



A Busy Season Ahead For Steam!

Dear Members,

I'm delighted to introduce our first members' newsletter, bringing together a range of updates from across the steam world and within the National Traction Engine Trust.

You can now see the full schedule of **2026 NTET Rally Days**, with events already lined up across the country. These rallies remain at the heart of our movement, so it will be fantastic to see you at the different locations throughout the year.

In this issue you'll also find several opportunities and activities to get involved in, including:

- the opportunity to showcase traction engines at the **Science and Industry Museum** as part of its developing Upper Yard programme;
- the **Steam at the Lift** event at the historic Anderton Boat Lift; and
- the return of the **NTET Photo Competition for 2026**.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of our newsletter and look forward to seeing many of you out and about at rallies and events over the coming months. You'll also find a short message from NTET President Andrew Semple below.



With very best wishes,

Rob Wing

Chair, National Traction Engine Trust

[✉ chairman@ntet.co.uk](mailto:chairman@ntet.co.uk)

A word from our President

Dear Members,

This is our first newsletter for members as part of the new website/communication initiative.

For me as President, I love to see things moving forward and I hope this will become a regular contact point for members.

Talking of moving, I am off to Abbey Hill rally at Yeovil soon (first May bank holiday) wearing my commentator's hat. It is the first one of the season and will be held on a showground with good hard roads in case we have showers. It's always a friendly "do" where people can get up close to a fine selection of exhibits, and presents a great opportunity to see the results of members' winter work!

Have a good summer – let's hope the world settles down again quite soon.



Andrew Semple

President, National Traction Engine Trust

NTET Rally Days for 2026

We are delighted to announce this year's schedule of Rally Days for 2026. As seasoned steam enthusiasts, you'll be familiar with the features of rallies. While they vary from event to event, they typically include:

- **Steam parades:** Grand daily parades of full-size traction engines and road rollers.
- **Working displays:** Ploughing, threshing, sawing demos; apprentice training.
- **Other exhibits:** Vintage cars, bikes, commercials, models; trade stalls, crafts, catering.

Below are the first three Rally Days in this year's calendar.

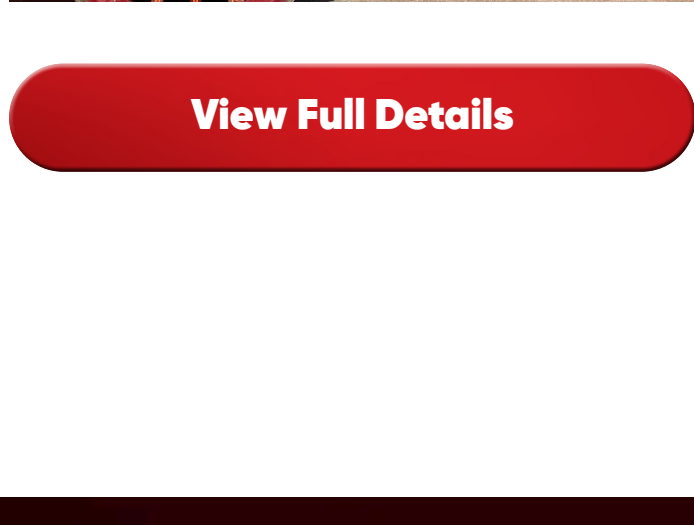
[View Full Schedule](#)

Event	Date	Location	Organiser
Saffron Walden Crank Up	25-26 April 2026	Carver Barracks, Saffron Walden	East Anglian Traction Engine Soc.
Little Vintage Show	9-10 May 2026	Vintage Showground, Gloucester	Little Vintage Show Committee
Abergavenny Steam Rally	24-25 May 2026	Bailey Park, Abergavenny	Abergavenny Rotary Charitable Inc.

Steam at the Lift: 9-10 May 2026

You may be interested in Steam at the Lift, taking place on 9-10 May 2026 at the historic Anderton Boat Lift. Organised by the Canal & River Trust, the event will bring together traction engines, vintage steamboats and other historic craft beneath one of Britain's most remarkable pieces of Victorian engineering.

Visitors can enjoy demonstrations, guided tours of the lift, family activities and boat trips on the River Weaver, offering a unique chance to see the famous lift from the water. It promises to be an enjoyable weekend celebrating steam power in a distinctive canal-side setting.



[View Full Details](#)

Traction Engines at the Science and Industry Museum

The Science and Industry Museum is exploring opportunities to feature traction models – in its Upper Yard as part of its future public programme. The museum is currently developing this outdoor space to host live demonstrations, events and activities that bring historic engineering to life for visitors.

At this stage the museum is keen to gauge interest from traction engine owners and miniature engine operators who might be willing to take part in future events or demonstrations. Could this be you?

[Learn More About The Upper Yard Development](#)



Steam At the Yard

Jim Huntley has kindly included his "Steam at the Yard" video series for our members to view. This is a set of weekly video updates featuring the Sparkes team, owned by Alan Sparkes and his family. Alan Sparkes is a well-known engine man and the Sparkes team has 15 members who get together on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Alan's workshop to work on a collection of steam engines and other kinds of vintage vehicles.

Jim Huntley is the editor of Raising Steam, the magazine for the Steam Apprentice Club. Please view his weekly "Steam at the Yard" videos here.



NTET Photo Competition 2026 – Get Your Cameras Ready!

The annual NTET Photo Competition is back for 2026, offering members and enthusiasts the chance to showcase their best photographs celebrating traction engines and the world of steam.

The competition invites photographers of all ages and experience levels to capture striking images on the road, or in scenic settings, at rallies, in previous years, entries will be judged across several categories, with prizes awarded for first, second and third place in each section, along with an overall winner.

Winning images will also have the opportunity to be featured in NTET publications and promotional materials, and the best photographs may be selected for inclusion in future NTET calendars.



Whether you're photographing a beautifully posed engine portrait, a moment of steam on the road, or engines at work, the competition is a great opportunity to celebrate the heritage and atmosphere of the steam movement through photography.

Full details on categories, entry requirements and submission deadlines are available on the NTET website.

[View Full Details](#)

Annual Driver Training Course

If you'd like to learn how to look after and drive a traction engine, the NTET runs an annual driver training course. This year it will be on 16th and 17th May.

The costs are as follows:

- Members: £325
- Steam Apprentices (age 13-15): £110
- Steam Apprentices (age 16-21): £165 for the two days



[Book Your Place Now](#)

[Contact Charlie Coulls](#)



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