



VINTAGE TORQUE

September
2009

Tractor Road Run

Peter Thorpe leading the start of the Road Run with his Fordson Power Major. *centre pages*



Stradsett Garden Show

Part of our club's static display at the Stradsett Garden Show. *Page 3*

Downham Carnival Parade

Julie Webb driving her Dexter in the Downham Market Carnival Parade. *Page 2*



'Pink Lady' Road Run

Chris Hunt in her 'Pink Lady' outfit at the Tractor Road Run. *Page 6*



Sandringham Gardens

Admiring the Norwich Gates during the Guided Tour. *Page 4*



A Restoration Project

of a Little Grey Fergie for someone:
IS THAT YOU?
see page 3



NVTEC EA Group Members Having Fun at Downham Market Carnival



Thirteen of us assembled with vintage tractors and cars at Heygates Mill at 12.30pm. As you can see from the photo, team tactics were discussed before we set off. The assembly of 'Vintage Through the Years' was led by Peter on a Fordson Power Major.

The arrival of a fire engine with sirens sounding and lights flashing, making its way to the town via Heygates Mill shortly before our departure caused quite a stir and a temporary hold up, but the parade soon got underway led by the rousing music of the Peterborough Pipers. It was good to have such an enthusiastic reception from the crowds waiting to greet us along the route which finished at the Howdale where the judging took place.

Everyone had a very enjoyable time, all down to great entertainment, fine weather and the winning of the trophy for the

'Best Presented Club.'

David Askew

Congratulations



Peter Thorpe: Fordson Major, followed by David Mycock: Allis Chalmers, Gavin Chapman: Fordson E27N, David Askew: Fordson E27N. Below, Tom Venie: David Brown 1200, Keith Gore: Massey Fergusson 65, Graham Bliss: Dexter, Cliff Armsby: John Deere 6930



Having been successful on the rally field with his restored Fordson tractor, **Stuart Bailey** has now completed a restoration of a 1942 Ruston Hornsby 6PB and I asked him to tell us about it. He writes: 'This engine was originally supplied to George Brown Ltd of Leighton Buzzard. The standard Ruston colour is dark green but during WW2 this paint became unobtainable. They then used up old Hornsby maroon paint and when this ran out later in 1942 they had to use War Office Battleship Grey. Many years later the engine was



given to the Pitstone Green Farm Museum, Bucks. In July 2000 the museum declared it to be surplus and I purchased it in a rusty and partly dismantled condition, with an incorrect fuel tank and exhaust. I restored it during 2008/9. It's first outing was at Stradsett Hall Garden Show.'

Stuart

Before restoration.....



.....and after, running smoothly at Stradsett Hall Garden Show

S.O.S. For a Grey Fergie and a Boy's Dream

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The other day I heard a heart wrenching story about a 9 year old boy, Samuel, who's grandfather was diagnosed with a brain tumour last summer and subsequently passed away at the beginning of December.

Samuel's dream is to restore the tractor, a 1956 Ferguson, that his grandfather used on his smallholding for harrowing, muckspreading and haymaking. The tractor and implements are in varying degrees of deterioration and as the family, (who contacted me via our web-site,) really know very little about tractors, they need help. Can you help? The first question is, has the demise of the tractor gone too far for a possible restoration? They need someone who can assess the situation. The tractor was last started 2 years ago and is currently housed undercover in an open fronted shed near Colchester, Essex.



Jackie with her late father and her 2 boys, James 11 and 9 year old Samuel .



There is a muck spreader with it, a fertiliser spreader and, somewhere in the long grass, a mower. Samuel's mother writes:

'We would dearly love to help Samuel fulfil his dream. Could any of your club members living in the Colchester area help us out? Initially with telling us if the tractor is worth restoring, then pointing us in the right direction, possibly selling it reasonably locally. It would make a fantastic restoration project as, in it's day, it was a great runner. The only catch is that Samuel would be able to visit occasionally to see how things are going and to possibly watch a few bits being done. Ultimately, if the restoration goes to plan, he would love to see it working and maybe have a ride on it too.

Please, if you can help us in any way, contact me via my email address or through Viv, by telephone. I thank you in anticipation. Jackie Pearson '

Contact details:

email: jackie_pearson@ntlworld.com

Or Telephone Viv on 01553617653



Stradsett Garden Show

July 4th and 5th saw the opening of the Stradsett Hall Garden Show weekend, hosted by Sir Jeremy and Lady Bagge. This is a first for Stradsett and was organised to raise money for local charities. As an added attraction the NVTEC EA Group were invited to put on a display. The response to this was overwhelming and well supported with by-gones, tractors, engines, cars, steam engines and a thrashing set.



I would like to thank everyone that took part and made it an enjoyable weekend. I have also been asked by Sir Jeremy to thank the club for their support in helping to raise in the region of £40,000 for local charities.

Peter Thorpe



**Tiny Toraktor
owned by
A. Hall**

Keith Gore's 'new baby' 1935 Morris 8



MIDSUMMER VINTAGE TRACTOR CHARITY ROAD RUN 2009

Sunday 21st June saw 22 entrants, supported by other members and friends, gather at Beachamwell for the NVTEC East Anglia Group's 5th annual sponsored vintage tractor road-run from this venue. The philosophy of the run is quite simple. The entrants get to trundle their tractors round pretty countryside and a very worthwhile charity gains a few quid. Each tractor must be sponsored to a minimum of £10.00 with the driver of the one gaining the most sponsorship winning a trophy sponsored by Frontier Agriculture Ltd.

We set off at 10.30 travelling off road through Shingham to Gooderstone and Foulton and returning to Beachamwell for lunch. We lost one companion on this leg when a puncture turned into a cracked radiator!

Our afternoon run went towards Oxborough, cut back cross-country before reaching Eastmoor. From here we again went "off road"

down into Boughton Fen returning via Barton Bendish to Beachamwell.

The competition for the trophy was close with £25.00 separating the top three. David Askew just edged it with £260.00, closely followed by David Bales and Ray Armsby. Overall we raised £1616.00 for the Air Ambulance.

We would like to express our thanks to Beachamwell both for the support and welcome we received and tolerating the intrusion into their pretty village. Thanks are also due Richard Bailey of Albanwise and John Rix for allowing us access to their farms. Both drivers and supporters were grateful for the staff at the Great Dane keeping them refuelled.

Finally I must thank the entrants for their efforts in fundraising and support in making it a pleasure to organise. Andrew Hunt



See opposite page

SANDRINGHAM GARDENS GUIDED TOUR.

On 3rd June, 23 members met at Sandringham Visitor Centre, where Martin Wood, head gardener at Sandringham, joined us. He took us on a guided tour around the gardens, which cover 63 acres and are now managed by a team of 7 gardeners, compared to before the war, when over 100 gardeners were employed.

We set off through the woodland garden, which is full of beautiful trees, such as Japanese Acers and Giant Red Woods, as well as our native species, Camellias, Rhododendrons, and many other plants

that gave a heavenly scent in the evening sunshine.

The Norwich Gates were made for the Great Exhibition, and were then bought for the Royal family by the people of Norfolk.

We also visited the North Garden which features an avenue of lime trees, and an informal garden with box hedging which was built for the King to look at from his bedroom window, and contains a gold Buddha which is eight hundred years old. It is thought to be lucky to rub the belly of the Buddha, and his belly is very worn through much rubbing through the years! The lakes looked beautiful, as did the cavern and summer house built for Queen Alexandra by a devoted employee.

Next to the lake is an oak tree which is estimated to be over 825 years old and is thought to be the oldest tree in the park.



The gardens continue to evolve, and there are many new areas being developed such as a mini maze and the blue garden beside the house.

Everyone commented on the beauty of the gardens, and enjoyed the experience of having all of the gardens to ourselves.

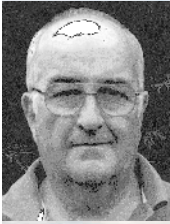
We would like to thank Martin for his time and effort in making our visit to Sandringham such an interesting and enjoyable event.

Shane Martins



Based at Beachamwell and Supporting the East Anglian Air Ambulance

Organised by Andrew Hunt



If you would like a copy of the above montage please contact Andrew Hunt. Other pictures of the tractors setting off from Beachamwell are also available from Viv Gray.

THE 'PINK LADIES' TRACTOR ROAD RUN 2009

Having organised five Ladies' Road Runs the only surprises that Annie and I were expecting from number 6 were the unpleasant ones. Quite apart from the tricks our summer weather can play, there are always a hundred and one things that can go wrong. The trouble is you only anticipate 99 of them! But on the 5th July this year the surprises were all pleasant ones. The sun shone down, 96 ladies had gone to great lengths to dress outrageously in pink: normally if you thought you'd just seen a lady in a pink tutu driving a tractor sporting a huge pair of pink boobs you'd fear that the Saturday night hangover was far worse than you had suspected. But Thorpe Abbots airfield was the place to see such sights, tractors and ladies alike adorned with all sorts of pink paraphernalia.

Within a few minutes of starting the run we came upon families in their front gardens cheering and waving the ladies on. This was to be the story for the whole of the run, but nothing could have prepared any of us for the welcome Harleston had in store. There were hundreds of people lining the route through the town, waving, cheering, applauding the pink ladies - lots of smiles, laughter and not a dry eye in the house! Hundreds more came to our picnic at Gawdy Hall.

It's hard to take a good photo of 93 tractors parked side by side in a single line, but as we enjoyed our lunch stop we were treated to a fly-over by a WW II Mustang and two light aircraft, one of which had a camera on board. We will treasure the aerial photograph which brilliantly captures the whole colourful scene.

This whole event started when Annie and I decided to do something using the tractors that we tend to look upon as part of the family (the true enthusiasts will understand!) If it weren't for the incredible help and generosity of so many tractor owners this unique event simply would not happen. Would you lend your pride and joy to someone you've never met before and who has never sat on a tractor seat? Many do, and help with tuition, fuel and transport, as well as marshalling the event on the day. From Marg, driving a little BMC Mini to Wendy driving a very large John Deere 6930S, the unique combination of the ladies and their tractors has sparked an extraordinary public affection and generosity which seems to grow each year.

And finally; Annie has already started her list of ladies for next year!

John Chapman

They say one creates ones luck, if so then we have been quite creative, because it appears that yet once again, in a year when the weather has not lived up to ideal summer expectations all our outdoor events ie Rally, Carnival, Road Run Open Gardens and Holkham have turned out to be excellent events that have been well supported by you all. The watching of ones pennies appears to be causing more people to look closer to home for their entertainment and amusement. This was very evident at Stradsett Rally as the crowds poured in, and has once again proved to be a successful date using May Bank Holiday weekend.

By the time you read this quarterly magazine we will be drawing to the close of another summer and thinking about the long dark nights of winter, but don't forget your programme



secretary, Shane, has been busy on your behalf. A full programme of meetings start on October 15th at Ryston Golf Club, going through to March next year. *See back page for details.* This will quickly pass the time and is also an ideal time to bring along a friend and introduce them to our club. *Peter*

Membership Matters and More: Chris Hunt

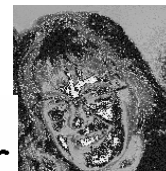
Hi to Everyone,

We have had the Stradsett Rally and the Road Run, both of which were a great success. To anyone who was not able to come, you really did miss 2 great events. A few weeks later I was given the privilege of being one of the 'Pink Ladies'. This is a tractor road run that Annie and John Chapman hold in and around Thorpe Abbots and the surrounding villages in aid of Breast Cancer Care. Every lady wore whatever they could find in pink, *see front page*, and every tractor was decorated with everything from flowers and ribbons to pictures and balloons. You name it, we found a space for it! The one thing I found I was not at all ready for was the emotion that was involved. I still find days later that lump in my throat when I think about all that went on. Thanks Annie and John for all that you do.

So now men, the ladies have taken up the Breast Cancer Care challenge. How about you doing something for Prostate Cancer!

This year we have managed to retain the same number of members as last year which is a real achievement. This does not happen very often so thank you for all the help I have been given. Let's keep trying to maintain the same numbers or even increase them. We still need more young members so please try to get them involved. You will find there will be some changes in the membership but at this moment in time I am not sure what they will be. National will inform me later.

Chris



The 7th Newark Vintage Tractor and Heritage Show 7-8 November 2009

The Newark Vintage & Heritage Show has become "The End of Season" show to attend for exhibitors, traders and visitors. Part of the show is staged in an extensive suite of heated halls. It is an aim of the organising committee to attract the very best vintage tractors and other exhibits that have been shown throughout the UK. It is planned that the East Anglia Group will enter a club exhibit. Subject to local committee agreement, any application for nomination will be forwarded to the organising committee. Should your exhibit be nominated by your local club it will be displayed in the prestigious George Stephenson Exhibition Hall. However, if you prefer to enter as an individual please state that you are a member of the East Anglia NVTEC Group.

Open or Nominated Entry Forms are available from me, Ted Gray, the secretary (01553 617653)

Club Clothing will be on sale at the AGM

Short Sleeve Polos are in stock: £11
Baseball Caps, £5.70



Sweat Shirts, limited stock at £15
Short Sleeve poplin shirts, limited stock at £15
Jackets need to be ordered especially
Telephone Viv 01553 617653 to place your order and arrange delivery and to enquire about other possibilities for club clothing.

Notification of the Annual General Meeting Of the National Vintage Tractor and Engine Club East Anglia Group

It will take place on Thursday November 19th 2009
7.30pm at Ryston Park Golf Club

Proposed Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on November 15th 2008
3. Matters arising from the minutes of AGM 2008
4. Chairman's Report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's report:
Committee proposal to increase our group membership fees for all categories by £1.00 over current National fees. *(Please see explanatory note from our treasurer in next column.)*
7. Membership Secretary's Report
8. Election of Officers and Committee

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Chair | Vice Chair |
| Secretary | Treasurer |
| Membership Secretary | Meetings Secretary |
| Safety Officer | Newsletter Editor |
| Rally Organiser | Committee Members |

Please send in written nominations for any of these positions, signed by the person being nominated and one proposer, to the Secretary, Ted Gray at Laurel Bank, School Road, St. Germans, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3DR. Please also notify the secretary, in writing, of any other items you wish to be included in the Agenda. Nominations and Agenda items to be received no later than November 1st 2009



Candid Cameraman Malcolm Bush has been active again this time with a picture of Mr H. Everitt's 1950 Normag Zorgegm single cylinder 15 hp. It was found in a scrap yard and hasn't he done a good job on it!

Do you have a story to tell about your restoration of a tractor or engine or do you know someone who has just undertaken a big restoration? You don't need to have been a winner, just willing to share your experience with others, so please contact me, my details are on the back page. I look forward to hearing from you. Finally, I have run out of space again so if I haven't included your rally report, don't worry, it will be in the December issue. Once again, many thanks for all the contributions, keep them coming please. Viv

Re Committee proposal to increase group membership fees.

Let's start with a refresher of what happens to your membership fee after you have paid it to Chris.

She banks it and then pays a levy to National to cover the costs of your Vaporising and public liability insurance cover. Using the "Full" membership category as an example we are left with £4.00 per member to run our group after paying this levy. I have been involved with our group's finances for 15 years and this figure has not changed over this period. We have during that time, with prudent management, succeeded in operating our group within the income from membership fees..

In recent times we have seen significant increases in operating costs especially postage. It now costs 30% of your £4.00 to post you Vintage Torque each year. The rest of the fee goes towards printing 4 copies of Vintage Torque, 6 winter meetings, the working weekend and road run. It also has to cover membership promotion and general administration.

We now need to increase our income if we are to avoid going into a loss making situation or reducing the quality of service we provide to you.

It is with this background and after much number crunching, discussion and heart searching that the committee make the recommendation to increase the fees by £1.00.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss this please do give me a ring. (Ideally in the evening before 9.00pm and on the landline).

Andrew Hunt Treasurer NVTEC E A Group

01366 388907 07802 969822

* stradsett@nvtec-ea.org.uk

DIARY DATES:

Skylark: 5th & 6th September

Club Working Weekend: 5th & 6th September

Sandringham: 12th & 13th September

Southery Ploughing Match: 19th & 20th September

Haddenham: 12th & 13th September

Rougham Ploughs to Propellers 3rd & 4th October

EAST ANGLIA GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008/9

Mr. Peter Thorpe: Chairman

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Mr Ted Gray: Secretary

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Mr Malcolm Mycock: Working Weekend Organiser
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Mr Chris Martins 01485 542034

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For more Vintage News and Views
go to our web-site:

www.nvtec-ea.org.uk

Please let me have articles, tales of restorations, reports of rallies, items for sale, your comments and any other news by Thursday November 12th 2009 in time for the December Newsletter. Thank you to all those people who have contributed towards this issue. Viv

C L U B E V E N T S

Winter Meetings: Hello Everyone, My name is Shane Martins and I am the new Winter Meetings Co-ordinator for our club. I have arranged for five speakers to come along this winter to give us presentations that I hope you will all find enjoyable and informative. I would, however, like to ask for your help for the future. If you have any special topics that you would like to hear about, or if you know of anyone who gives presentations such as we have, please contact me on 01485 542034 or speak to me at the meetings and let me have their details so we can make sure the evenings are covering the topics that you want to know about. The meetings are held at Ryston Park Golf Club along the A10 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.



Members and guests are very welcome.

October 15th: David Grimes: The 1981
Longleat OneThousand Engine Rally
November 19th: AGM and
Charity Presentation
December 17th: Lt Cdr Peter Harvey RNR:
Wisbech Port

January 21st: Andrew Ingram:
Wisbech 1902—2000
February 18th: Colin Holwell:
David Brown Tractors
March 18th: David Grimes: Basket
Full of Memories

STRADSETT WORKING WEEKEND

5th & 6th September at Oak Farm, Stradsett

Entry forms available from Malcolm Mycock, telephone 01366 500250

This is a good opportunity to see working tractors, gain experience, obtain help and have a good time. A charitable donation will be collected at the venue and this will be presented at the A.G.M. in November.