



Stradsett Park Vintage Rally 2015

Another Great Show!

The 39th Stradsett Park Vintage Rally, Well What A Show!

2015 was the 39th Stradsett Park Vintage Rally and probably the best yet! I'm not just referring to what we have done as a committee but to all the exhibitors, trade stands, entertainment and all the 'Friends of Stradsett.' After a long dry spell unfortunately at around 6am on Sunday the rain started to fall and only got worse as the morning progressed. This caused havoc with the field and the car parks but I must praise the traders and exhibitors who, despite the heavy rain, kept in good spirit. They all arrived, set up and opened for business so thanks to all of you. On the other hand I was gutted; not for me, but for all the Committee members, exhibitors and traders who spend time and money preparing their fine exhibits with some travelling hundreds of miles just to display them at our show. The weather then improved around lunch time and we had quite a good afternoon all considering. However, despite this we were about 2,200 visitors down on last year for the Sunday. On Sunday evening we again had a hog roast at the beer tent with live entertainment from Perfect Vintage who kept us entertained until after 10pm. I think a good evening was had by all so thanks for all the support.

Then came Monday with the birds singing from around 4am and the sun was soon beaming across the rally field. We started at 6am and it was great. When you are on a rally field and its pouring with rain there aren't many places worse. However, when the sun is shining and the smell of bacon is in the air there is no better place to be. The public responded and came from far and wide which meant we simply couldn't get them in the gate and off the road quick enough. The car parks were bursting at the seams with Pauline Petch and her 42 Air Cadets working their socks off trying to park all the visitors. Myself, Mathew Hoy, Michel Curtis and Jim Wakefield were directing traffic from about 10.30am 'til 3.00pm which meant we missed most of the show, so apologies to them and thanks for your kind help and support. There were three occasions where we had to close the gate and make that difficult decision to turn people away for which I must give my sincere apologies. It takes me and my team a year of hard work to put this show on so the last thing we want to do is not let people in. We even had to turn away families of our head stewards so please accept my apologies on behalf of the NVTEC-EA. All in all we turned away roughly 200 cars but then as the cars were coming out we could then fill the spaces and by about 3.00pm we were finally on top of things but of course by that time we had missed the best part of the show ourselves. It was amazing to see everyone there and as they say in the 'Field of Dreams': "If you build it, they will come". That's exactly what they did from all over to support us and of course our main charity, The East Anglian Air Ambulance, who sadly lost out on the cancellation of our 2012 rally due to bad weather.

Thank you to all who came and queued up to get in and see what I think was a superb vintage display including pre-1950's tractors, post-1950's tractors, classic cars, commercials, motorcycles, stationary engines, ex-military vehicles, heavy horses, full size and miniature steam engines, bygones, endless trade stalls, fairground rides, vintage caravans, kickboxing displays, catering, bar and live entertainment on both days in the marquee and all still for only £5.00 per adult and children under 16 free - it is truly amazing.

We must thank Sir Jeremy and Lady Bagge and Alfred Bagge for the use of their superb surroundings. Finally, a huge thank you to all of our sponsors, 'Friends of Stradsett', committee members and their families for all the time they give to the show. I must also thank Malcolm Bush who was a fantastic help on Monday 20th. He borrowed Peter Caley's tractor to harrow and roll all the field and car parks, leaving home at 8am and not returning until 7pm. The support and dedication from everyone is amazing.

The 2016 Rally will be our 40th anniversary and will again be held at Stradsett Park Estate on Sunday 1st & Monday 2nd May - don't miss it.

THANK YOU ALL Gordon Carson



Trade, exhibitors and public, everyone agreed, 'It's the friendly rally'



Congratulations to the Stationary Engine Trophy Winners



Top left: 13 year old Michael Prior won the NVTEC-EA Trophy for Best Junior Engine with his 1946 Lister D. Stradsett was his 2nd rally. Top right: Aaron Smith won the Norfolk Cup with his 1928 Fairbanks Morse



above: Mr R. Richardson won the Thompson Trophy with his 1926 Bradford King of All

left: Peter Martin won Best Powered Use of a Stationary Engine with his 1940 Stuart P4



left: Mr D. Cook won the Jack Beeken Cup for his 1929 Ruston Hornsby OK 3.5hp that he bought last year. It was running a 1900's Ram pump that he bought 5/6 years ago.



Richard Winter is shown with his 1914 Lister N No 11046 petrol, Appletop. Believed to be the only one in the country he acquired it after a phone call from Canada offered to do a straight swap with his twin diesel Lister. After paying £420 to ship it he had some work to do including having the head welded, rebored and making a trolley.

Right: Owned by Matt Reading this 1943 6.5hp Lister LHM made its rally debut this year at Stradsett. The engine was purchased in 2014 after 40 years of storage in North Yorkshire. It was supposed to be hopper cooled but had been converted at some point to being tank cooled. Matt, together with Scott and Simon made a steel trolley and converted the engine to being screen cooled with the addition of a Stuart Turner pump. It was shown driving a R. Hunt No 2 combined crushing and driving mill that came from a farm in Mayland on Sea, Essex. It had been stored outside due to the farm changing from crops to cattle and was totally seized. It also had some frost damage. It was completely dismantled and overhauled in winter 2014/15 and made ready for flour making at Stradsett this year. Paintwork by Kirsty.



Engine Steward Clive Richardson assisted by his wife Julie and steward Chris once again organised an interesting display of over 127 Stationary engines.

More Engines



Above: Young Oliver Stone shown with his 1945 Bamford running a 1910 kibble. Below: stationary engine line



Above: Mr M. Thorpe's 1922 Little Jumbo model T 1.75hp. On the left: Not a winner but Kirk proudly displays his 1963 BSA that he's owned for a year.



Horticultural

Mr N. Emeny won 2 trophies with his Ransomes MG6, Best Used Machine and Best Restored. Much effort was made to support the 'Potato Harvesting Theme' so putting on an interesting display, static and in the ring.



F. Rudd with his 1968 Winget 550



Adrian Hall with his 1957 Barford Atom



Left: Junior Club member Harry Rayner with his 1971 Wheel Horse C81



Dave Buttris with his 2 Ransomes MG



Below centre; I. Thompson with a 1950 Ransomes MG5 below right: part of the Horticultural Working Area with the 'Potato Harvesting Theme'



It was 'stiff upper lip' weather as the rain heralded the start of the show on Sunday morning. A steady downpour meant we couldn't get started and there was a sense of gloom over the rally field. However, late morning, the wind picked up and chased the clouds away and we were 'off,' tarpaulins removed, awnings opened up, engines started, tractors chugged into life and, most importantly, the public drifted in. I decided to walk the site to get an overview and found there were smiles all around from the stewards, (what would we do without them?) and of course, the exhibitors who had gone to great lengths in their preparation to put on a great display with many taking our potato harvesting theme as their inspiration. They certainly did us proud with every section booked to capacity.



The Heavy horses put on a spectacular display, 2 grey Percherons, 9 year old Comberton Willie and 16 year old Withersfield Annie driven in tandem to a dray and David Hardiman's 20 year old Shire Riesgate Robbie in full show harness. Below, a Stewards Choice Bygone collection 'Shine a Light' shown by Diane Fuller consisting of mainly pressure lamps dating back to the 1920's when turning a light on wasn't merely a flick of a switch.



Junior Club member Freddie Withers in his 12 volt John Deere Gater, Junior Club member Silas Hannant with his display of implements, and Junior Club member Harvey Rutterford enjoying his 'Sit on a Tractor' invitation.



centre: the Information Marquee steward Andrew Bennett presented Junior Club member Sophie Hilton with her model tractor, supplied by Matthew Hoy. There was a continual flow of visitors to the marquee where photographs of past club activities were on show, club clothing and other merchandise could be purchased and new members were signed up..



Above right: the trophy display in the Information Marquee.
Right: Working Area with Peter Caley's Foster Threshing set with his Massey Harris loaded with logs as part of the log sawing demonstration with Mr Kirk's racksaw bench. Malcolm Mycock also had a Ferguson sawbench working.

Pictures by Andrew Bennett



Congratulations to the winners of: Classic Cars, Bygones, Steam & Motorcycles



Noel Page's elegant Ford A Tudor won Best Classic Car, Mr Venni's Burrell Traction Engine won Best Steam Engine, The Sir Jeremy & Lady Bagge Silver Salver for Best Bygone was won by M Baker with his collection of Meccano Models, Best Motorcycle was won by R. Giles with his Velocette L.E., and the Best Miniature Steam Engine was won by D. Etheridge



Below; View from the 'Cherry Picker' taken by Andrew Bennett showing part of the Commercial line.



The trophies, this year, were presented by Alfred Bagge with a little assistance from his daughter Tabitha. R. Richardson receiving the Thompson Trophy for the engine the judges would most like to own.



Dave Allen shown here with his 1910 7.5hp Hornsby Gas engine. It was shipped new to Australia for its working life, acquired for preservation 30 years ago and repatriated in 2004.



Congratulations to the Tractor Winners

This year's rally was bigger than ever and took some organising with over 230 tractors and 35 horticultural machines stewarded by Reg Fletcher, 30 Bygone exhibits and a collection of vintage caravans with cars stewarded by Ted Gray, 127 stationary engines stewarded by Clive Richardson, 114 classic cars, 31 commercials and 51 motorcycles stewarded by Judy Webb and Ian Long and 5 Steam engines including 6 miniature steam engines stewarded by Matthew Hoy. Peter Caley was there working his Massey Harris & Foster Threshing Set, also Neil Ayres with his Allis Chalmers & Stone Crusher. Various methods showing how potato harvesting was carried out were depicted in an enclosed working area and larger machines took part in the ring display with a huge Dewulf 2 Row Harvester, expertly manouvered into the ring by Reg Fletcher as part of the Grand Finale. Monday dawned bright and clear and with the sun shining for the Bank Holiday, the crowds turned up in their thousands so that every parking space was utilised and still more people queued way back along the road to enter. The ring display with expert commentary by Michael Hart and Colin Hollwell gave an insight into the various vintage exhibits. Also for the heavy horses, the dry weather on Monday meant that Jo and her father Charlie Ollet were able to drive their 2 grey horses in tandem to a dray, David Hardingham was able to present Robbie in full show harness with brasses that take 12 hours to clean, and Derek drove Herbie in a carriage, putting on a bit of speed around the ring. A magnificent display.

There certainly was something of interest for everyone with a good selection of trade stands, fun rides for children, kick boxing demonstrations, archery and Ex-Military vehicles and a variety of food outlets. Once again...What a show! Well done Gordon! Viv



David Bretton and his 1918 Fordson F tractor won Best Tractor 1900-1929.



Best Exhibit on Site: J. Brown's 1964 Country Super 6



J. Harrison won Best Restored International Tractor with his 1959 B450



M. Garnham's 1968 Nuffield 4/65 won NVTEC -EA Group 40th Commemorative Shield.

Below: Best Unrestored Fordson was won by J. Chapman's 1955 Fordson EIA bought 20 years ago for £140 and needed only a battery to get it going.



J. Harrison won Best Tractor 1930-1939 with his 1936 Allis Chalmers WC



S. Durant won the Hylton Gott Trophy with his 1942 Ford 2 N2N



Best Unrestored International was won by B Bowler's 1957 Farmall F235D below: Best Tractor Any make was won by N. Alderton's 1956 International B250



G. Gregory won the Grace Beba trophy for Best Steel Wheeled tractor with his 1921 Huba Super Fore



S. Garrod won Best Tractor 1940-49 with his 1946 Case DEX

A. Thorpe won Best John Deere any year with his 1947 AN



T. Short won Waldersey Farms Best Ferguson 1935 onwards with his 1969 Massey Ferguson 135



R. Grief won the Neville Shippe trophy for Best Crawler any make with his 1941 CAT D2



M. Giles won Best Restored Fordson with his 1949 E27N



A. Carpenter won the Peter Clarke Trophy for Best Concours Tractor with his 1969 International 523



M. Osborne won S.K.Rudd Memorial Trophy with his 1972 Ford 4000



M. Patman won Best Series 3 Field Marshall with his 1950 Field Marshall



J. Smith won John Deere Trophy for Best Restored J.D with his 1971 2120



...and more tractors

below left; looking the part, P. Goddard with his 1933 Farmall F20 centre: L. Parker's 1957 Ferguson FE34 below P. Dolman's 1965 Benetulliere Multiplex. Bottom left M.alcolm Bush's 1942 John Deere with Cutter driven by Thomas Williamson, centre A. Thorpe's 1947 John Deere AN



Neil Ayres' Stone Crusher powered by an Allis Chalmers and his Ford tractor and trailer with stone .

Potato Harvesting Theme



Waldersey Farms DeWulf 2 row Harvester expertly manouvered by tractor steward Reg Fletcher, P. Shipp's 1964 Claas Matador, Brian Cottrell with his 1976 Massey Ferguson 565 towing J. Wilson's Key Ag 1 Row Harvester, Keith Gore with his 1962 Massey Ferguson



Center: G. Chapman with his 1947 Ferguson TE20, below left: Darren and Alan Creasey with a 1946 Minneapolis Moline ZTU and Spinner, below right: Waldersey Farms 2014 John Deere 8RT



From early harvesting methods through to modern age methods, exhibitors brought their equipment to display, putting on an impressive Grand Finale in the ring.



G.Carson/B. Beba 1958 Ford Workmaster & Ridger driven by Matthew Hoy with assistants Jayne Carson and Alice Harpley, M. Buddle with his 1956 Ferguson 35 & potato spinner, Darren Tebbitt with his 1941 John Deere, Roger Thulbourne's 1953 Ferguson TE20 & Potato Planter especially made for the show, and what a marvellous display, organised by Reg Fletcher.

