



VINTAGE TORQUE

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Christmas Greetings from your Rally Organiser

I am writing my last Christmas message as rally organiser, as you all know the 2024 3 day special for the clubs 50th anniversary will be my last year in charge, however I still hope to be a big part of the club, organising club stands, writing articles, and helping out where I can, will keep me more than involved.

It's being another eventful year, we again started the year at Tractor World in Malvern travelling down in a blizzard. We again won best club stand earning us an invitation to put on a display at the NEC classic car show in November where the attendance is around 72,000... no pressure!

Our spring road run was just a lovely, relaxed day raising money for a great charity. Next was our rally, a fantastic day on Sunday but wet and miserable on Monday and that seemed to be the trend through most of this year's rally season. We then went onto our summer visit on 21st July to the Claas factory at Ipswich and enjoyed a lovely day, thanks to Tom. As always out last event of the year was our working weekend, we had a fantastic turn out and David and Claire with the help of family and friends done a wonderful job. The weather was stunning, and I wasn't jealous (much) but what a credit to the club and out members.

It has been a pleasure and such a learning curve being your rally organiser for the past 13 years. I will be giving my full support to Jack and Annie and look forward to seeing what 2025 brings for the 100 years of Caterpillar.

That just leaves me to say thank you all for your kind support and have a very enjoyable Christmas and a very happy new year to you all.

Gordon Carson - NVTEC-EA



Cars at The Mill (Bearts)



Over the past few years this small but well supported event has been becoming more popular. We haven't attended over the past two years and certainly noticed how it has grown. The event started at 6pm on Thursday 20th July and we rushed home from work, changed and went over to find it over half full, amazing.

The vast variety of cars is very special with Ferrari, Porsche, Lamborghini, Bentley, Etc attending. Nick and Jamie from Holly Landscapes provided some good background music, and the Downham Market and District Round Table supported the event. The staff from Bearts looked after the stewarding along with drinks and ice cream distribution.

We took along the 1976 Triumph Stag, this is the first time this car has ever been shown. The car has been on the same farm from new and dry stored for the past 25 years. Back in 2021, we decided to get it out and make it road worthy again, this proved to be a lot more work and expense than we had bargained for (when aren't they). Anyway, after a complete engine rebuild, clutch, brakes, etc it MOT'ed and all up and running well.

This was Jaynes first ride in the car and seemed to like it, Keith Gore, one of our helpers for many years at Stradsett and long standing club member was displaying his 1973 Ford Escort 1300 E purchased new and still owned by Keith who purchased this car from Whittlesey Motors Ltd. who I remember well having gone to school in Whittlesey. The cost back then was just £1,165.15p and Keith still has the receipt.

My sons Jason and Andrew arrived in Andrews 1960 Pontiac Catalina with its 6.3 litre engine, your could here it ticking over above the sound of the music. There was two very nice MK III Ford Cortina's both GXL, I had one in Daytona yellow with black top, lovely car so really great to see. There was only one Vetric? car being a 1930 Ford Model A, this car was assembled in Trafford Park Manchester. It has a 4 cylinder 2200cc (14.9 hp) engine, very nice just up my street.



All money raised goes to charity, so we were very pleased to support this event, well done to all involved it was a lovely relaxing evening. The next event will be held on Thursday 18th July 2024.



Gordon Carson - NVTEC-EA

Bicester Heritage October Scramble 2023



parked in a heated garage. Thanks to whoever that is. Jody loves a Porsche so to see his face light up when we saw it was brilliant.

The tarmac drive then split 3 ways, so we worked methodically to make sure we didn't miss

On Sunday 8th October 2023 with the weather unusually warm for October we took a trip over to the Bicester Heritage Centre for their last Scramble of the year. Our friend Jody went to one last year and said it was the best show he'd been to in terms of the variety, quality, and rarity on display. Jody has high standards and goes to a lot of shows so we couldn't turn down the chance to go this year. To display inside the show itself is invite only and gets you within the Bicester Heritage Centre. The incredible thing with this show was that the car park for the public would put most other shows to shame. It was going to be a good day. We hadn't even got into the main part of the show, and we were looking at a collection of cars that wouldn't look out of place parked on a yacht! After having a wonder around the auto jumble, I made my compulsory single purchase of something manly that I probably didn't need.

Now it was time to enter the Bicester Heritage Centre. The first display on our left was a very modern twist on classic cars. Electrogenic specialise in converting classic cars to 100% electric. Not to everyone's taste of course however it's a great way of having a classic car without the hiccups and fuel efficiency of a classic car. Whatever your opinion though it's a fantastic idea and was very tastefully carried out. Next up was a row of vehicles carefully parked up as you walked along the tarmac drive. Casually parked on the side was a Porsche 911 which had been restored and reimagined by Singer. It was a thing of beauty. A Singer Porsche starts around the £1m mark so to see one just parked up in a row of cars showed two things. One, that this show was already going above and beyond

our expectations. And two, the owner clearly loved to use it and allow others to appreciate it not keep it



anything and started to the left and worked our way around. I would love to tell you about every interesting thing we saw but the magazine isn't big enough! There was a unit which had a selection of vintage cars which are available to 'arrive and drive' as they put it. What a way to spend a birthday or special occasion. There's nothing quite like taking a drive out on a sunny day in a classic car. My favourite car of the day was up next which was an Aston Martin DB4. With the sun beaming down on the gorgeous colour and curves of the body the DB4 oozed pure class and luxury. Pictures do not do it justice.

A gentle stroll later and we came across a different kind of DB. This David Brown Thresherman was certainly in need of more than just a polish. It reminded me of when Mr Beba kindly allowed us to use his field for our wedding and Dad organised for me and Katie to be taken on the David Brown which certainly doesn't need more than a polish!

Next up was my favourite commercial of the day. Alfa Romeos always catch my eye but even this A-12 truck looked a thing of beauty.

Only Alfa could give a truck so much character. Maybe it's the grille, maybe it's the classic on the back but I loved it. The last unit we went into they were restoring classic Bentleys. Again, the pictures don't do justice to the finish and quality of the final product.



That was the end of the Bicester Heritage Centre. The last stop was the public car park. Sadly, we spent



owner was chatting to someone so sadly we couldn't get too much information but the more you looked the better it got. Simple things such as the grille on the bonnet

so much time around the main part of the show that most of the cars had gone. Our luck was in though. In the distance we saw a peculiar looking car and we weren't sure if it was a Lamborghini or maybe a Maserati? Luckily, they parked up, so we made a dash to see it before they drove off again. Our first reaction was simply, wow. Maserati Khamisn was the answer to our earlier question. We'd never seen one before and on further investigation for good reason. They only made 435. The

was offset. Some would say it's not symmetrical and wrong. Most would say it takes you back to a time when cars were designed not just produced. The pièce de résistance was the rear end. It was clear. Completely clear. Again, we'd never seen anything like it. That topped the day off and we all went away already excited for next year!

Andrew Carson

CATERPILLAR FUN DAY



the arrival of the four wheel drive agricultural tractor became common place from the late 1960's these yellow tracked work horses were to be seen locally over the Fens and silt soils of Lincolnshire, West Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

Sunday 1st October after 11mm of rain overnight, Friends of Caterpillar Tractors of a bygone age came to Faulkners Farm Walton Highway by kind permission of Mr Peter Bunning.

These little yellow giants were imported from America with H. Leverton of Westlode Street Spalding being the biggest Caterpillar

dealership in Europe from 1935. The main models were the D2 & D4 which were ideal for most agricultural jobs of ploughing and cultivation work, with the D6, D7 & some D8 used on heavy land farms though many of these went into construction, Forestry and quarry work. Until

Today was a great chance to see dozer blade, landscapers as well as the agricultural models ploughing and dragging. This spontaneous event also raised in excess of £300 for the East Anglia Air Ambulance.

Peter Thorpe



The 62nd Carrington Steam & Heritage Rally



After the disappointing weather on the Monday at this year's Stradsett Rally, I was looking forward to a good weekend at Carrington. We arrived on the Friday morning, the sun was shining and there was something blowing about that you don't often see at Carrington, apparently it was something called dust. Malcolm Bush was there waiting for us, so we soon got the lawn mower off and started cutting the grass. Once this was done, I marked out and then Malcolm and Terry kindly helped me get unloaded. Thank you both, really appreciated.

The theme this year was Case tractors and Hay making through the years, so we tried to concentrate on this theme. I decided to position the tractors in order of their year starting from the left with the oldest which worked very nicely and gave us a stunning line up. The oldest and so first tractor in the line up was to be the Wests 1915 Case 12-25 that went on to win yet another trophy for best NVTEC member and very well deserved. Then came a tractor I had never seen before, it was Chris Astel's 1917 Case 9-18 model A. He purchased this back in 2019 just two weeks before Sid Taylor sadly passed away, Chris had known Sid all his life.

Then was Casey West's 1919 Case 10-18 with a 4-cylinder, 3.9 litre cross mounted engine. This has 2 forward and 1 reverse gear. This completed the special line up of 3 tractors previously owned by the late Sid Taylor, these have never been seen lined up at a rally like this before and might never again so what a picture! Then we moved onto the first of



ours being the 1927 Case 12-20 Cross Motor still in the steel wheels era. Back to the West's was their 1929 Case model L, a bit unusual for them as despite this being mechanically very good and running well, it has no sign of any paint.

We also took our Case 1936 RC Row crop, this again on steel wheels had undergone a full restoration, she did look a bit sad when she sat at Cheffins back in 2006. This tractor is also in the rare Case colour of the light grey with red wheels, very difficult to keep clean but a lovely tractor for the shows. Next was our 1939 Case RC styled, this is an extremely rare tractor and one of only two known survivors of the few styled RCs originally imported. The tractor was new to Gleason Park Farm, Morecambe where it was converted from steel wheels to pneumatic tyres, it is fitted with a Waukesha side valve engine starting on petrol and running on TVO. This tractor has a cast iron sunburst rounded front grill and chicken perch steering and all in the stunning Flambeau red paintwork. Behind, keeping with the hay-making theme was a 1940's Massey-Harris Dickie No 701 Model H Swath Turner and Hay Collection only purchased this year.



The last of the Cases were our 1939 Case CC Reg BSR 599, despite us having this for some 15 years, this was to be the first time we have taken it out. We even had to fit new rear tyres that we have also had for 15 years but just never got around to doing it. It took me a while to get it to start by the handle but after giving the plugs a really good clean on Sunday, it started much better when I loaded it up to come home.

Moving away from the Case theme but still with the hay-making, was Malcolm Bush and his 1942 John Deere Model L with finger mower, lovely little tractor. Mr John Plowright brought us along his 1958 very nice Ferguson TO-35 deluxe. Purchased direct from the USA in January 2018, this tractor had spent its life on a small livestock farm in the state of Wisconsin near to the town of Milwaukee on the coastline of Lake Michigan. Now totally restored and 90% original looking, really stunning.

Terry Myhill brought his 1950 Fordson Dexta and we saw him doing some polishing, he said we are a bad influence.

This was fitted with a lovely, restored Lister fertilizer spreader, both looking a good combination. The last tractor on our stand was Richard Crisp's with his half scale model of a series 2 field Marshall. The work and dedication that people put into these models is just amazing and they drove it to and from the stand. The last item on our stand was our 1991 Volvo FL617, still used regularly to transport tractors to and from rallies. This has a 6-cylinder



horticultural themed area. Nevel Websdale won the David Brown Club's 'Best in Show' trophy with a 1957 David Brown ZDSi. I am sure Nevel will be part of the 2024 David Brown display at Stradsett.

Alan Sale won 'Best Allis Chalmers' with his 1945 Allis Chalmers WC and Bamford hay turner. Alan worked them both Sunday and Monday in

the working area and it was looking really good. As always there was a good line up of engines, even Stephen Watson was showing his Wolseley WD8 Circa 1945, that he brought at a sale in Cheshire for £70.00 and restored it over 3 years. My old school friend Ivan Smith was back at Carrington for the first time in nearly 15 years showing two very nice Petter 1.5 HP apple top engines made in 1932, very nice. Dean



diesel engine and 8 speed split gear box we altered it from a flatbed to a beaver tail some years ago. On Gavin Motley and Friends stand across the way from us was a full-size lion and giraffe built on a steel frame and then covered by hay. The vision, the work, the dedication, and the cost is exceptional.

All the club stands again looked fantastic and a far better way to display our exhibits than just in a line unattended. Jim and Mel Wakefield again put on a stunning display of their horticultural equipment and Craig and Fred supported the



REFURBISHED SCHLÜTER

Making its post-refurbishment debut and belonging to Jonathan Tunmore who organised the Normac cultivation demonstration was his original UK import Schlüter Super E7800TV. These tractors were imported in the the UK in very small numbers and are now highly collectable, this tractor was working on the Lemken demonstration plot.

The Schlüter brand was first imported into the UK in 1978 by a subsidiary of Rustons Engineering of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire that traded as Reco-Schlutrac Ltd. Two of the first tractors to come into the country were bought by Cambridgeshire farmer Oliver Walston, who had seen them operating in Germany.

At 160hp, the E7800TV had a list price of £22,000 which was 20% more than mass produced tractors at the time, but he considered this money well spent because of the brand's high-quality, hand-built approach.

Reg Fletcher- NVTEC-EA



Peterborough Farm Machinery Preservation Society Visit



On Sunday 27th August we were pleased to welcome PFMPs to our humble abode to look at our collection. It was nice to see so many like minded people turn out to make it a most enjoyable 4 hours. The boss lady went above and beyond as usual with baking cakes to serve with teas and coffees for which there was no charge it was purely donations.



We would like to publically thank them for their generosity which came to a grand total of £236.40 which was donated to East Anglian Air Ambulance. Big thanks to Richard Perrin PFMPs secretary who helped to arrange this visit.

Jim & Mel Wakefield



NORMAC CULTIVATION DEMONSTRATION

On Wednesday 6th September 2023, Normac held a cultivation event at spooner row near Wymondham by host farmer James Alston.

Malcolm Tompsett



A TRIP TO CROMER



While visiting Cromer this summer I took some photos of the Tractors used to launch the fishing and Crab boats thought they might be of interest for the magazine. Out of more than a dozen tractors there was only one non Ford product a Case. They range from Fordson majors though to a Ford TW 20 and three Muirhills based on a Ford unit. Most are fitted with winches either electric or mechanical. Being kept on the beach they are all heavily corroded on some of them it looks like it would be impossible to remove the wheels as the nuts are so rusty.

Grahame Bacon



Vintage Tractor Charity Road Run Sunday 7th April 2024

Leaving from
Walpole Highway
10.30am Start

The Road Run will begin at
Cedar Lodge, Walpole Highway,
Wisbech, Cambs, PE14 7QT.



For Entry and Sponsorship Forms
Contact either;
David Askew 01945 430481
Gordon Carson 01945 880091

Or download the form on our
Website: www.nvtec-ea.org.uk



All tractors must be sponsored to a
minimum level of £10.00.
Supreme Windows Ltd will donate a trophy
that will be awarded to the driver of the
tractor gaining the most sponsorship.



Saturday 4th - Mon 6th May 2024

Sat and Sun 10am-5pm Mon 10am-4pm



Stradsett Park Vintage Rally



3 Day Spectacular Supporting Local Charities



Join Us To Celebrate 50 Years of NVTEC-EA

2024 Theme: David Brown and all things Turner Yeoman of England
With a special stationary engine theme: Ruston & Hornsby and anything with an open crank

Ring Displays - Club Stands - Steam Engines - Classic Vehicles
Fairground - Mini Tractor Pulling - Trade Stands - Catering
Indoor Craft Tent - Ex Military - Beer Tent with Live Entertainment

Adults £10.00 Under 16s Free Dogs Welcome

Prebook your tickets on: www.nvtec-ea.org.uk

Pre-Booked Exhibits Only

Where The A134 Crosses The A1122
East Of Downham Market, PE33 9HA



Woolpit Steam 2023

Woolpit steam rally is held each year over the first weekend in June, I am not sure who they pray to, but I would like to know the weather over the weekend was just stunning dry, hot and sunny.

I am no better than all other exhibitors as with their entry form, I did not read it right. I read it as saying 'June is traditionally hay making time so this year the committee have decided to stage a display of hay mowing machinery. If you have an appropriate mower for your tractor, be it trailed, mid mounted or rear mounted then please let us know'. The bit I read was hay making so I took along the Massey Harris Challenger twin power row crop. This tractor registration number 367-YUD and serial number 134771, it



Dickie No 701 Model H Swath Turner and Hay Collector purchased in January this year and restored between Stradsett and Carrington. The two together made a very nice outfit, not exactly what Woolpit was after but still looked good.



was built in Canada in 1938 and was part of the Peter Bourne collection until 2009 when the collection was sold. At the auction, we came home with the 1937 Challenger finished in the green but a couple of years later this came back up for sale in Bedford way.



We travelled down to have a look and the man could not start it so had to sadly sell it. We give it a try and it started on the 3rd pull as it very often does today if I do it all right. It had to come home and be with the green one to make a superb pair. On the back was our 1940s Massey Harris

Parked next to me was a Massey Ferguson 35 built in 1959 fitted with a mounted Massey Harris Dickie Hay Turner, this has a single centre drive wheel, and I could not make out if it was built like that or made to fit.

The tractors and trailed implements were positioned on the grass on the way into the ring, very nice spot however trying to park a MH Challenger for the first time on a hill, hand clutch, dodgy brakes and having to reverse into the space was a bit embarrassing. The clutch on the Challenger is forward to go so trying to turn around work the clutch, brakes and steer at the same time on a hill was interesting.

Alan Sale brought along his very nice 1924 Fordson Model F Crawler running and driving well. Ashley and Peter Kidd were parking up two more good looking Fordsons both with trailed single furrow plough. Neville Websdale was happily parading on his David brown DB4 built in 1942.

Woolpit steam does seem to have a good display of old steel wheeled tractors each year and this year did not disappoint. I did feel a bit odd not parading in the pre-1930 display but it gave me the opportunity to take some good photos.



Cont...



You don't see many IHC Mogul tractors let alone 3 in a line. Firstly, Gerald Seeley one of the rally organisers with a 1916 Mogul 12-25, then Gerald's brother on a Mogul 1919 10-20 followed by Ashley Boyle on his 1916 Mogul 8-16, what a stunning line up you may have to wait a few years if ever to see a line up like this again.

Mr Hammond was following up on his very nice 1919 THC Junior 8-16 looking good still. Barry Ayres was driving his 1919 10-20 Titan, no paint but running beautifully. I felt for



the West's when I saw all the dust on their tractors. They are going to take some cleaning; we never had that problem at Stradsett this year. Something else you don't see often was the ten tonne Caterpillar Holt, straight petrol it must have cost £20 to go around the ring but what a machine. In 2025, it is 100 years of Caterpillar so the theme for the 2025 Stradsett Rally will of course be Caterpillar.

Ricky Kemp won best engine with his 1925 Crossley PH060 3 1/4 HP so well done. I am not sure how you judge a line of engines looking like that there were many superb displays.



This show like Stradsett is run by people who have a huge interest in vintage machinery, so they understand what it takes to put on a really good show and seem to do just that year after year.

We thank all involved for their work and dedication as we all must remember without people like them, we would have nowhere to take our vintage machinery.

Thank you all.

Gordon Carson
NVTEC-EA

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Hello Everyone

Hope you are all keeping well and have all enjoyed the rally season. Seems unbelievable we are approaching the end of the year already, which means your membership for 2023 will be expiring at the end of December and will need renewing for 2024.

The membership renewal form for 2024 is enclosed. As you will see, we are now accepting BACS payments and details for bank transfer are clearly printed on the form. This is now our preferred payment option but of course we will still be accepting cheques/cash. I will also be present at the December and January winter meetings at Ryston Park Golf Club, where I will also be able to take card payments. Whichever payment method you choose, I will still need your completed renewal form and a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (unless renewing on the night at the winter meeting). I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support throughout 2023; we end this year with over 580 members, gaining more than 40 members this year alone. Please do remember our NVTEC-EA Facebook page; lots of pictures/stories are shared along with important club news/events, so do feel free to join.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope it's a very enjoyable one and look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Claire (Membership Secretary)



Alexander D
8th December
&
Holly K
21st December

Ladies' Tractor Road Run

This annual event is held in south Norfolk on the first Sunday in July, next year it will be Sunday 7th July. We have ladies of all ages and from all walks of life, many local and many from the surrounding counties, even some from Hampshire and Dorset. It is a challenge to first find a tractor, learn to drive it competently and confidently on the road and raise sponsorship for Cancer Research UK for breast cancer research.

It is a 20 mile route starting from Thorpe Abbots, crossing into Suffolk over the river Waveney at Syleham, returning to South Norfolk at Shotford Bridge to take in our local town of Harleston which is usually lined with hundreds of well wishers giving huge support to the ladies. We have a two hour picnic lunch break in the picturesque meadow at Gawdy Hall and return to Thorpe Abbots via some off road tracks and various villages on the way.

Every year we fear the magic will evaporate but every year it returns, this year stronger than ever. It was a very special year. Not only were we celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Run, (started in 2004, sadly missing 2020 because of the pandemic)



but facing the challenge of raising £104,000 to bring our overall total to £1million. That certainly gave it some momentum! We had an amazing 200 pink ladies on 195 very pink decorated tractors! Unprecedented! With some contributions from other sources, these ladies raised just over £200,000 taking the overall figure to well over the £1million. The seemingly impossible dream was realised.



Annie Chapman BEM, who organises and has led the Run from the beginning, puts the success of the event down to the choice of charity and a huge back up team of people who make it happen. Breast cancer is so prevalent now and everyone knows someone who has been touched by it. This year Annie, with the help of many others, has compiled a book called "The Pink Ladies", telling the story of the Ladies' Tractor Road Run from its early beginnings and contains many wonderful stories from

participants, marshals, sponsors and many others. There are some sad stories, inspirational ones, humorous ones and some telling their breast cancer story. A truly remarkable book. It costs £10 and all the proceeds from this book go to Cancer Research UK to support the cause. It is available from |Robinsons Stationers and Lawrences Garage in Harleston, Copydiss in Diss and online from The Great British Book Shop or direct from Annie, contact details on the website. Please do visit the website and the facebook page where there are very many photographs!

Annie Chapman
www.ladiesttractorroadrun.co.uk

Pictures courtesy of Jono Slack





In September of this year the Kings Lynn Polio Group to which 2 generous donations have been made from our Club took to the waters on the Ladybird boat setting off from Hartford Marina and a very relaxing 2 hour trip ensued along the Great Ouse for several members of this Group. The weather was perfect so all could experience being "out on deck" and lapping up the sunshine and enjoying the scenery and plenty of chit chat.

The staff co-operated in every way they could, helping the group members to embark and disembark. After we came "ashore" we then enjoyed a lovely lunch at the adjacent facilities.

Earlier in the year a visit was planned for the Horse Racing Museum at Newmarket. Again a perfect summer's day and all who attended enjoyed all that was on offer, not just the Museum but a demonstration by a member of staff putting an ex-racehorse through its paces and another pleasant lunch in the "Tack Room".

These visits are planned so that all members have no problems with accessibility issues and the Club's donations have helped the Group to be able to meet up regularly so that they can talk things

through with each other and to discuss any predicaments they may encounter as well as to enjoy the visits arranged by the Club Secretary.

After missing the last Chairman's Chat due to unforeseen circumstances I would like to congratulate all who organised the Working Weekend. Again another good turnout which enabled them to raise significant funds for the Moth in a China Shop charity.

A few weeks ago Jean and myself, on behalf of the Club, attended the Stradsett Harvest Festival service, at the kind invitation of Sir Jeremy Bagge and family.

We have now got into the winter meeting programme organised by Tom Venni and Frank Fowler and am looking forward to meeting you all at Newark.

Henry Howlett

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DIARY DATES

Club Meeting at Ryston Park Golf Club - Social Evening

Thursday December 21st 2023
Christmas Party and Secret Santa.

Club Meeting at Ryston Park Golf Club

Talk from lord muck. YouTube personality on what he does. Himself and how it all works
Thursday 18th January 2024

Club Meeting at Ryston Park Golf Club

Thursday 15th February 2024

Club Meeting at Ryston Park Golf Club

Thursday 21st March 2024

Tractor World at Malvern

Please contact Gordon Carson if you wish to attend as part of the members club stand.
Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th 2024

Charity Road Run - Walpole Highway

Leaving from Fence Bank, Walpole Highway as usual.
Please contact Gordon for an entry form.
Sunday 7th April 2024

Stradsett Park Vintage Rally

3 Day Special in celebration of 50 years of NVTEC-EA
Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 5pm & Monday
10am - 4pm
Saturday 4th - Monday 6th May 2024

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue.

Please, please send me your stories, we would love to hear about them, big or small articles will be greatly received, send to: truereflections77@yahoo.co.uk

Many Thanks Jane Loveday (deadline for next issue 1st Feb)

How Tracks Charity Ploughing Began!



Local ploughing matches didn't want crawlers. The reason was crushing the stubble more than a wheel tractor, giving an advantage. So one day at a small show chatting to a friend and farmer the late Tony Douglas asked, why wasn't I using the crawler at the match.

So he offered me land to use only for crawlers and steel wheels, so the seed was sown, Tracks was born November 2006, the first with plots and raised about £500 for the big C. After that, we began to plough whole fields, then I began purchasing ploughs to try and make the ploughed work, match up better.

We were at Foulsham area for about seven years by then we moved the date to the second Sunday in October. Yes we've had some good weather and extremely bad. One Saturday night / Sunday morning we had 28 mil of rain, then the major problem began, towing lorries in and where to park the public as it was like a swamp, but we carried on. We've had Treasure Quest Radio Norfolk visit three times which helped get the public in.

We then lost land in Foulsham area due to changes in farming and loss of land owners. So we asked about and ended up on Bidewells land at North Elmham through contractors Seaman's farms. Moving to Elmham helped greatly as we didn't have so far travel carrying crawlers and ploughs, which takes about two days of loading.

In 2019 we then moved to Andrew Hill's land at Harpers Green Horningtoft, well it rained and rained but not deterred, on heavy land, 7 o'clock the burger van arrives, couldn't get them in the field so parked him at the entrance of the gas Works, we had to unload on the lane and make a bridge over a ditch to get public in so we were extremely busy. Although the field was like a bog we had a good day, but with public leaving and lorries loading in the lane, it became very challenging (but it had stopped

raining). Monday we had to lift ploughs out of the field with teleporter tynes and booms to drag them out. The field was finished the following March, because of lockdown my mate Richard couldn't help, so I subsoiled the headland with my Roadless 65 and TSF 200 4 furrow plough.

2020 - like many events we cancelled, but for our mental health, I was offered land not local, so had six people each day we ploughed 2 fields and the farmer drilled behind us. No spectators but was good to get out.

Then 2021 Andrew Hill's family once again gave us land, light rain but got out later, we had a cracking day. Loads of machines arrived and public, we raised £3460.00 the best yet! Up to now we have raised over £26,000 for Big C.

2022 - There was a good turn out once again, a very good response from the public raising over £4068.00.

2023 - Well well, fairly good grand turn out of machines. I supplied 10 to 15 crawlers and ploughs. Ransome, Duo Tracks all basically scrap but worked on them to use.

I purchased an international TD 18 bulldozer and towing 2, 4 furrow ploughs, making a towbar from a picture from Ransome.

The public came in droves and so very generous and drivers with machines came from Ely, Wisbech, Methwold, Stevenage and closer to home to give an excellent display of ploughing the whole field. We raised a staggering £5022.00 this year.

Why do we always raise for the Big C at NNUH. Well we have lost many family and friends to this terrible disease as have many of you. We have to date raised over £35,000 to which they're extremely grateful.

We don't do this alone, we have an excellent team who help grease up 27 ploughs and diesels up crawlers etc, also a good team for the giant raffle (128 prizes this year) and a tombola. We don't charge anyone to plough or come to visit. This money raised is purely generosity from everybody attending and sending donations.

We thank you all, next years date is **13th October 2024**

Neville & Sally Websdale

