatever it has to offer, we can be sure to have the guiding hand of Chairman Steve to help us on the way…
Look - here he comes now, with his….

Chairman's Christmas Chatter ~ December

'Tis the season to be jolly'… and why not? Putting aside the state of the rest of the world at the moment, the tiny world of WMTC seems to be in good stead to take on 2027 after a very enjoyable 2026. We've even added one or two new members!

Trips, visits, speakers, a lunchtime meet, and the auction are just a few of the things we got up to during the year. Who knows, the 'new' committee might be planning a similar timetable for next year – although the 'old' committee have thrown a few ideas into the hat already…

But 2026 isn't over quite yet – it's looking good for our Christmas Meal on 2 December – the quiz and huge raffle are already in hand… PLUS a new very special extra item to raffle to conclude the evening's entertainment!

Well, it looks like my 'Line Manager' is chomping at the bit – so it's a 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year' to you all… and over to you, Barry… Chairman Steve

Thank you, Steve. And a raffle surprise at the Christmas meal? Whatever can that be? Can't wait to find out! Barry the Ed

oooooooooooooooooooooooOooooooooooooooooooooo

The Chairman and Committee members wish all club members, and friends of WMTC a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

The Ed's Briefs…

Let's start with the usual… 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… If there is a problem, feel free to get BtE involved…

Again, as usual… November saw our AGM, and, yes, the same six unfortunates have been re-elected once again to try and keep things on an even keel… But we will be helped by a new member! I am pleased to say that Sharpie has stepped up…
Draft minutes of the meeting, and the club accounts as at 30 September, are with this Smalltalk (For members only…) Please let me know if you think any amendments to the minutes are necessary, or they will be proposed as printed at next year's AGM.
As I write this the accounts have not yet been verified, but I do not anticipate any alterations…
I'll probably say all this again later, in the report of November's meeting!

A bit unusual for the December Smalltalk – no invitation to renew your membership! When you read the minutes of the AGM you will see that the committee has decided to change the membership year **from** 1 January – 31 December **to** 1 May – 30 April, mainly to get all the hassle away from the Christmas and New Year period… (It's only taken 42 years to come up with that!) Anyway, as a result, all 2026 members will effectively get **4 free months**. But, against that, the subs will be going up slightly for 2027/8 – to £20/£25… Still a bargain though, surely?

And moving on to next year… Our first 2027 meeting will be on **Wednesday 6th January**, but, as last January, again a **lunchtime meeting** – gathering at **12 noon** at the Milk Churn for a bite to eat before moving on to the club meeting proper! Apologies to the workers among us, but folk seemed to enjoy it last time… And we hope to have some **SHMAC** members as our guests!

And what will the rest of the New Year have to offer…? Here's a brief rundown of our club nights, but, as ever, not set in stone, and quite likely to change a bit as the new committee gets things organised… But of course, if it does change, we'll let you know!

6 January (Lunchtime): – 'Anything Goes'
3 February: Charity Auction
3 March: 'Frontline'
7 April: Kevin on 'Avon Tyres Racing'
5 May: 'Little and Large'
2 June: 'Land Rover/4x4 Night'
7 July: 'Black and/or White'
4 August: 'Partnerships'
1 September: 'M'
6 October: 'Estate cars' (Or 'station wagons'??)
3 November: AGM and 'Railway Night'
1 December: Christmas Meal!

Oh dear… Best laid plans and all that… In the AGM minutes you will read that earlier in the year – 24 March to be exact – I, with my Treasurer's hat on, thought it would be a good idea to transfer the bulk of the club's savings - which we don't often need to draw on - to a NatWest 35 Day Liquidity account, offering 2% interest against the 0.98% on the 'easy access' Reserve account… All went well until just recently, when I realised I would need to draw some funds out to cover the Christmas meal, as membership money would not be coming in, and, as the name of the account implies, 35 days' notice had to be given…
Well, what a palaver! I had been able to transfer the money into the new account with no problem at all, via online banking. But drawing it out? Oh no, said the bank, not through normal online banking, two signatories on the account each have to fill in an application form, complete with an e-signature… Well, we managed it (Thanks, AJ!), however I have decided that this is all just too much hassle, and we have requested the account be closed, and I am afraid the money will go back into the standard Reserve account with the lower rate of interest…
Hey ho – I expect it was all explained in the small print, but I didn't spot it!!

Barry the Ed

'Auction Life' + 'Is it Pennies or Pounds?' with Bob Leggett, and the theme 'Auction Buys'

7 October Club Night

This month we invited none other than Mr Bob Leggett – auctioneer, show organiser, Tri-ang railway expert, and genuine nice guy!

Travelling over from his current 'day job' as auctioneer and valuer with SAS (Special Auction Services) in Newberry, we were treated to a brief life story which saw Bob leave a career in sales after many years, whilst maintaining a love of railways from his younger days.

SAS had recently moved to Greenham Common, and were in need of a cataloguer. Being aware of Bob's breadth of knowledge, Hugo Marsh (Our speaker last October…) invited Bob to join the team – which includes the very colourful Thomas Forrester, as seen on TV!

The rest, as they say, is history. Bob now conducts many of the SAS online auctions, with experience gained from his own regular sales prior to joining SAS, and years of dealing with the general public.

As an aside from his everyday work, Bob established the 'Alresford Festival of Toy Trains', which usually takes place in June. It's a weekend event, just a few yards from the Watercress Line, with dozens of working layouts, and some excellent traders. It's well worth a visit!

With our club night theme of 'Auction Buys', Bob concluded with a valuation quiz – I'll leave Barry to explain – and it was won by… No, I'll leave Barry to tell you that as well!

Thank you, Bob, – a very enjoyable evening! **Steve**

And thank you, Mr Chairman!

After Bob's excellent talk, he posed an interesting challenge for us… He had laid out 10 collectable items, we were all given a list (and SAS pen!) to come up with an estimate of what each would make at auction… Winner would be the member whose grand total came closest to Bob's professional estimate!

And it was an interesting selection of items: (I've included Bob's valuation, which of course we didn't know until the time for our deliberations was up!)

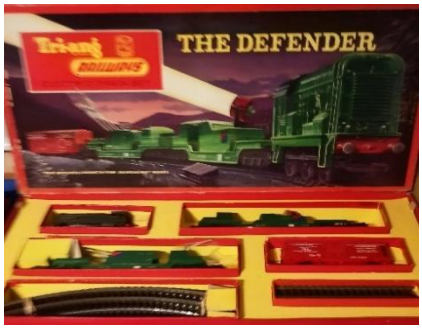
A Tri-ang Defender Set (£70); a red teddy bear, c1910 (£500); a 'Selhurst' totem (railway sign…)(£700); ABC American Civil War cards (£50); a Slazenger enamel sign (£320); a Tri-ang Army Assault set (£120); an empty box for Brock's Fireworks (£80); two 30's Norah Wellings dolls (£400); a Huntley & Palmer's 'naughty' tin (£60); and two 0-gauge trains, by Marx and Hornby (£80)



Like a twit I had neglected to take any pics of the quiz items, but luckily Chairman Steve had… >>>







Much head-scratching ensued as we all tried to come up with sensible prices for these 'lots'…

And who came up with a total nearest to Bob L's total of **£2380**?

Well, who do you think? It was Chairman **Steve** of course, with an estimate of **£2310**, so he went home with the choccies! Well, he's a professional, isn't he?

And how did you do Lloyd? Well, my grand total was £2175… And I was quite chuffed to be spot on with the Norah Wellings dolls, and just £50 short with the old red teddy bear, but waaay out with the 'Selhurst' sign! Hey ho… But all good fun! **BtE**

After all that excitement it was time to look at the things folk had brought to display – not so many this time because it was a 'talk' night…



Bob B brought two items, one good, one bad, to illustrate the possible ups and downs of auction purchases…
The French Dinky Ford truck is a very rare early version with solid diecast wheels/tyres (because of the shortage of rubber after WW2). Bob found it very cheaply in a lot with three other chipped models and is well pleased with it! On the other hand, the pre-war English Dinky Streamlined Tourer which he bought for quite a price because it seemed in such good condition, he now fears is a very good repaint…



Brian G brought 3 items – a very nice boxed Britains Bren Gun Carrier, won at a Henry Aldridge auction back in 2021; a pre-war Tri-ang Minic Bentley Tourer with electric lights, won at a Tovey's auction earlier this year for 'a steal' (!); and another Tri-ang Minic, this time the Morris Minor Loudspeaker car, recently won on Ebay for under £20!

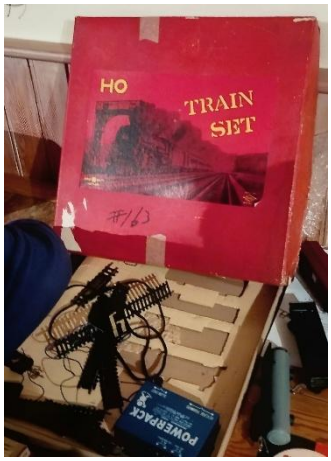


Next up was **Alex**, with, well, not really auction purchases, but some recent acquisitions from his legendary band of 'little old ladies'…
He told us he had repainted them all (no – not the ladies…) in the last couple of weeks – so, 'well done', ladies, for helping to keep Alex out of mischief!

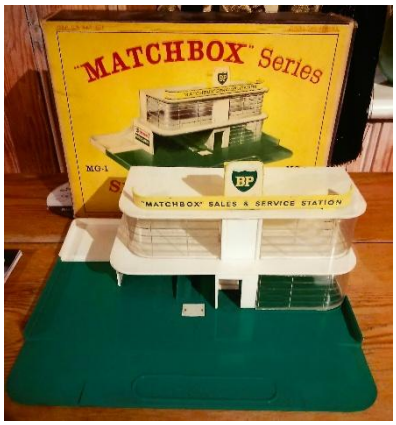


<<< Ah, RAF blue… it must be **Don**!
He told us that this Tri-ang set of the Bedford transporter with Gloster Javelin is very rare, and can often go for the £500 mark in this condition…
So he was VERY pleased to win this mint boxed example at a Vectis auction for **much** less than that…
Lucky boy!





Brian W brought along this train set by Sakai of Japan, which produced tinplate and plastic HO and O-gauge train sets and accessories for export during the 50s and 60s. Quite scarce nowadays, Brian's set runs off a 5-volt supply…

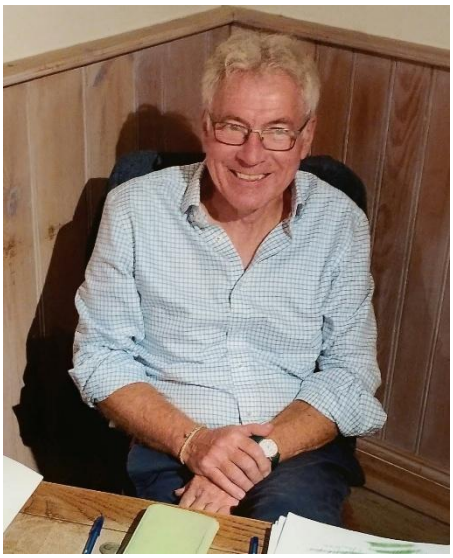




Next around the table was Chairman **Steve**, with a collection of Swindon Town Football Club programmes, which he won for about £2 each, and also this very nice mint boxed Matchbox 'Sales and Service Station'.

Ooops - I almost forgot me (**BtE**)!
I brought along this Cameron 'Rodzy' tether car from America, with a 1½ cc engine… >>>
A recent acquisition from good old Ebay!





And that was it – the end of a very interesting evening, with many thanks to our guest speaker Bob, and the displaying members!

Barry the Ed

The Cotswold Motoring Museum, Bourton on the Water, and The Classic Motor Hub, Bibury
15 October Trip

A little band of the usual suspects ventured into the Cotswolds in October, to visit the Cotswold Motoring Museum at Bourton-on-the-Water, and on the way back they called in at the Classic Motor Hub, which is at the former RAF Bibury, near the little village of Ablington.

The Cotswold Motoring Museum (cotswoldmotoringmuseum.co.uk) is a long-established museum packed with interesting vehicles, much automobilia, and models too. The Classic Motoring Hub (classicmotorhub.com) is a high-end classic car dealer, but they host classic car events too. And there is a gift shop and café on site!

Sadly I was not able to go on the trip – I was a bit poorly, I think a reaction to the flu and covid jabs which I had together a couple of days before… (Memo to self – next year have 'em a few days apart!) I have been to the Cotswold Motoring Museum a couple of times – once with the club by Bedford OB coach, many moons ago – but did not know of the Classic Motor Hub…

Anyway, here are some pics, courtesy of Chairman Steve!

First, the **Cotswold Motoring Museum**…

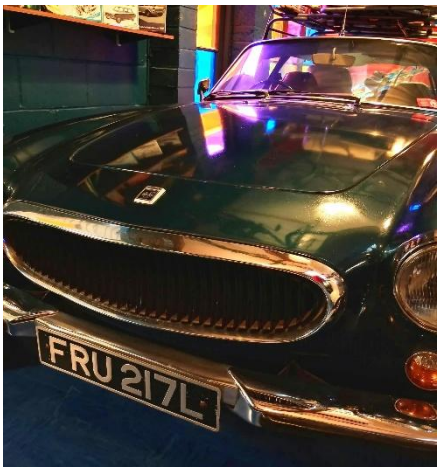












^^ Yes – it's the obligatory Volvo!



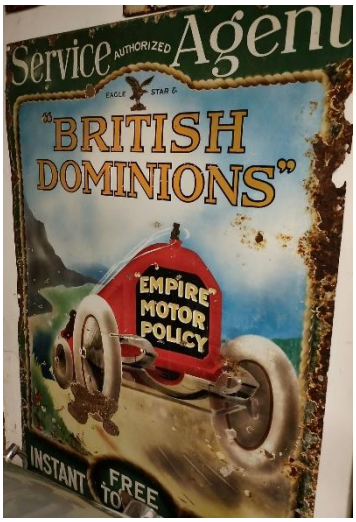














And now it's the turn of **The Classic Motor Hub**…























Good, eh? Wish I could have been there… Hey ho! **Barry the Ed**

oooooooooooooooooooOooooooooooooooooooo

The Dinky Toy and the Real Thing…









Yes, you are right – two of my favourites from way back!

Top is the 23N Maserati – the 1952 2-litre Formula 2 A6GCM, NOT the earlier 1½ litre supercharged 4CLT/48 which it is often mistaken for. And the red/white colours? Well, the Swiss driver De Graffenried won the 1949 British Grand Prix (in a Maserati 4CLT/48…), and the official Swiss racing colours were red with a white bonnet… But from period photographs the car he drove was one colour – probably red!

Below is the 23G Cooper Bristol T20, another 2-litre Formula 2 car. (Because of the lack of Formula 1 entries, the driver's World Championship was run for Formula 2 cars in 1952 and 1953…)

In both cases I think Dinky did a pretty good job! The tyres are too big, but then, they were toys, not collectors' models, and had to contend with the 'Playground Grand Prix' – mine did, anyway! **BtE**

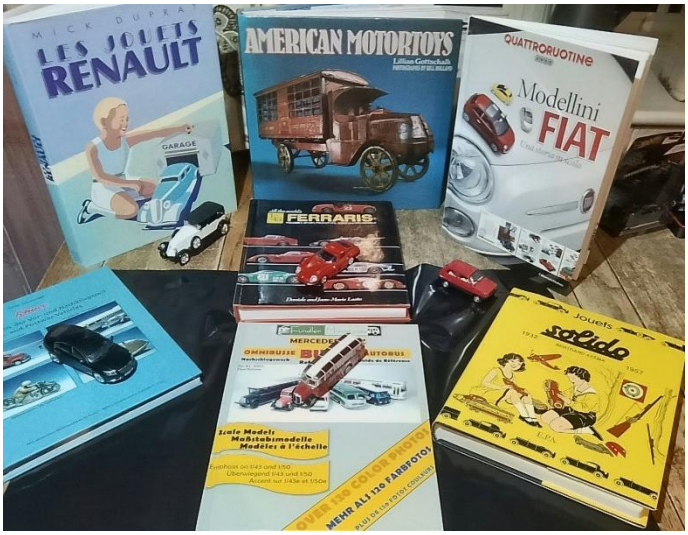
WMTC's Annual General Meeting, then 'NOT Made in the UK' **4 November Club Night**

So… the first part of this club night was our AGM… What happened? Not a lot… The same six no-hopers were re-elected to the committee in the vain hope they will get it right one day, but, surprise surprise, they will be joined by a new member! Great stuff, Sharpie… Let's hope you don't come to regret that rash decision! But enough of all that – if you weren't there you can read all about it in the draft minutes which will come with this Smalltalk (For members only…) And If you WERE there, don't forget to let us know of any suggested alterations, otherwise the minutes will be ratified as printed at next year's AGM!

And then it was on to 'NOT Made in the UK' night… Wow, you folk have a lot of foreign made models – the tables were overflowing! As I was struggling to make any notes – stuck down one end of the room, having problems hearing the descriptions of the displays, and also with a ceiling spotlight shinning right in my eyes – this may be more pics than words… But I don't suppose you will mind that…

And first up was Chairman **Steve**! Being something of a book-lover, he came up with a selection of books on foreign vehicle and model makers, with a nice display of appropriate models.









Next it was **Nick** – a bit of a Hot Wheels fan, particularly with their current F1 cars, which are actually made in Thailand… And early next year should see the 2026 cars coming to a shop near you!





Of course, **Bob B** had no trouble filling a table… And he covered many foreign toy making countries – but excluding Hong Kong and China – and gave us a bit of a history lesson on the makers as well…





Here (left) is a Graham Roadster by Tootsietoy (USA) and (right) a Ford Fairlane Police Car by Schuco (Germany) in their Micro Racer range.





Here we have (left) a plaster racing car by CIJ (France) and a Harley Davidson motorbike and sidecar by Tekno (Denmark/the Netherlands)

For a change **Don** veered off the RAF route, and treated us to a splendid display of French Dinky military vehicles.







Here's just a handful – excellent toys, and, dare one say it, much better in every respect than contemporary English Dinky offerings…

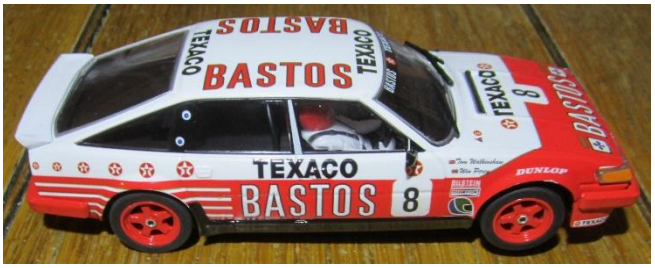
Just room to squeeze one in from the next contributor… Can you guess who it is? I'll tell you in a mo!



No surprise that it's **Sharpie**, with mainly slot cars from foreign lands… But also some Dinky 'clones' from the likes of Atlas and Dan Toys…







Alex had a couple of Solido double-deckers due for repainting… But I managed not to photograph them! He also had this single deck coach from China (a recent £1 purchase!) and a foreign-made artic tractor unit with a trailer made by Alex, and appropriately personalised!





Kevin's display included this boxed Jaguar Police car from Japan, which he has had since 1975… >> And this one took my eye – a Hot Wheels MG Metro rally car… VV







Another from Kevin's younger days is this friction drive London FX4 Taxi by Clifford, made in Hong Kong.
Kevin found it in his parents' shed, where it had been for some 50 years. It's survived remarkably well, even the box!

I am sure it will come as no surprise that **Brian G** had no trouble at all with this theme… He showed 25 models, with countries covering most of the alphabet, from Brazil to the USA… and managed to include 10 Volvos! Here are the pieces that caught my eye…





Above left, a clockwork Police car by London Toys of Canada; and right, a Volvo PV444 by Lenyko of Sweden. (Sorry, Brian – just the one Volvo!)





And above left, a Luxury Coach – a copy of the Dinky – by Mini-Auto Cars of India; and right, an Army Water Tanker in plastic by Sam Toys of Italy – another copy of a Dinky Toy.

We all know by now that **Dougie** likes his fire engines… Here's a very nice 1926 Seagrave Fire Truck by Ertl – made by their facility in Mexico (not many models from there!). And, it doubles as a coin bank for Doug's loose change… Very handy!



Another nice one from Dougie's display – the French Dinky Unic Skip Lorry – or Multibenne in French! >>>



Ashley was another with a fine table-full, from all corners of the globe…





Let's start with this one, which is by Lima of Italy to 00 scale, and, as I'm sure you know, is a Class 33 No. 215 in CIE livery – an Irish transport company of course! (Thank you, Mr Google!)

Three racers from Ashley – the Ferrari 250GTO is by Scalextric, the March





83G 'Kreepy Krauly #00' is by Revell/Monogram Racing, and both actually made in foreign parts… On the right is Nigel Mansell's Williams, as made by Lego in Hungary or Czechoslovakia…

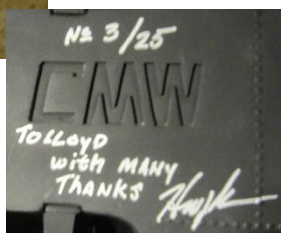
What's that, I've missed something of Ashley's? Oh yes, I'm pretty sure it's the first appearance of a turtle in the pages of Smalltalk – and it's from India!





To finish – a nice one from **Roger**! It's the Porsche 956, winner of the 1983 Le Mans 24 Hours, to 1/12 scale, in resin. It's number 3 in a run of 25 models built by the California Model Works, which also issued it as a kit. Roger got this one at a local auction – and it has an interesting dedication underneath!

But nothing to do with me, Guv, honest…



And that was it – another great night, with usual thanks to **all** contributors! **Barry the Ed**

All facts, opinions, comments, criticisms etc. contained within Smalltalk are the responsibility of individual contributors (especially if anonymous!). The Ed just can't believe it's 12 months since our last Christmas meal…

Your 2027 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**
Without portfolio…)	**Bob Warfield**	**bobandjill1945@gmail.com**	**01373 864820**
)	**Alan Sharpe**	**alan.sharpe123@btinternet.com**	**07760 216159**

Co-opted Committee Member (AKA SLH – Steve's Little Helper): Don Stevenson

WMTC meets at The MILK CHURN, Commerce Way, Melksham SN12 6AD, <u>usually</u> on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month from 7.30pm, but very 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**
<u>Or,</u> 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 are in BOLD.

2 December	**Club Night - Christmas Meal at The Milk Churn, 7 for 7.30pm**
5 December	Southampton Toy Fair, St James Rd Methodist Church, St James Rd, Shirley SO15 5HE
6 December	Kempton Park Toy Fair, Kempton Park Racecourse, TW16 5AQ
8 December	Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN **(SCF)**
13 December	Shepton Mallet Toy Collectors' Fair BA4 6QN
15 December	Royal Wootton Bassett Toy Fair, Memorial Hall, SN4 8EN **(SCF)**
27 December	NEC Toy Fair – Hall 18, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT. 580 stalls…
6 January	**Club Lunchtime Meeting – 12 to 2.30 'Anything Goes'**
12 January	Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN **(SCF)**
17 January	Wickham Toy Fair, Wickham Community Centre Mill Lane PO17 5AL **(SCF)**
24 January	Poole Toy Fair, Corfe Hills School, Higher Blandford Road, BH18 9BG **(SCF)**
24 January	Mega Malvern Toy Collectors' Fair WR13 6NW
30/31 January	Somerset Vintage and Classic Tractor Show, Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN
3 February	**Club Night – Charity Auction in aid of Bath Cats & Dogs Home**
7 February	Kempton Park Toy Fair, Kempton Park Racecourse, TW16 5AQ
9 February	Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN **(SCF)**
13 February	Exeter Toy Collectors' Fair, The Matford Centre EX2 8FD

Our Chairman Steve of Steven Clements Fairs (SCF) kindly offers all WMTC members ONE FREE ENTRY to all his fairs, on production of a current WMTC membership card. BUT PLEASE NOTE – this offer applies ONLY to Standard Entry times, NOT EARLY ENTRY

And that's it for this Smalltalk!
I hope you all have a great Christmas, and we'll meet up again in 2027 for yet more fun and frolics! (And don't forget January is a <u>lunchtime</u> meeting!)
With best wishes to all… Barry the Ed

<u>Late Postscript:</u> It is sad to have to tell you that, just as I was about to send this copy to the printers, I learned that long-time WMTC member Roger Coles sadly died at home, on Sunday 22nd November. Roger was 81. A full obituary will be in the next Smalltalk. Rest in peace, Roger… BtE

Minutes of the WMTC AGM, at The Milk Churn, Melksham, Wednesday 4 November 2026
Circulated to all members with Smalltalk No.253 December 2026

Meeting commenced at 8.00pm

Welcome:
Chairman Steve Clements welcomed all to the meeting – 16 in total, including all 6 Committee members.

Apologies received:
Mrs Ricky Clements.

Minutes of the 2025 AGM:
These were included with the December 2025 Wessex Smalltalk No. 247, sent to all members. No amendments had been requested, so the minutes were proposed as printed by Barry Lloyd, seconded by Alan Sharpe, and approved by all. Chairman Steve signed a copy for the club records.

Chairman's Report (Steve Clements):
Steve welcomed all to the 'largest model club south of the M4' (!) and thanked all for attending.

The WMTC year in brief:
Our club nights have all been very good, with an excellent standard of displays. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed.
January saw our first lunchtime meeting, which was a success, and which we will repeat in 2027 (with apologies to the worker members who cannot make it…)
The proceeds from February's charity Auction – plus a couple of very generous donations – meant we could donate £1725 to Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance, making £3000 over the last two years.

Our trips to the County Classics Museum in Taunton (14 May), a return visit to the Air Ambulance base (1 July), and then to the Cotswold Motor Museum at Bourton on the Water and The Classic Motor Hub (15 October), all very good!
The South Hants club invited WMTC to their club meeting on 10 June, and a group of 6 of us went. We were made very welcome, and enjoyed our visit. (Although a bit jealous of their excellent venue!) We have extended an invite to SHMAC to come to our January 2027 lunchtime meeting, and are hoping that a group will be able to come up.

We had two speakers this year – Chris Everett in March, on Coin Collecting (different to our usual fare, but very interesting), and Bob Leggett of SAS Auctions in October, on Auction Life (Similar – but different - to the talk last October by Hugo Marsh of SAS, and again very good.)

To finish off this year we have our annual Christmas Meal on Wednesday 2 December, the same format as before, with a quiz and raffle on the night. Bookings being taken by BL or SC… No increase in cost to members (£20) or guests (£30). The profit on our monthly raffle (except February's auction night – that goes to the charity…) offsets the net cost to the club…

Looking to 2027, the existing committee has planned out the whole year, all ready for the new committee (!)
As mentioned, January will again be a lunchtime meeting, with, we hope, a visit by SHMAC members.
February will be our charity night, and the chosen charity is Bath Cats and Dogs Home, in memory of June Coles, and also supported by Roger C.
The total charity funds raised to date is £90,254, BUT (a big but…) the committee has decided this will be our **last** big-scale auction. Sadly the 'glory days' are behind us, we have lost a lot of the big bidders, we can no longer get the high-end items which went for good money, and frankly it is becoming too much work for those involved…
Having said all that, there is no reason why the club cannot make smaller charity donations in the future, when we have surplus funds available.

Finally, a 'thank you' to the committee for all they have done in the last year, and a 'thank you' to the members for supporting the club – especially to Alan and Trina Carr, who keep coming up with little club-related gifts!

Membership Secretary's Report (Nick Male):
As 2026 ends the club membership has stayed steady at 49. Long time member Tony Maasz sadly died mid-year, but we have gained new member Kevin Whatley to keep the number up.
Some changes in store for next year – the committee has decided to change the membership year from 1 January – 31 December to 1 May – 30 April. This moves renewals away from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas/New Year period, and as a result effectively gives present paid-up members four free months!
But a downside – we will increase the subscriptions slightly - £20pa for an emailed Smalltalk, £25pa for a paper copy.
The membership cards will be updated, with the joining and expiry dates on the reverse.

If we are all re-elected and retain the same job positions, your renewal subs will need to be sent direct to Barry as Treasurer, and I will send out the membership cards. We will of course remind you of all of this nearer the time…
I hope you will continue to support the club in the 2027/8 membership year!

Treasurer's Report (Barry Lloyd):
In the Bank accounts and in cash this morning we had a total of £3106.33. This includes the ongoing float in the Charity Fund, currently £54.44, so the total net funds available to the club are £3051.89. This figure includes £230 already received for the Christmas meal, which of course will be very soon paid out again! Last year subsidising the meal cost the club £390, but this was covered by the income from the monthly raffle – £481 for the year.
The annual accounts as at 30th September have been completed, but not yet independently verified. I hope they will be included for all members with the December Smalltalk.
In the accounts you will see that Smalltalk costs are down compared with the previous year – this is purely due to the timing of payments, sadly the Editor has not found a way of saving money!
Expected expenditure coming up in the short term – the Christmas meal, which we think will be much as last year, with the raffle takings covering the outlay, and – if agreed – the Honoraria for the past year's work… In previous years membership subs coming in at the end of the year have helped cover those outgoings, but now, as Nick has advised, they will not be coming in until later in the year. All should end up much the same at the end of the day though.
Earlier this year I opened a 35-day notice bank account for the bulk of our monies – with a better interest rate – and also a second current account which I have named 'Membership Account', and which will be used purely to collect money for the Christmas meal or membership renewals, by direct BACS transfer. This should make the bookkeeping a little easier…

Honoraria:
Chairman Steve reminded members that last year's honoraria payments were £200 to BL as Smalltalk Editor/Treasurer, and £50 to Nick as Membership Secretary, but had to be reminded himself of the £50 also awarded to Steve Clements as Chairman. So, this year to be the same, with total outlay of £300 for the three Honorarium payments to BL, NM, and SC, proposed by Bob Burnett, seconded by Graham Vanstone, with only one objection, but as last year this was from Chairman Steve, objecting to his payment, so was ignored!

A.O.B.
Bob Burnett asked how many members have a printed Smalltalk, and Barry the Ed thought 12/15. (Having checked his lists later, he sends out – or sometimes hand-delivers – 17 paper Smalltalks, to 7 members who are not online and pay for it, and, as a complimentary copy, to 'double' members (husband & wife both members), founder/life members, and to three other long-standing contacts. Usually he has 25 paper copies printed, the surplus being taken by Steve Clements for his swapmeet tables in an endeavour to rustle up more members…)
Alan Carr asked about postage, and Barry the Ed advised that he has an email contact who has supplied second class stamped envelopes for the last 9 years or so at about half price… Not sure how! Don warned about forgeries, but there have been no problems so far and BtE is 99% sure they are genuine stamps…
Alan Sharpe asked if it is a nuisance having to deal with the paper copies? The short answer is 'yes', it would be great if it was just emailed, but as long as we have members not online there is really no alternative…

Brian Gatward then offered a vote of thanks to the Committee and their 'helpers' for yet another successful year, with interesting club nights, and great 'visits' – and the committee and 'helpers' got a round of applause!

Election of Committee for 2027:
Chairman Steve advised that all the present committee members – Steve, Barry, Ashley, Bob W, Nick and Doug – are prepared to stand again, and Don Stevenson is happy to continue as a co-opted 'helper'. Alan Sharpe – previously a co-opted 'helper' – has volunteered to join the committee as a full member.
Proposed by Alan Carr that the 6 present committee members, plus Alan Sharpe as a full member, and Don Stevenson as a co-opted 'helper' all be elected for 2027… Seconded by Alex Ewins, and carried unanimously!

Meeting ended at 8.19pm
Next Annual General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 3 November 2027

Barry Lloyd, Secretary

BALANCE SHEET OF WESSEX MODEL & TOY COLLECTORS as at 30 September 2026

ASSETS:

Full set of club models at nominal cost			£1670.00
Cash in Hand:			£ 360.95
Bank Accounts:	Current Account	£ 71.45	
	Membership a/c	£ nil	
	Reserve Account	£ 422.51	
	35 Day Account	£ 2020.70	£2514.66
			£4545.61

REPRESENTED BY:

Balance of Income and Expenditure Account b/f	£4324.07	
Plus Excess of Income over Expenditure, current year	£ 167.10	
Current Balance of Income and Expenditure Account		£4491.17
Liabilities:		
Charity Fund balance carried forward (See separate breakdown)		£ 54.44
		£4545.61

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 30 September 2026

		Expenditure	**Income**
Membership Subscriptions			£ 876.00
Wessex Smalltalk – Copying + postage		£ 184.20	
Monthly raffle – net takings			£ 481.50
Liability Insurance		£ 77.70	
Stationery and Postage		£ 47.98	
Honoraria: SC as Chair £50; Ed/Treas £200; Memb Sec £50.		£ 300.00	
Bank Interest Received			£ 34.47
Sundry expenditure:	Gift to Auditor	£ 15.00	
	Club night speakers	£ 100.00	
	Accommodation for Auctioneer	£ 59.99	
Christmas meal 2025:			
30 x £36.00 = £1080, less £10 discount = £1070 due			
Paid deposit £150 + balance £920.00, less receipts £680.00 =		£ 390.00	
Donations:			
Bath Cats & Dogs Home, in memory of June Coles		£ 25.00	
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, in memory of Tony Maasz		£ 25.00	
		£ 1224.87	£ 1391.97
Excess of Income over Expenditure		£ 167.10	
		£1391.97	**£1391.97**

To be checked and agreed from all available records and information

Ongoing Charity Fund:

Balance Brought Forward:	£ 237.44
Plus:	
Donations	£ 562.00
Raffle (net)	£ 113.00
Auction proceeds	£ 867.00
Sub total:	£1779.44
Less:	
Donated to Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance	£1725.00
Charity Fund balance carried forward	**£ 54.44**

To be checked and agreed from all available records and information