

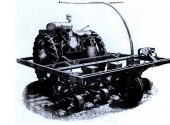
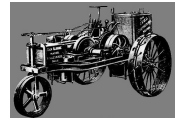


Ouse Valley Group

Based in Bedfordshire, Cradle of the UK Tractor Industry

of the **National Vintage Tractor & Engine Club**

www.ovtc.org.uk



2013 Autumn Newsletter

To contact the Editor, with your articles, news items, items wanted, items for sale, or anything else :-

| | |
|---|--|
| Donald Bowler, 16 Rooktree Way, Haynes, Bedford MK45 3PT | jadon(AT)picnic.wanadoo.co.uk Phone me before 9 pm on 01234 381525 Or hand it to me at a Club meeting |
|---|--|

NB. This newsletter is both posted out to Members, and also placed on the Club Website - www.ovtc.org.uk. To reduce the likelihood of automated web crawlers finding Club Member e-mail addresses, and then spamming them, the @ in e-mail addresses has been replaced with an (AT) - so, if e-mailing someone, just put in a @ instead of the (AT).

Important Request - Important Request - Important Request

At the back of this newsletter you will find a short survey/questionnaire, asking you to tell Your Committee what You feel about the Club. The Committee try and provide what they think Club Members want, but they aren't mind readers. Please therefore take a few minutes to look at the form and fill it in - and, if you think everything is great, then please tell us that.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Mandy & Matt Pirks on the Birth of their daughter Holly Ann (weighing 6lb 9oz) on Monday 30th September, the day after the 37th Haynes Working Rally.

Mandy was walking around at the Rally and I'm sure that Holly has already got some TVO in her genes. Congratulations to Matt also for being awarded the prize for the best Fordson, Ford, or Conversion for his original condition 1942 Fordson RAF Industrial tractor.

TVO Licence Renewals

It's that time of year again.

As I am sure you are all aware it is necessary to have a TVO licence when you are mixing two different fuels (e.g. petrol and paraffin) for your vintage tractors. The licence is free of charge to all club members. Licences need to be renewed at the end of the year. I will automatically renew all licences that were requested in 2013, unless you contact me to request otherwise.

Anyone who does not currently hold a licence and would like one, please contact me on 07900 373163 or [sarah.willis79\(AT\)hotmail.com](mailto:sarah.willis79(AT)hotmail.com). All I need is your name and address.

Thanks, Sarah Willis

Our Road Run will be on Friday 27th December 2013

It is being organised by Ray Gibbins, 01908 379800

The Start/End is at Kings Hill Farm, by Very Kind Permission of Shuttleworth College. The Farm is located near the Eastern end of the private road that goes through the College, at the Caldecote End, near the B658, OS ref TL 161 442, Post Code SG18 9DR. **You must enter from the B658, NOT from the Old Warden End.**

This year, all entrants must complete an entry form available at Club meetings & on the web site www.ovtc.org.uk, to ensure we know insurance is in place and to allow for catering at a stop half way around the route. Followers should let Ray know, so he can also ensure catering for them.

Starts at 10.30 am, so you need to be there well before hand for a pre-road run briefing.

Report on Haynes Rally, 28th & 29th Sept by the Editor

The theme for this year's rally was *Fordson, Ford & Their Conversions*. *Blue Force*, the (relatively) new Club for such tractors was present.

We had over 60 Fordson, Ford & Conversions on the rally field, plus another 90 other makes of tractors, including crawlers. Generally all went well with the rally, the weather was certainly good, and the ploughing went well, with the one big land, meaning Mr Simms won't have lots of humps & hollows (ridges & furrows) to contend with. I (Donald) certainly had a great time and I want to thank everyone, both on my behalf, on behalf of YOUR Club's Committee and on the Member's behalf, who helped with the organisation of the rally. Contrary to some reports circulating, there was plenty of land left for ploughing on the Sunday - I have heard reports from 2 people that they didn't turn up on the Sunday, because they said everything had been ploughed on the Saturday. **That just is not true, and is unhelpful.** I went down to the ploughing area after midday, and watched several tractors ploughing. I'd like to thank everyone who brings exhibits of any kind to the Working Rally, as I realise that it can represent a significant investment in time and money to move things to and from the Rally field. I don't own any tractors or exhibits, but I try to contribute to the Club in other ways.

We had better weather than that at Shuttleworth 2 weeks earlier, and the correct decision was certainly made to move the Rally date back by a week.

The Haynes Working Rally was on Amptill TV for about 7 minutes - No, I'd never heard of it either, go to <http://www.amptill.tv/play.html?id=374>, about 10 minutes 25 seconds in from the start, a bit slow initially, but gets livelier.

Gate & Car Parking at the Working Rally 2013

Thank you to all my helpers on the Gate and Car- Parking this year. You were so dedicated and all turned up on time as asked. My folder sits near my computer all year, and I have already had one member who is willing to assist in 2014. I think that the rota will be easier to fill next year as I have spoken to a "Little Bird" who has assured me that the Scouts may be willing to help with the Car Parking.

Again, I thank you all for all your hard work.

Sue Anderson, Gate & Car Parking Lady 2013

The Chairman's Ramblings

Hi All,

Donald has been chasing me for this, so here goes. Just about got over the rally weekend, thanks to all of you who helped to set up & clear up after the rally, all done by 6pm Monday. I think it was the first rally at Haynes to be dry all throughout, although it did rain when we left the beer tent at 1am on the Sunday, but we will not count that. We had a good turn out of tractors as usual, a bit down on cars & commercials.

A good turn out of stationary engines, well done to all the working displays and ploughing in the field and not forgetting the great food on site & the Bar. Chris and Sue raised £250 for MacMillan Nurses, well done and thanks for your support. 2 good nights in the beer tent with Chris Lewis & 7 20 7 band, poor Julie fell off the stage but was not hurt, more embarrassed I think, and that was before a drink. There was also a good turn out of trade stands, but very hard to find fair rides for the kids, pedal tractors went well, no fights over them as I know of, well done you kids, fun & games in the ring was a bit better, but still had to call on the St John Ambulance to drive the tractors (come on you lot).

I had a few moans from some, and some of you need to look at the NVTEC Code of Practice. One or two were told off (riding on tractors and on ploughs, you know who you were) and some idiot on Saturday night thought it would be a good idea to take the lynch pins out of the lift arms on several tractors so the ploughs would fall off. Well mine did, it should have fallen on them. **You know who you are.** In all it was a great weekend, hard work too, but would not have it any other way. Thanks to June's café on rally field on clear up day tea & cake all day, you don't know what you are missing.

A good weekend at Beds Steam Rally, I should have had a weekend off, but had to take Carole home as she was ill, then Shane was ill too, so no time off, but not a bad weekend, good to see a few of our members were there.

The Winter meetings looking good, thanks to Donald, a few changes this year, talk nights, speakers, quiz night + Christmas party. Talk to Donald if you know of any speakers for meetings, the May visit is TBC.

BBQ, June 12th, venue TBC. Ploughing match, Donald & Max not arranging next year. I went to North Bucks VT Club's September meeting at Newport Pagnell, a good night. Malcolm asked me if we would be interested in going to JCB plant at Rocester some time in March 2014, cost will be £38, going by bus, it would be a weekday; please let Ben or me know.

It will soon be membership renewal time; do you know any young person interested in joining? Let them know. Have you looked at the web site www.ovtc.org.uk & on Facebook? Don't forget, you can do bits for the newsletter too.

Well, that's it; there's no joke for you all this time, thanks Keith Durham, Chairman

Haynes Working Rally 2013 - Entrant Awards

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Fordson or Ford | Matt Pirk's 1942 Fordson RAF Industrial |
| Other Tractor | Les King's CNC Aprile Crawler |
| Commercial | D Stewart's 1953 Commer FC, with TS3 opposed Piston engine on the flat bed |
| Stationary Engine | M Baxter's BSA |
| Static Exhibit | Danny Waters' sign, seat and small machinery display |
| Other | Martin Collins' Pattison Super Beta MkII 1932 Ford Based Golf Tractor |

Hats & Shirts

The Club has for several months had Polo Shirts at £12 and caps at £7.50 available with the Club Logo on them. The clothing is very serviceable, (for which, read, doesn't show the dirt!).

The clothing is available from Committee Member Richard Warboys, please phone him with your requirements and he will bring along to a Club meeting, Richard may be contacted on 01234 294055. Investigations are being made about extending the range to include jackets/coats.

Cardington Sheds - NOT Hangers! - The Continuing Story

The Shed nearest to Bedford, Shed N^o 1 - the left hand one as you view them from the A600 - is having a significant amount of work being done to it. Since before Christmas 2012, the owners have been renewing metal sheets, before Christmas 2012 the side nearest Bedford was being worked on, but, in May 2013, the sheets have been removed from both ends, and from much of the roof, prior to new sheets being fitted. New sheets have been put on the doors at the A600 end and elsewhere. If you haven't seen the Sheds recently, it's worth a trip out that way on a sunny day.

Alec Worbey's Recollections on Wartime Workings

At the beginning of the War, (1939), this person who was a customer of ours, wanted us to store his Austin 7 car for the duration of the war. My father said the rent would exceed the value of the car, so father offered him 10 shillings (50 pence) for it, and he accepted considering that 10 shillings then would be £5 today, it was a bargain. It was taxed and insured and it was ready to cart all our bags of cabbages and other market garden produce, we put track tyres on the back and, being so light, it would go anywhere, we never got stuck with it anywhere.

The hood was eventually knocked off, and the windscreen wiper was worked by hand, in its last year the bottom of the windscreen was knocked out, and we would proceed with a healthy blast coming in through the bottom half. This Austin 7 ran summer and winter until late 1944 and then it gave up the ghost, we had had tremendous value for our 10 shillings.

Next we bought another Austin 7 Saloon, cut off the back half and made a pickup truck out of it, that lasted about 3 years and then we had an ex RAF Standard 12 pickup truck. The first Austin 7 we called The Jeep, and the second one we called The Bug, the Standard 12 we called all the names under the sun, as there was always something cropping up to repair.

Thank You Alec, always interesting to hear how things used to be - Ed.

My Ferguson 20 **by Lee Robinson**

In February 2012 I bought my dream tractor. It's Ferguson TEA20 petrol. I found it on E-bay and it was located in Leighton Buzzard. When I went to see it the battery was dead so I went back the next day to find out the tractor wouldn't run. It had been sat in a barn for two years. So we put petrol in the carburetor in the float chamber and it fired up. I managed to have a quick 2 minute drive then the petrol ran out.

I managed to knock him down in price and bought it. The first thing what was needed was to clean the petrol tank due to a lot of rust inside it, so I put stones inside it and shook it around so the stones would clean the rust off, but this didn't work as there was too much rust, so I went out and bought a

new tank. Chairmen Keith Durham cleaned the carb and fitted new gaskets to the engine and the carb to the manifold.

My father Ken Robinson and I spent a lot of time setting the carb up, but as we were doing it we noticed a split in the carb and also the fuel screw kept coming loose. But we did our best and managed to get it to the Ouse Valley Working Tractor Rally in Haynes in September 2012. But after I got back to where it's kept after the weekend at Haynes the tractor cut out, and this was due to the carb.

So the following weekend my father and I tried to set the carb up again but it wasn't working. So we left it over the winter and in 2013 we fitted a brand new carb which, touch wood, has worked, and the tractor is still working great. So after that my father and I gave the Fergie a new coat of paint. And now she's finished and looks great.

We took it to the Ouse Valley Rally at Haynes 2013 and it went well and looking forward to next year and I hope to have the next project there, which will be a transport box. Here are a few pictures of the Fergie.



An Amateur Photographer on location at the OVTC Haynes 2013 Rally **By Ken Robinson**

Where do I start, well at the beginning I suppose? On arriving at the rally site with my son Lee and his vintage Grey Fergie TEA20 tractor, I was immediately struck by the large amount of vintage and classic tractors and associated agricultural equipment that was there awaiting to be shown off to the agricultural population that was starting to assemble.

As an amateur photographer of more years than I care to say just didn't know where to poke my camera, but I did as I always do and that is snap away at most things. When the Ford and Fordson display came in to the ring I just snapped away at every participant that entered the ring, I was struck by the quality of the exhibits and the enthusiasm of the owners. Following on behind the Fords were an array of almost all makes of tractors that are imaginable; I took photos of all the entrants that came past me as they showed their vehicles to the audience.

There was a fine array of vintage cars and vans and a variety of ex-service vehicles followed by old lorries etc, also there were a few steam vehicles. Whilst all this was going on there was the ploughing taking place not a championship match but people enjoying themselves with their tractors and crawlers with trailing and mounted ploughs, I even saw cultivators at work, I'm afraid I was the snapper who got down low in the furrow to get some low angled shots of the ploughing, yes I risked myself for that wanted photo.

Altogether I put 320 photos on a DVD and handed it to the Ouse Valley Club Media Expert Annamarie, to choose what she thinks would make nice shots for people to look at on the OVTC website. Well that's about my lot for now and thanks to those people who put up with me pointing my loaded camera at them, just think it will be another 12 months before we all do it again.

All the best for Christmas, DigitalKen

Hayley Skelton tells us what she has been doing

Signalling school and tractor driving

A few years ago I would never have dreamt I would be training to be a signaller on the railway and driving tractors! However, here I am today at signal school learning to be a signaller. You may think that in this modern time signalling would all be done on computers and the traditional lever frame boxes would no longer exist. I am in fact completing my training on a lever frame, learning how to signal 'the proper way' as I keep being told and a few lever frame boxes do actually still exist!

My course is 13 weeks long and it's due to finish in the middle of December, so in my free time the most exciting thing I have done is learn how to drive a tractor and also learning how to plough. At the Haynes rally this year I had a huge amount of fun driving around the ring on a Fordson Standard and also ploughing, using an international LTD 8 crawler with a four furrow trailed Ransomes plough. Which I might add was quite straight for a beginner!

Once I have completed my training course I will be working in the Marston Vale signal box, which is next the Ridgmont Station. It's a modern box which uses computer systems to signal. I will control the Bedford to Bletchley line, some might say it's an easy job and for most of my shift it will be, but I actually have about 30 crossings to look after, which not many people know. Once I have completed my course I still have more training to complete in my Signal Box and will probably be ready to signal all on my own by February or March next year!

It's a long training period but it has to be, because ultimately I am responsible for people's lives while they use the railway.

The old station house at Ridgmont is still there and has recently been restored. It's worth a visit because although it doesn't sell tickets anymore it has a little tea room and you can go in the old ticket office and see how it was back then. If anyone has any old stories or anything linked to the old station, then they would love to hear from you.

Thank You Hayley, talk about jumping in at the deep end, learning to plough with a LTD8 - Ed.

Donald's Wanderings

A Friend has a weeks share of a Narrowboat, my wife Jane & I accompany her & her friend Ian on it every year, in early June, I'm always on the look out for old tractors, this year we saw Trixie the Dexta, she has the important job of pulling and powering the euphemistically named Honey Tanker.

Then as usual, Jane & I went to Madeira in July for our Wedding Anniversary, same Hotel, same Room. Lots of interesting agriculture, but on a small scale, as not much flat or level land. We had previously seen sheaves of wheat that had been scythed and tied with a straw band, like used to be done here, before the advent of the reaper binder. I had assumed that the sheaves were threshed by hand, using a flail, again like used to be done here before the advent of the threshing machine or drum.

However, this time around, we saw a heap of sheaves and next to them a small yellow machine connected up to the pto of a small 4WD tractor. We stopped and got talking to the man who was greasing the machine, and found it was a relatively modern threshing machine. We were told it would be working at the church that Sunday, when the priest blessed the harvest.

So, back we went on the Sunday, where we found an ancient lady passing the sheaves up to a man who was standing precariously on the small platform of the machine, about 4 ft above ground level,

he was feeding the leaves in, and another man was taking the straw out the other side. A third man was making tying bands from banana leaves, which he was using to tie the straw into bundles.

They have cattle in Madeira, but you hardly ever see them, as they live in small sheds on the edge of the mountains, to stop them falling off. The straw would be used for bedding the animals, they also have sheep.

My wife & I went down to Devon where we went to a couple of shows, we met a lady in her 70s who had a pacemaker fitted, last year she drove from Lands End to John O'Groats, this year she did it the other way round, raising money for the Air Ambulance, driving all the way on a tractor - an orange Field Marshall!!! Her boy friend followed on his lorry, and helped her start it every day.

I went to the European National Ploughing in Nottinghamshire in early September, some interesting Continental tractors, one lady entrant from Germany, but a poor turnout of spectators.

I was at Shuttleworth Rally for the 3 days, helping on the Club Stand and watching the Comedian/Magician on the Saunders Collection stage, in front of the organ. The dancers are very good too. It reminded me of a Woody Allen joke. He was working in a club, where he helped the lady dancers in their dressing room. Someone asked him how it was a week for being there, Woody said "100 dollars", the other person said "That's not very much!", to which Woody replied "It's all I can afford to pay them"!

The rain meant no vehicle movement on the Saturday at Shutts, but at least they have a grass surface, so I was crossing everything, hoping we would have a dry Haynes Working Rally, and, of course, it was perfect.

On Saturday the 5th of October I went into the wilds of North Beds, to the *51st Ploughing Match and Farm & Garden Produce Show* organised by the Bedfordshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, held at Brook Farm, Bolnhurst, by Kind Permission of the Pell Family. Morgan Pell meats were doing bacon rolls, I had one of them, and one of the YFC members was doing a hog roast, both very tasty, and very reasonably priced.

It started drizzling just around the start of the match, so I stayed in one of the Tents until about 10.30. The rain made the going a bit clarty, but it then started drying out, and by going home time it was nice & sunny. There was a sprinkling of our Club Members ploughing, and some unusual tractors, including a Deutz, Same and Someca. It's good to see young people taking an interest in ploughing with old tractors.

In early October I was off to the National Ploughing Championships at Llanwarne in Herefordshire, real Boy's land, red sandy soil, weather dry on the Saturday until the announcement of results, but drizzled all day Sunday, car park liquid mud by time to go home. Then went off again to Madeira in October - same Hotel, same Room, same Wife. Ed Donald.

Thoughts from Clive Woodcraft

It's a lovely evening to be bouncing across narrow roads from broom to Haynes on a Massey, fingers crossed its the furthest it's been asked to go alone in over 20 years! I guess not many rallies start with the Combine still running in the field opposite, and the dust hardly settled from Wednesday eve baling. Pulling into the field revealed an ever growing line up of tractors in all colours, conditions, some dripping polish and others a mix of oil and diesel.

Hmm the waft of burger, beer and diesel, on my return with the Land Rover and caravan it was pretty much dark, so a torch light set up followed by a pint and jacket spud! One morning was blue sky and the other misty but can't remember which was which, not that it matters as both days turned out to be lovely. So many friendly faces, nice grub for breakfast, and plenty to look around , like a

fully grown man in a toy shop, soon got the hang of the milk churns and I will be making a comeback next year! Brill band Sat eve, "Sponge Cake Paund "(those in the beer tent will remember that).

Poor Massey alongside me in hospital now though, she lost her hydraulics, I'm sure we will both be back next year

Hi Donald I've rambled on, I've never written anything in my life, so edit as you need, thanks Clive

Thank You Clive, how about hearing from some other members, for the Spring Newsletter? - Ed Donald

Meetings Programme 2013/14

Meet 2nd Thursday of the Month, 19.30 for 20.00 Wilstead Bowls Club, Jubilee Playing Field, Bedford Road, Wilstead, MK45 3HV

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|---|--|--|
| Nov 14 th | Allis Chalmers - Mainly USA | Frank Summerlin (was due for 10 th Oct) |
| Dec 12 th | Club Party | Food be provided by the Committee |
| Fri 27th Dec 10.30 | Road Run 2013 - | Ray Gibbins, 01908 379800 |
| | Start/End at Kings Hill Farm, By KP of Shuttleworth College. The Farm is located near the Eastern end of the private road that goes through the College, at the Caldecote End, near the B658, OS ref TL 161 442, DG18 9DR. This year, all entrants must complete an entry form available at Club meetings & on the web site www.ovtc.org.uk , to ensure we know insurance is in place and to allow for catering. Followers should let Ray know so he can also ensure catering for them. <u>See page 2 for more information on Road Run</u> | |
| Jan 9 th | Quiz Night - Volunteer wanted to set the quiz £1 per person entry, winner takes all, no team entries | |
| Feb 13 th | David Brown, Part 2 of the talk | Colin Holwell |
| Mar 13 th | JORDAN ENGINEERING of Little Cornard "A Small (but Clever) Business" www.jordanatveng.com (Motto - <i>We're Not Big - But We Are Clever</i>) | Jerv Jordan |
| April 10 th | AGM + Photo, & Caption Competition - Please bring along your farming, farm wildlife, old machinery & tractor photos | David Smith + Donald Bowler |
| May 8 th | Visit :- Venue TBC YOU MUST BOOK A PLACE with Donald | |
| June 12 th | BBQ Venue TBA, please book a place with Keith Durham, so we know how much food to buy | |
| Sept 20/21 | Working Rally, St Judes Farm, Haynes | |

A Plea!

I'm sure you all get up to interesting things in your tractoring and other exploits. Why not write (legibly please) or type something about some of the things **YOU** get up to, for going into **YOUR** Club's Newsletter?

It doesn't matter if you can't spell, or have bad grammar (you should see the Chairman's!!); because I'll tidy it up for you. So, how about it, you all must have some tales to tell, of a rally you've been to, or something you have got going again after years of lying idle. Ed Donald.

Club Website

Annamarie Scott-Coomber is continuing well in her role of Web Site Master (Mistress?) and we are all grateful to her for keeping it up to date. See www.ovtc.org.uk. Annamarie is pleased to put your sales & wants on there, along with your photos. Annamarie may be contacted at [rexrabbits\(AT\)btinternet.com](mailto:rexrabbits(AT)btinternet.com) or on 01767 627733.

ADVERTS

To get a for sale or wanted advert put in the newsletter (for free), please e-mail to Donald or write out (legibly please) and post it to him or hand to him at a Club Meeting.

For Sale

| |
|--|
| Caravan Awning to Fit 15 ft (5m) van, Brand New, Never Used, Blue/Grey, Any sensible Offer considered, 01234 750068 |
|--|

More Club Members Needed

Quite a few people at the St Judes Working Rally expressed an interest in coming along to Club meetings. I have noticed that there appear to be more young people taking an interest in the Club. If you know someone who is interested in tractors or implements, whatever their age, then please do tell them about the Club, and if you see someone new at a meeting then please have a chat with them to make them feel welcome. (Update - it was good to see [at least] 3 new people at the Club meeting on 10/10/13).

The December meeting will take the form of a party, with Ctee members providing the food.

If you have ideas for speakers or visits, then please give Donald some details - a name & phone # or e-mail address please.

What do teachers know?

“Johnnie.”

“Yes, Teacher?”

“If there are twenty sheep in a field, and one gets out through a hole in the fence, how many sheep are left in the field?”

“None, teacher.”

“Johnnie, there are still nineteen sheep left in the field. Obviously you don’t know maths.”

“Sorry, teacher, but I do know maths. Obviously, you don’t know sheep.”

Footnote



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