



SEPTEMBER 2023

# VINTAGE TORQUE

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## PRESS RELEASE

### 50th Anniversary of the NVTEC-EA Group

David Brown and all things Turner Yeoman of England will be the main tractor and implement themes at our 2024 rally. The theme for the stationary engines will be Ruston Hornsby and anything with an open crank. This year's 3-day special at the Stradsett Park Vintage Rally is to be held over the May Bank Holiday Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th and Monday 6th May 2024. This one off 3-day special is to celebrate the National Vintage Tractor and Engine Club East Anglia Group's 50th Anniversary and 50 years since our first rally. On our club stand will be exhibits that attended the first rally in 1974. If you have or know of an exhibit or exhibitor that attended the first rally, please do get in touch. Lastly, we would also like a section where we can have all things built in 1974 i.e. tractors, cars, commercials, motorcycles; etc, so the public can see how things have changed over the past 50 years. This is to give you all time to get your lovely exhibits out and make sure they are ready, as it is now only months away. We are already excited to be planning this and hope you can all celebrate this milestone with us. We will still have a 2-day set up with exhibitors arriving from 9am on Thursday, 2nd May 2024. Entry forms are now available to download from our web site. Alternatively, they will go out in the December Vintage Torque and sent out to non-members early in the new year.

Gordon Carson - NVTEC-EA

### Holbeach Town & Country Fare

Norfolk Boys do well at Lincolnshire's Holbeach Town and Country Fare on the weekend of 17th & 18th June. This long running show was in jeopardy of disappearing from the rally calendar when the owners of the land that had been used for several years sold up and the grass field was ploughed up and brought into arable cropping by its new owners. After several discussions by the rally committee in stepped Lincolnshire Field Products with the offer of a field just outside of Holbeach on the Holbeach St. John's road.

This two day event was blessed with glorious sunshine with light refreshing breeze though thunder storms did arrive late Sunday afternoon making for a soggy get away and clear up. The event was well supported by all sections of the vintage and classic world with stationary engines, vintage & classic cars, motor bikes, a very good line up of commercials with Tears recovery showing off their latest recovery wrecker. For a small fenland town country fare there was a good turn-out of steam engines some forty plus ranging from the scale down working models to the large road rollers and showman engines. The tractors were the biggest display with over a hundred tractors, this is were two Norfolk boys from the NVTEC-EA group crossed over the county boarder at Sutton Bridge and walked away with First and Second prize.

Ian Cable took first prize with his splendid 1967 Zetor 3011 these 33hp two wheel drive tractors were well equipt with a compressor unit hydraulic brakes with air as an option, ten speed gearbox, a hydraulic system of draft and postion control and a third postion that gave a mixture which was very useful with wheeled implements.

Peter Thorpe came second in this class preparing and showing a 1960 Fordson Power Major owned by John Moulis, fitted with a locally built single front wheel conversion by Bettinson's of Holbeach for row crop work in bulbs and potatoes. A Ford Ransome inter row cultivator and ridger completement the outfit.

Peter Thorpe



Tears latest recovery truck



Ian Cable and Zetor 3011



Peter Thorpe and Fordson Power Major



# STRADSETT PARK VINTAGE RALLY 2023 - A TALE OF 2 HALVES



With over 70 Allis Chalmers on display, it was stunning, the line up was one of the best there has been in this country so thanks to David for suggesting Allis and Reg for organizing it. David Mycock took his 1936 rota baler, Model M, WC, Model U, Model D and Model B all on the Allis club stand. Both Ivan and Dean Smith were also displaying on the Allis club stand with their Model B's. Neil Ayres was showing his Model U and despite not being restored run really well. Gavin Chapman's Model M is another tractor that seems to run really well and sounds lovely.

This year we had more steam than ever, and I always admire the steam exhibits as they work to keep these lovely old things going and clean, well it doesn't bare thinking about.

The horticulture section saw about 45 exhibits even 3 of them were Allis Chalmers, 2 being to Ian Thompsons and one to Stephen Procter, this was an Allis Chalmers 712. Sadly, I have to report that this was to be Mr Procter last rally as he sadly passed away on Tuesday 6th June and our thoughts are with his family.

## PART TWO - Monday 1st May

Sadly, after a night of rain, the field was very very wet, so we had to restrict movement. This meant all those who had taken their exhibits back to their camping area could not return them to their peg, for this we are very sorry but we had to preserve the roadway as much as we could for the incoming vehicles. Henry kindly brought us about 60 bales of straw, and we soon used them up, but they really helped save the day.

We managed to park as many of the day exhibits as we could and things were just starting to brighten up, the car parks were just about holding up and Pauline's team from the 42nd air cadets were still working hard. However, about 10.45am the heavens opened for a good half an hour, and we had to make the decision to close the gates, a very hard decision but the right one as safety has to come before anything.

However, by that time there were a good amount of public already in the show so the rally continued, of course just nothing like it should have been but better than nothing. I really felt for some of the trade such as the cake stalls who had baked freshly for the Monday and I thank them for the lovely cake on Monday night.

It then stayed fairly dry the rest of the day which helped with getting everybody off the field and I thank you all for your cooperation and patience while we pulled people off as quickly and efficiently as we could. Terry, Larry, Gavin, David, Tom, Paul and Jake all just got on with the job and we thank you all as did many exhibitors.

This year the theme was Allis Chalmers and Oliver Hart Parr, I took along the Hart Parr 18-27 1931 row crop tractor and the 1941 Allis Chalmers WC row crop tractor. The Oliver Hart Parr display saw some 15 old tractors with the West displaying Hart Parr 18-28 and Oliver plough along with their Oliver 80 with their Oliver No 36 cultivator all looking very smart. Barry Ayres was displaying a lovely old 1945 Oliver 70 row crop with under slung hoe, what a lovely looking thing. Reg Fletcher our brilliant tractor steward was showing his Oliver 600 built in 1963, Reg is very knowledgeable and certainly knows how to put on a display of tractors but most of all he is a very laid back and helpful friend.



The stationary line up again brought us a superb display of working engines, the stationary engines in the late 1800s and first 20-30 years of the 1900s were a very useful tool and really helped improve the farming industry.

Paul Goldsmith was displaying his 1930 Ruston Hornsby APR Petrol/TVO and Ricky Kemp was also displaying a Ruston







Hornsby PT built in 1937 and looking really good next to his Crossley PH060 3 1/4 hp engine. Mr A Cox and two lads were sitting with their 1950's Lister Petter A1 and Lister D just enjoying the day. Aaron Smith was looking very proud (and so he should be) on his 4-inch scale Burrell Showman's special scenic. This seems to be just a nice size, big enough to ride about on yet small enough to transport easy. Stuart Bailey was not only displaying his very nice Fordson E27N but also one of his engines A Fowler 1 Pal 1.5 hp built in 1941. He purchased back in the 80s and restored it in 2006/2007 including new piston rings and valve tappet block. The trolley was built using recycled beech timber.

The line up of club stands this year was again superb with Allis Chalmers, Carrington Rally, East Anglia NVTEC-EA, Ferguson Heritage Club, Ford & Fordson, International Harvester Heritage Association, Haddenham Steam Rally, Marshall Club, Mud Munchers 4x4, Notts NVTEC, Old Skool Superstox, Norton Owners Club, Peterborough Farm Machinery Presentation Club and The Wensum Valley Tractor Club and what a display they all put on with the trophy for the best club stand going to the Allis Chalmers Club.

The Sir Jeremy and Lady Bagge Salver for best bygone exhibit went to Neil Ayres for his Marshall living van, very well deserved. Alan Whiteman one of our long standing committee members was pleased to win the Friends of Ferguson trophy for his 1958 Ferguson FE35 grey/gold. Alan sadly lost his wife Pat at the end of May and again our thoughts are with him.



The vintage and classic car section again was very full, with a marvellous display of old cars from the early 1900s to the late 1990s. The craft tent brought a new section this year for us all to walk around and see the amazing things people can make and sell, there are clearly a lot of talented people about. We will be having a craft tent again for our 2024 3-day special.



I must thank the commentators who stand in the ring telling the public all about these lovely machines and we are hoping Michael Hart is well enough to commentate on the tractors for 2024 as he was at the first rally back in 1974. His knowledge and dedication to the vintage rally world especially Stradsett has been second to none and I thank him from myself and on behalf of the club and look forward to listening to him at the 2024 show.



The show could not go ahead without all the wonderful and kind helpers from stewards, friends of Stradsett, committee members etc and of course all the dedicated exhibitors and we must thank them all for a great show. See you for our 3-day special on Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th, and Monday 6th May 2024.



## Richard Vernon Sale

Unfortunately, Mr. Vernon passed away in 2022, he was a farmer from Leicestershire who had owned steam engines for many years. Especially known for his ploughing engines, a pair of Fowler BBI engines, were offered requiring heavy restoration work. Works No. 15170 and 15171 of 1918, they were sold with other Fowler engines and various items of steam cultivation tackle.

Of great interest was a set of discs made by Fowlers of Leeds, I have never seen another set anywhere. Setting them up must have been quite a task. To travel, four sets of discs were slung under the frame which was steerable, to get into work the four discs needed to be turned 90 degrees and lowered. Mr. Vernon also had a similar frame made by Howards of Bedford but this one had a set of harrows slung under the frame.

In more recent years Mr. Vernon had collected tractors, including many veterans that we had seen with previous owners, there was something on offer for all tastes and most pockets and some very expensive toys as well. There was a selection of David Brown models and Fordson's including two Muir Hill dumpers, one on a standard and another on a diesel major.

Some of the models that interested us included a 1928 McCormick Deering 10-20, in very original condition. It turned up at the Woolpit Rally the very next day but could not be encouraged to run. A 1926 Rumley type L, 15-25 H.P. smallest light weight model made by Rumley in a restored and painted condition.

One of the stars of the collection was a Peterbro made about 1925 made by the Peter Brotherhood company who it is thought made no more than 100 of these tractors. It was exported to New Zealand when new and repatriated years later to become part of the Paul Rackham collection. Another star was a British Wallis, another rare tractor made under licence from the Wallis company by Ruston Hornsby. It was also exported to New Zealand when new in about 1920. It was brought into Northern Ireland in the 1980's in a very poor state where it was restored into a running tractor. It later became part of the Roger Desborough collection before Mr. Vernon acquired it.

There was a very original Model R Austin, serial no. 489 from about 1920, which had been part of the Eric Armistead collection until sold in 1987 when it became an exhibit in the Lakeland Motor Museum. There was also a French made Austin from about 1930, a vineyard model DE30 with a very unusual winch mechanism, again in very original condition still in its working clothes.

The bargain of the day was the Allis Chalmers 20-35, again in original unrestored condition but running, these tractors are too heavy for an Lfor Williams trailer therefore not as popular with collectors, this reflects in the prices raised. Another rarity in this country, as we believe none were brought here to work, the Grey Drum Drive, restored by the late Derek Mellor, still looking very presentable with its 54-inch-wide drum wheel and corrugated tin engine cover, making this tractor very recognisable.

The last special tractor that interested us was the Sawyer Massey 11-22 H.P., 4 cylinder petrol paraffin model, we saw Mr. Vernon purchase this at the Bob Parkes Auction in 2019.

In restored condition Bob had purchased the tractor in Canada and imported it into this country. There were numerous other tractors in the collection that have now found new owners all over the country.

We have now reached a time when older collectors are passing because of age and their treasures are moving around on a regular basis, auctioneers are rubbing their hands.

David West



Case 10-20, 1915, 3-wheel layout. The first Case model with the cross motor engine



Grey Drum Drive with Hercules engine restored by Derek Mellor



Rumley Oil Pull type 'L' 15-25 H.P., 2 cylinder horizontal engine, oil cooled



Set of Discs for Steam cultivation made by Fowlers of Leeds



1928 McCormick Deering 10-20 in very original condition



Peterbro, complete with original engine, maybe less than 100 of these tractors were made



Young Avery liked the look of the Grey Drum Drive



Sawyer Massey 11-22, 4 cylinder Erd engine



The Parrott 12-25, once party of the Oscar Cook Dreamland collection from Montana, Massey Harris based their original tractor design on the Parrott



# Sheringham Classic Car and Bike Show 2023



With the weather so good we wanted to make the most of it by going to the beach. Luckily our 2 young boys are early birds so we knew we'd be able to beat the traffic and get there at a good time. Chatting to Jody at work and he mentioned the Sheringham show so at last minute we went online and signed up. The online form was so easy to fill in then you got sent a confirmation which counted as your ticket. Simple but effective. All the information was on the form such as starting times as well as the suggested £5 to attend.

The high street was closed off and lined with all sorts of cars. It gives the cars a different look being parked outside shops etc as they would be when they're being used rather than parked in a grass field. There were loads of public admiring the vehicles on show and we got lots of nice comments about our car especially concerning the size of the boot(trunk)! As we were going for the day with our 2 young boys you have to prepare for everything. Luckily our 1960 Pontiac Catalina has a huge boot. Plenty big enough

for 2 prams, 4 fold out chairs, jumpers, beach umbrellas, beach toys, picnic basket etc etc. We walked past a very smart red Chevrolet Corvette which was for sale so Katie decided this should be our Sunday car. Sadly I forgot my magical wallet so it wasn't to be but the thought was nice. The one car that caught my eye was a 1960 Hillman Minx Convertible which coincidentally was the same year as our car. I loved the quaintness and simplicity of it. The sign in the window said it's used regularly, weather dependant of course, and I can see why. I can just imagine driving round, roof down without a care in the world. The owner should be very proud it's a lovely example.

The organisers put on a great event, it was very relaxed and the organisers/helpers we spoke to were all very friendly and easy to talk to. Sadly I can't find the charity the money went to but it was all for a good cause. We'll definitely be back next year!

Andrew Carson

## THE STATIONARY ENGINE ENCLOSURE AT CARRINGTON

The last time we went to Carrington was 2019, much has changed since then. The stationary engine pens are now at the very top end of the field with plenty of space for caravans and transport, but a bit remote from the rest of the show.

For a change the weather was dry and bright, if cold, and a reasonable crowd was seen on both days.

There were 78 engines listed in the programme, ages varying from 1911 to 1964 but mostly pre-WWII.

We attach a selection of engines that interested us, especially the Ruston Hornsby AP as we have one in the shed from 1923. I purchased it in 1972 for £20.00 from the barn where it was first installed and loaded it onto a 'D' Series Ford Lorry with a Fordson E27N and fore loader. Unfortunately, it dropped off the forks but luckily the only damage was a dent in the paraffin tank. I have now owned it for half its existence, which is exactly 100 years.



Ruston Hornsby, Model AP 1924, 5 1/2 HP



Petter Apple top 1932, 1 1/2 HP



Fuller & Johnson, Type No. 1917, 1 1/2 HP Low Tension Ignition Hit and Miss Engine



Roof and Vandervoort 'R' Series 1914



Blackstone 1930 Diesel Engine



Sturtevant Industrial Vacuum Cleaner Powered by Petter Junior 2 1/2 HP



Associated Manufacturers Co. Ltd. Farm Hand 1914, 4HP



# Tractor World 2023- Malvern

Tractor World Show at The Three Counties Showground, Malvern returned this year to their original date of early March. I last attended back in 2020, just before the pandemic. 2021 was cancelled and 2022 was mid-May so I could not attend.

When we set off from home in Walpole Highway in Norfolk, it was snowing like a blizzard, and we thought whatever are we doing? However, once we got to the other side of Peterborough, things started looking up and it continued all the way, so by the time we arrived about 12.30pm the sun was shining, and the roads and showground were dry.

There were many helpers waiting to get the stand set up, so we soon got the lorry in, and many hands got unloaded. We all take pride in our club stand, and I like everything right, but the support is just great, especially being so far from home.



The theme for Stradsett in 2023 was to be Allis Chalmers and Oliver Hart Parr. So, we took along the 1930 Oliver Hart Parr 18-27 Row Crop. This old steel wheeled tractor is petrol/TVO and is very good to drive and even though it is 1930, it is fitted with a foot clutch. It was purchased in a sale in America along with the Cletrac Crawler model 25 from the Sparky Duroe Collection back in 2008. The West brothers brought along their prize-winning Case 10-18 built in 1919, fitted with a 4-cylinder petrol/TVO engine. This was the second smallest in the cross-motor range and replaced the 9-18. This lovely looking tractor saw them take the best restored tractor built before 1940 and overall show champion, so very impressive. David and Diane West also won best scratch-built model with their Titan 10-20 – again well deserved. Stuart Bailey had his wok cut out cleaning and polishing after travelling down in the snow and rain, but it soon came good and his E27 still looks amazing. Jim and Mel Wakefield put us a fine display of horticultural equipment such as their Drake and Fletcher Ltd sprayer being pulled by an International Club Cadet built in Kentucky USA and now fully restored to a very high standard. Paul and Wendy Mackellow also put us a horticultural display on with some lovely looking exhibits. Lastly on the stand was Vanessa Green and Stephen Hall with their Mayfield MK12, this 1957 Croft Mayfield Villiers MK12 engine has been fitted with a sprayer attachment.



cont...



We all put a lot of effort in, and it paid off as we won best club stand which we are very proud of and very appreciative to get the recognition for what we enjoy doing. The Saturday brought a wet but busy auction. Outside there were some very nice engines running and many other tractors and commercials. This has been our first show of the year now for many years and have seen the show grow and get more and more popular each year. As always, our club put on a good display and considering we have all travelled between 160 and 220 miles to do so, I think it is a real credit to our club and I thank all who supported and those who came to visit.

Gordon Carson - NVTEC-EA





## WORKING WEEKEND & PLOUGHING MATCH

**Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd  
September 2023**  
**Hall Farm, Fincham, PE33 9DQ**

By kind permission of Hugh Mason





All proceeds raised to go to **Moth in a China Shop**  
(Reg Charity No: 1164937)





For entry forms and further information  
contact the organiser:  
**David Mycock - 01366 500879 or  
07977 337095**

**Refreshments available all weekend**

**MOOTH  
IN A  
CHINA  
SHOP.**

## 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](http://www.nvtec-ea.org.uk)

**Pre-Booked Exhibits Only**  
Where The A134 Crosses The A1122  
East Of Downham Market, PE33 9HA



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# THE CATERPILLAR SALE OF THE CENTURY

## Ossington, Newark - 19th and 20th May 2023



Very original Fordson Standard 'N' with Nottinghamshire Registration and full tool kit



Star of the sale, 1920 Holt 75, 4 cylinder petrol engine. Sold for £120,000.00 plus fees and VAT. To be returned to the USA, as a museum exhibit.



Caterpillar 10/15 7C, a very rare model to be restored in Norfolk



Caterpillar 20 from 1930. Not totally original but very restorable



Holt 10 ton, 1921  
I had the fortune to ride in this machine at the 1984 World Ploughing Match at Horncastle. Now resides in Cambridgeshire



Best 30, 1924  
This model was continued when Holt and Best merged in 1925 to create the Caterpillar 30



Diesel 40, 1935  
Believed to be an original import into South Lincolnshire. Donkey engine start diesel. One that had been restored by Mr. Wilson.



Special line up of Caterpillar RD Tractors RD4, 2 x RD6, RD7 and the star RD8, a very sort after model, which hopefully remained in this country.

What an event, unfortunately Mr. Robert Wilson passed away prematurely in 2022. Having nobody to take over his families vast Caterpillar Collection it was all auctioned over four different sales.

We did not attend the first sale in December when the first barn was cleared, and a selection of Caterpillars was sold. These were all project tractors requiring lots of work, or providing very useful parts for the completion of other tractors.

The second sale in March 2023 was for spare parts. This included tinwork, bonnets, grilles, tanks, guards, tool boxes etc., some complete engines, in particular two Holt 4-cylinder 75HP engines, which Mr. Wilson appears to have removed from tractors. The projects he was currently working on to include a model 60, a rare wide gauge twin head engine model and a Holt T35. The parts of which had ended up in several separate lots. We were fortunate to acquire a radiator for our own model 30.

Cheffins, the Auctioneers, set two days for the clearance of the rest of the collection, Friday 19th May was for more spare parts both large and small. These parts were completely mixed up, parts from various models being sold in the same lot. Eagle eyed perspective buyers spotted the rarer and valuable parts, like carburettors for model 60 in a very mixed up lot. All of Mr. Wilson's spare magnetos were bulked up into lots, one lot included 28 mags.

More radiators came to light, many donkey engines in various states of disassembly. Outside there were bigger items, including tracks, idlers and sprockets. More radiators and castings, top and bottom tanks, side panels, fuel tanks and a couple of sets of canopy metal work that created lots of interest.

The big event was Saturday the 20th with over 260 lots of tractors, Caterpillar, Holt, Best and some other makes of tracked and wheeled machines. Varying in age from 1919 to the 1970's. The wheeled tractors included an exceptionally original Standard Fordson, Nottinghamshire registered on steel wheels all round with a complete set of original tools. A Case model 'C' on pneumatics, a Case model 'L' needing a lot of work but with new tin work provided, an Allis Chalmers United from about 1933 on French & Hecht Wheels and pneumatic tyres.

Then there were some International Crawlers including a TD18, TD9, TD6 and T6, all needing lots of work.

Perhaps the best of the wheeled models was the Allis Chalmers 25-40. The size of these tractors putting lots of buyers off, it being too much for a 4-wheel drive vehicle and trailer.



Now we are into the Caterpillars with machines lined up and spaced out equally as far as you could see into the distance. Mr. Wilson had over twenty D2 tractors and nearly as many D4's. There was no order to the line up, obviously lined up as they were removed from the barns. Condition varied from robbed hulks fit for scrap and some did go to the scrap man, through various degrees of completeness to obvious running and driveable machines. A well known member and exhibitor researched one of the petrol engine model 10 tractors, this was a hybrid model 10 and 15. Only just over 100 tractors were made in 1933 so a very rare machine. Mr. Wilson had imported most of his Caterpillars from all over the USA, obviously selecting rare and unusual models.

The star of the sale was his Holt 75 from about 1920, which he imported in 1988, a rare running machine thought to be one of four in the UK, sold to an American bidder via the internet for £120,000.00. Another one of the four was sold as an incomplete tractor in dismantled condition made

£80,000.00 and, also went to America.

A rare part of the collection was a full range of RD Diesel tractors. It is said that the 'R' stands for President Roosevelt who instigated the Highway Building Programme all over the USA and went to Caterpillar to supply machines to build these roads. They were all diesel powered and included RD4, 6, 7 and 8, a much sort after machine.

There were far too many rare and unusual models to list them all here. With the loss of Mr. Wilson a vast amount of specialist knowledge and tons and tons of spare parts have been lost for ever. It is unlikely anybody would be able to amass such a collection in the future.

We are very pleased that we spent the time at the sales acquiring needed parts and a couple of his rarer tractors, one of which he would have imported, the other may well be an original imported into the Spalding area in 1935.

David West

## FRIENDS OF FERGUSON E-A ROAD RUN

Sunday July 23rd during a period of excessive heat in most of Europe setting off wildfires, here in good old Blighty we were contending with heavy showers and strong winds, localised flooding and sunny intervals. So heading out to Southery at 8.30am from Shouldham to meet up for the start of a Fenland road run organised by Roger and Carol Thulbourn the state of dress was anything from sunglasses and tee shirt to full wetsuit as the weather continues to be very turbulent.

After a welcome cup of coffee and a bacon roll cooked and prepared by Alan Newman we mounted our trusty steeds and headed out for an adventure ride through the Fens. Our route took us out into the black fen by Wissington Beet Factory through Wretton and climbed out of the fens at Stoke Ferry then onto Whittington before turning back to Boughton on much higher ground and was able to look over the Fens of Wissington. From Boughton we traveled back down onto the edge of the fens through West Dereham, Ryston, Bexwell and onto Denver Bell for lunch and raffle before dispersing back home mid afternoon. A very nice run with the weather turning out quite favorable.

Peter Thorpe





# Stephen Robert Procter 16th March 1961 – 6th June 2023



On Saturday 8th July, I sadly attended the funeral of Stephen Procter, known to me really as Cheryl's Dad. Stephen passed away peacefully in the early hours of 6th June in hospital after a short illness. The funeral was held at Woolpit Church on a lovely hot sunny day, the dress code was overalls, so it was a bit warm. I have got to know Stephen over the past 6 years or so since Matthew and Cheryl got together, the first reading was made by the Baker Family and this is their tribute;

Bob has known Stephen almost all of his life, his dad John use to come to the farm to do electrical work and the little boy, Steve would love to sit on the tractor seat or delve into his dads toolbox, get a hammer or pliers and pretend to mend the tractor.

His dad John said he was a good sleeper and never any trouble, but he loved machinery so much that if he was hurt you would need to wash the oil off his hands before you could help him. From a very young age, he would come to Barrack Farm to pick potatoes or strawberries for some pocket money, but his real love was to play with the tractors and machines.

He got an apprenticeship with Thurlow Nunn in Elmswell and Ken Holland and Tony Blank took him under their wing, so he had excellent teachers, Ken was also a champion ploughman and he taught Steve to plough, which started Steves lifelong love of plough matches, a love he shared with this wife Chrstine and the rest of the family.

Steves love of tractors didn't go away and a year or two after finishing his apprenticeship, he came to the farm, that was over 40 years ago, and we have many reasons to be grateful to him and his skills with machines. He also spent 20 years digging a reservoir over in Sutton, by the time it was completed we use to say that Steve's truck knew its own way there. Steve was a great family man; he and

Christine were married for 41 years and the family had lots of holidays together.

The whole family enjoyed working in the allotment garden in Woolpit and Steve got a lot of satisfaction in using some of Andrew collection of vintage garden machinery.

He helped at Weeting Steam Rally, then became part of the group that formed Woolpit Steam Rally in 1987. The family were big supporters of the steam rally and both he and Christine drove their old grey Fergie's from Woolpit to enter in the show. As many of you know, the Fergie club organised an annual tractor run through the local roads, I am told that Stephen was always at the rear with his toolbox to help anyone who has broken down.

Then there was his pride and joy, this oldest Claas Combine in the country, which he spent hours renovating. As a memento, Claas sent out a brand-new modern combine to be photographed in the field alongside his 1948 model.

In 2022 Steve was presented with the Long Service Award at the Suffolk show, but we completely understood when Steve said he wanted to leave to help Jonathan grow his own business. And in the months afterwards, it brought smiles to our faces every time we spoke to Stephen to hear how much pride he had in John and what they were building together. They enjoyed working side by side and its such a shame that they had such a short time together.

Steve has been part of our lives it seems forever, and what we came to value him for even more than his skills was his loyalty. He was conscientious in looking after us and if there was a crisis, you knew you could always count on him, he would be there often calming presence in the face of disaster with that expressive shrug and sometimes that dry humour. He will be greatly missed.

I thought that was hard enough but when Jonny, Bob and Andy Procter stood up and read out their thoughts and memories well, if my two sons are half as nice about me I would be a very happy father and if Stephen could have seen and heard that, I am sure he will rest in peace, what a tribute to what obviously was a great, kind and happy man.

The church also shown that as it was busting at the seams and many having to stand outside, after the funeral we were invited back to Warren Farm, the site of the Woolpit Steam Rally. This was like going to a small rally with many Massey Fergusons tractor and combines on display. Stephen was only 62 and most of us reading this is either around this age or older so lets all learn from this and live life to the full.

Stephen Procter Rest in Peace.  
Gordon Carson - NVTEC-EA





# Steam Back to the Forties Weekend

The North Norfolk Railway is holding their annual forties weekend at Holt railway station over the weekend of 16th and 17th September. They have asked the NVTEC-EA Club to put on a display of tractors and equipment from the forties and earlier. You can arrive on Friday, 15th and must leave by 12 noon on Monday, 18th. If you arrive on the day, you must be in by 8.30am on both days. There is a lovely grass field for the club to put on a display with trailers and caravans parking in the old part of the station. Good security and 2 complimentary tickets per tractor/exhibit. If you are interested, please let me know asap. Holt Station, North Norfolk Railway, Cromer Road, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6QR.

Gordon Carson - NVTEC-EA



## NVTEC East Anglia Group Contact Details for Officers and Committee 2023

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### Mr D E Askew: Road run organiser

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### Mrs J Carson: Treasurer

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### Mrs C Mycock: Membership secretary

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### Mr M Tompsett: Exhibitors parking

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### Mrs J Webb: Vice chair/secretary/ Car commercials etc

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### Steven Bruce

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## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### Hello Everyone

Hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the rally season. I would just like to take this opportunity to welcome our new club members. NVTEC-EA is the largest club in the country currently now with over 570 members, so thank you to everyone for their continued support.

In case you are not aware, we have a NVTEC-EA Group Facebook page which you can join. Lots of pictures/stories are shared along with important club news/events, so please do feel free to join.

Just a reminder to everyone to ensure you let me know of any changes in personal details (change of address, phone number, email etc) so that I can keep membership details up to date please.

Thank you all and look forward to seeing you at the remaining rallies of this year.

Claire (Membership Secretary)



Scarlett R – 19th Oct • Brooke R – 5th Nov  
Austin C – 19th Nov • Chloe M – 26th Nov

## DIARY DATES

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd September  
Working Weekend, Hall Farm, Fincham, PE33 9DQ  
All proceeds raised go to 'Moth in a China Shop'  
For Entry forms and further info please contact the organiser David Mycock 01366 500879 or 07977 337095

Thursday October 19th 2023 First Winter Meeting at  
Ryston Park Golf Club - The Tractor Twitcher

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th November  
Club Stand at Newark Vintage Tractor & Heritage Show  
Please contact Gordon Carson if you wish to attend as part of the members club stand

Thursday 16th November  
Club Meeting at Ryston Park Golf Club  
We will hold our AGM from 7.30pm which will include cheque presentations.

Thursday December 21st 2023  
Club Meeting at Ryston Park Golf Club  
Christmas Party and Secret Santa.

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](mailto:truereflections77@yahoo.co.uk)

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



## First NSRA Fun On The Beach



Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th June 2023 was the first ever Fun On The Beach event put on by the National Street Rod Association and it was a great turn out! We're not a member but do enjoy the events put on so with our two young boys in mind we said we would go. We went to an event on the seafront last year and it was perfect. You get all the joys of a show with the added bonus of the entertainment and shops etc that Great Yarmouth has to offer. One of the biggest bonuses from an organisation point of view is that it's on tarmac so even if it's rained all week as long as the weather is good on the weekend of the event it's all fine. Luckily the weather was sunny but still a bit brisk when it went behind the clouds. Warm enough for shorts not warm enough for the beach though.

The idea around the event was fantastic as it's not an event the public has to pay to get into so there are loads of people admiring the vehicles on show. People spend a lot of time, money and heart on their vehicles and I love seeing them being appreciated by young, old and everyone in between. Watching someone lift their child to look through the window so they can see is great. We only went on Sunday but on Saturday there was a cruise organised and a special screening of American Graffiti at the local Arc Cinema which for me all adds to it being an event not just a row of cars for people to look at. There was live music playing on both days which could be heard in most of the immediate area but not so loud you can hear it a mile away which isn't always the case is it. The music was in keeping with the pre 72 theme and was brilliant, they had a great crowd and even our 5 year old Ezra commented on the good music, there's not much that can get him dancing.

Only vehicles pre 1972 were allowed and had to be customs or American classics. I didn't check each vehicle of course but it looked like they'd kept to this very well and there was a great variety on show. I'm a sucker for an original though rather than a custom or modified vehicle. Especially when it comes to trucks and commercial style vehicles. The main thing that caught my eye even with all the shiny muscle cars around was a Chevrolet flatbed truck. I'm no specialist but I think it's a 1953 6400 which is very similar to my brother Jason's 1955 3100 but the flat bed version. I just loved the equipment in the back, the big chunky tyres and wooden sides.

As expected with a show on the sea front surrounded by public the health and safety side and fire routes came into play with parking. Hats off to the organisers they done a great job of keeping to the rules but putting on a good display. My only criticism was that as we came into Great Yarmouth there wasn't a single sign telling us where to go. Then we pulled up to the road closure at the end of the sea front and was told to go all the way round to the other end of the pier from the way we just came as was everyone else. Again, not sure if this was a council thing or lack of organisation but next year it would be great to have a couple of signs out.

We all had a great day enjoying the event along with the amusements, shops, bouncy castles and music. Everyone involved should be chuffed to bits especially with it being the first one.

Andrew Carson



## Great Yarmouth Wheels Festival



A great show held over the 1st and 2nd of July.

The promenade was full of all things on wheels from motorbikes to trikes and vintage cars to modern supercars, the event's automotive showcases captivated enthusiasts and casual visitors both young and old.

There was a real buzz of excitement as visitors had the opportunity to get close to a stunning collection of vehicles, appreciating their design, craftsmanship, and historical significance.

The event supported the East Anglian Air Ambulance and nearly £1000 was raised.

Reg Fletcher