

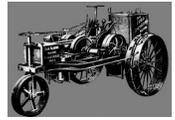


# Ouse Valley Group

Based in Bedfordshire, Cradle of the UK Tractor Industry

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

[www.ovtc.org.uk](http://www.ovtc.org.uk)



## 2014 Summer Newsletter

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

Donald Bowler,  
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Haynes, Bedford  
MK45 3PT

[jadon\(AT\)picnic.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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)**.

### Arrivals -

Many congratulation to Sarah, Mark & Joe on the arrival of a daughter and sister, Maisie Anne, 7 lb 12 oz, on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### Departures

All Club Members send their sympathies to the relatives and friends of :-

Jean Worbey, late wife of Club Member Alec Worbey, shortly after their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

Vic Cobbold, who died in April, lately Member of OVTC, lived N of Bedford.

## AGM & Club Officers

An election was held at the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> April for Club Chairman, with Keith Durham and Ed Garner standing for election. After very close voting, Ed was elected as Chairman.

Many thanks to Keith for his leadership over the last 2 years, and for introducing new ideas, especially at the St Judes Rally.

### List of Club Officers 2014-15

|                      |                   |                     |                        |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Chairman             | Ed Garner         | Committee Members - | Peter Wheeler          |
| Secretary            | Mark Wheeler      |                     | Richard Worboys        |
| Treasurer            | Marcus Billington |                     | Ben Palmer             |
| Membership Secretary | Clive Woodcraft   |                     | Matt Pirks             |
| Meetings Secretary   | Donald Bowler     |                     | Clive Monk             |
|                      |                   |                     | Max Cherry             |
|                      |                   |                     | Ray Gibbins - Road Run |

Thanks You David Smith for judging the photographs in the AGM Photo Competition that Members had entered. David explained that he used highly personal criteria for deciding the winners, who were :-

|                 |              |                                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Ken Robinson | Line up of tractors at a Rally |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | June Wheat   | Traction Engine                |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Danny Waters | Horse Working                  |

Many thanks to all Members who brought their photos along; please continue to take photos for entering into the competition at the 2015 AGM in April.

**And Many more thanks for all their hard work to the Committee Members who stepped down at the AGM :-**

- Ned was for many years the Membership Secretary, before that he was the Treasurer.
- Sarah Willis was the Secretary, but now that she has two little people (plus of course Mark) to look after, she has also stepped down.
- Annamarie Scott-Coomber is no longer on the Committee, but is continuing in her role as Web Master

**Weekend Barbeque & Road Runs - Sat/Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> August,  
The Cock PH at Broom**

The First OVTC Summer Road Run Weekend will take place on 2nd and 3rd of August, proceeds in aid of Addenbrooke's Hospital, where Clive Woodcraft, our new Membership Secretary, has been treated for about 5 years, and he is now thankfully on annual checkups as opposed to the surgical list.

Camping will be available and although the main road runs will be on the Sat and Sun, we have the camping field available to members from Friday evening to the Monday. Both road runs will be about 20 miles, with the opportunity for a short cut if the weather be is a problem. The aim is to call in at a pub en-route.

If you would like to camp or enter one or both of the runs then booking would be helpful for us to organise, those with harvest commitments may want to just show interest, any non-booked will not be turned away, but please arrive early and give your name for safety reasons.

Clive is asking a minimum donation of £10 for the weekend including camping and Road Runs, any donations welcome if you wish to enter just one run. All family and friends are welcome to call into the great famous pub, please come dressed smartly as the club camera man may be attending!

Raffle tickets will be on sale, and drawn on the Sunday. Prizes for the raffle will be gratefully received.

The Saturday Road Run will leave at 10 am and Sunday one at 10.30.

Your nearest shop is Sainsbury's at Biggleswade, and Parkside Farm Shop in Broom, open 8.00 am to 8pm Mon - Sat, Closed Sundays. Please come along and support this new club venture.

**Clive Woodcraft's contact numbers are :- 07809526163, 01767 600817.**

## 2014 St Judes Working Rally 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Sept - Wartime Vehicles

As it is 100 years since the beginning of The Great War, and 75 years since the start of what at some time became known as The Second World War, (see next item below) the theme of this year's 38<sup>th</sup> Rally, at St Judes Farm in Haynes, by Kind Permission of The Simms Family, is **Wartime Vehicles**.

If it had not been for agriculture pulling out the stops during 1939 - 45, with an increase in the number of tractors available to plough up land to grow more crops, then Britain would have starved, with food imports being blockaded by U boats. We want tractors from the humble Fordson N, which was used in its 1000's, to more unusual tractors, to come along to the rally. If anyone out there has a tractor that dates from 1914 - 1918 then that would be great. We also want any vehicles that were used during wartime, plus of course, as in previous years, any vehicles which don't fit into our special theme are also very welcome.

So, tractors of all ages are welcome to the Rally, not just those dating from before 1946, and we are also going to try and get cars, commercial and military vehicles from before 1946 to add to the theme. The rally field has been drilled to combining peas this year, as have several other fields in Haynes and elsewhere.

### World Wars 1 & 2

As 2014 is such an important year for World Freedom and British History, being 100 years since the start of **World War 1** and 75 years since the start of **World War 2**, I (Donald) got to wondering, during the quiet parts of last Christmas, when the terms **World War 1** and **World War 2** were first used. Sometime during or after **World War 1**, it became known as **The Great War**, but I wondered how far into, or how after, the War that started in 1939, was it realised that it was a **World War**, and so it should be called **World War 2**, with the **Great War** being called **World War 1**? Although the Internet is a great place for finding out lots of stuff, I couldn't find the answer there - so I asked the **Imperial War Museum** - I thought it would be a simple question to them - however .....

The question that I asked the IWM, on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan this year, was :-

"I have a couple of questions, the answers to which I have not been able to find.

1. How far had the 1914 -18 War gone before it was first called the Great War?
2. And how far had the 1939 - 45 War gone before it was realised that it was a World War, and (presumably) the Great War was then called World War 1 and the 1939 - 45 war became referred to as World War 2?

I do hope you are able to help".

My question, which I thought was a relatively simple one for the IWM to answer, clearly stumped them somewhat, for I did not receive a reply until 3 months later, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. Their reply read :-

"Many thanks for your enquiry regarding the use of the terms First World War and Second World War.

I'm afraid I cannot give you a definitive answer to your question. I discussed your enquiry with a colleague, one of the Museum's historians. He was of the opinion that the term "The First World War" was first used in the context of the First World War in 1933 when the Daily Express published a book with that title by Laurence Stallings.

The exact point when the Second World War became called such is hard to pin down. I have looked at some of the encyclopaedias, part works such as War Illustrated and interestingly they refer to "The Second Great War" or just "The War". These were works published during the Second World War.

I hope this information is of interest. I'm sorry not able to give you a definitive answer to your questions.

Thanking you for your interest in the Museum”.

So there you are - an apparently simple question without a simple answer. If there are any Club Members out there with children who are at school, you might wish to get them to ask their teachers the question that I asked the IWM, it could form a useful way of keeping a teacher busy for a few hours.

## **Well You Wood, Woodn't You?**

Do any members have any large off-cuts of plywood that are cluttering up their workshops “Just in Case?” Some of the large tractor shaped signs that are put out at road junctions a few weeks before the Haynes Rally have disappeared over the years, we now need to make a few more. If you have some large off-cuts of plywood that you can't see yourself using in the next few years, then we would be grateful if you would donate them to the Club. Please give Ed Garner a call on 01234 381220 to arrange collection or delivery.

## **Young Farmers Ploughing Match 2014, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

This is always an excellent event, more than just a match, this year being hosted by Silsoe YFC.

The date is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at Stanford Bury Farm, Shefford, Beds, by kind permission of J Parrish & Son (*NB* - the date was initially announced by the Beds YFC as Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Oct, but it had to be changed). For more information and entry forms, contact Alison Redman, 07754 865120, 01525 860717, [redman@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:redman@gotadsl.co.uk) , [www.bedsyfc.co.uk](http://www.bedsyfc.co.uk).

## **Raffles and Prizes**

Thanks to all who buy raffle tickets at Club nights and other Club events. We are always on the look out for raffle prizes; if you have any items which are unwanted (perhaps a Birthday or Christmas that didn't quite hit the mark) then you might wish to consider giving them for raffle prizes. Money collected in the raffles at Club Nights goes towards paying the Bowls Club for use of the room, and at the Barbeque goes to the host's chosen charity. If everyone bought a few raffle tickets at each raffle then the amounts raised would soon add up.

## **Yet Another Joke**

In a dark and hazy room, peering intently into a crystal ball, the Gypsy Mystic delivered extremely grave news :-

"There's no easy way to tell you this, so I'll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."

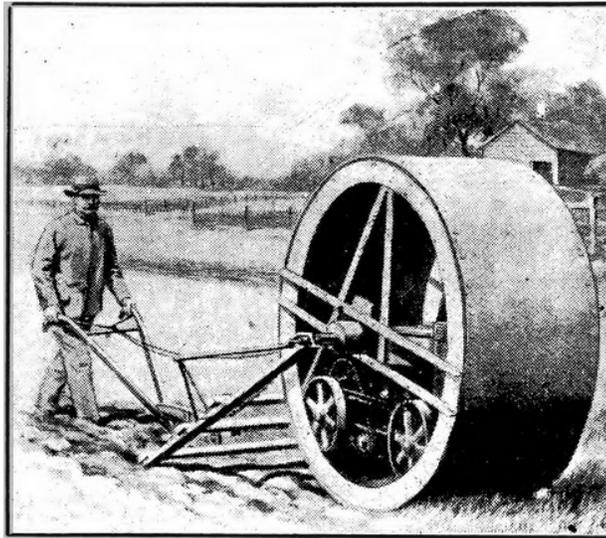
Visibly shaken and with tears starting to appear in the corners of her eyes, Laura stared at the woman's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She brushed away the tears, took a few deep breaths to compose herself, and to stop her mind racing. She simply had to know.

She met the Fortune Teller's gaze, steadied her voice and asked, "Will I be acquitted?"

For some reason, wives tend to like this sick joke...

## An Unusual Tractor

During my researches on early tractors, I came upon the following in the Hull Daily Mail 4<sup>th</sup> February 1914, a few months before the start of The Great War. The image and caption below are self explanatory ....



An engine, mounted on wheels, continually climbs the inside, and rolls this huge hoop along the ground to draw farm implements.

### **Rolling-Hoop Tractor for the Farm.**

A gasoline farm tractor which works on the principle of a squirrel cage has been invented and tried out by a Connecticut farmer. It consists mainly of a wheel, 5ft 6in in diameter, with a tread of 30in, which rolls along the ground propelled by a 12-15 h.p. gasoline engine inside. The motor is mounted on four wheels fitted with gears and a clutch, like a tiny automobile, and propels the large wheel by continually trying to climb the inside surface of the wheel like a squirrel in a cage. The tractor was designed to draw cultivators, ploughs, and other farm implements, and can be driven between rows, up hills, and around sharp corners; but it can also be geared higher to draw a waggon or buggy on the road. Mounted on a frame or cradle, it can be used as a handy power plant for running corn shellers, etc. Built with a 52in wheel, this machine weighs about 1,200lb, and reports of tests made with it indicate a high degree of efficiency.—"Popular Mechanics."

## Some jokes :-

David Cameron is visiting a Glasgow hospital. He enters a ward full of patients with no obvious sign of injury or illness. He greets one and the patient replies:-

"Fair fa your honest sonsie face, Great chieftain o' the puddin' race,  
Aboon them a ye take yer place, Painch, tripe or thairm, As lang's my airm."

Cameron is confused, so he just grins and moves on to the next patient. The next patient responds:-

"Some hae meat an canna eat, And some wad eat that want it,  
But we hae meat an we can eat, So let the Lord be thankit."

Even more confused he just grins and moves onto the next patient, who immediately begins to chant:-

"Wee sleekit, cowerin, timorous beasty, O the panic in thy breasty,  
Thou needna start awa sae hastie, Wi bickering brattle."

Now seriously troubled, Cameron turns to the accompanying doctor and asks, "Is this a psychiatric ward?" "No," replies the doctor, "this is the serious Burns unit."

## **Best joke I've heard recently**

Two sisters, one bright, one not so bright, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble. In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch, they need to purchase a bull so that they can breed their own stock.

Upon leaving, the brighter one tells her sister, "When I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and bring it home". The brighter one arrives at the man's ranch, inspects the bull, and decides she wants to buy it. The man tells her that he will sell it for \$599, no less. After paying him, she drives to the nearest town to send her sister a telegram to tell her the news. She walks into the telegraph office, and says, "I want to send a telegram to my sister telling her that I've bought a bull for our ranch. I need her to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home".

The telegraph operator explains that he'll be glad to help her, and then adds, "It will cost 99 cents a word". Well, after paying for the bull, the brighter sister realises that she'll only be able to send her sister one word. After a few minutes of thinking, she nods and says, "I want you to send her the word "comfortable"".

The operator shakes his head. "How is she ever going to know that you want her to hitch the trailer to your pickup and drive out here to bring that bull back to your ranch if you send her just the word "comfortable"?"

You'll love this.....The brighter one explains:- "My sister's not so bright. The word is big. She'll read it very slowly.... "Com-for-da-bul!"

## **Puns for Educated Minds**

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it....

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

Jokes about German sausages are the wurst.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

When chemists die, apparently they barium.

## **Something for those who have a love hate relationship with their computers - and also for those who don't have a computer, and want reassuring that they aren't missing anything**

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

At a recent computer exhibition, Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the car industry and stated, "If Ford had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, Ford issued a press release stating :-

If Ford had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics :-

1. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
2. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
3. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
4. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
5. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed an Illegal Operation" warning light.
6. The airbag system would ask, "Are you sure?" before deploying.
7. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the aerial.
8. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
9. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.
10. When all else fails, you would have to call "customer service" in some foreign country and be instructed in a foreign language on how to fix your car yourself.

## **Oh No, Not more Jokes!!!**

All the toilets in London's police stations have been stolen. It appears the police have nothing to go on.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Velcro - what a rip off!

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection you know urine trouble.

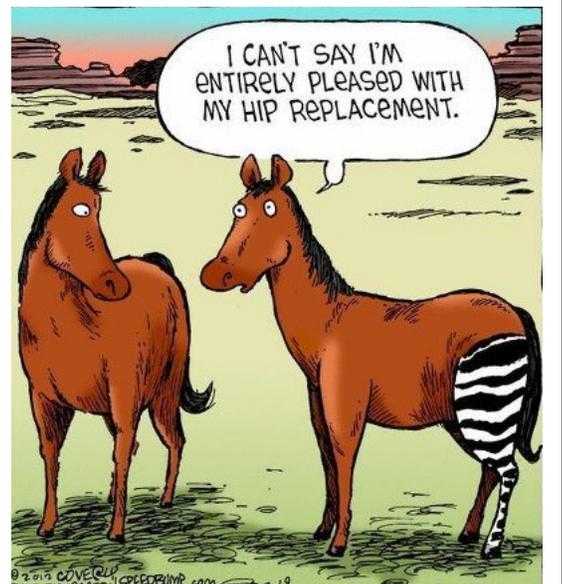
Broken pencils are pretty much pointless.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

I dropped out of the Communism class because of lousy Marx.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.



## The Chairman's Report

I would like to start by thanking everyone for supporting me as the newly elected Chairman.

Also, I would like to thank Keith Durham and the other members that left the committee, Sarah Willis, Ned Tingey, Annemarie Scott-Coomber for all of their work for the Club.

A warm welcome to the new members of the committee Matt Pirks, Phil Moffit, and, although technically he already joined midway through last year, Clive Woodcraft. I would just like to add that if any club member has anything troubling them (Club Wise) please get in touch with me it's your club! [tedthefarmer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tedthefarmer@hotmail.co.uk) or see me at a club function

I chaired my first Committee Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> May with nearly a full Committee turn out. I know it is difficult for everyone to come to every meeting due to work commitments and travelling and endless factors.

We have had much to get through and plan for this year for all the events that we hold, the biggest being the rally of course and plans are already in full swing.

The first event was the BBQ and I would like to thank the Maskell family for hosting the BBQ and allowing us to look round their amazing collection.

A big Thank You must go to Amanda Pirks for organising all the food and drink, with the helpful assistance of Baby Holly Pirks, who we dragged around Costco and Tesco on the Monday afternoon at a record neck breaking speed, and me! My job was to entertain Holly, lift, carry and push the trolley, but I'm going to take no credit for anything as all the credit must go to Amanda and her newly formed Ouse Valley Sub-Group, the TWAGs (Tractor Wives And Girlfriends!?)

Amanda (Mandy), her Mum Linda Warner, and Denise Thorne, all did an amazing job of making and preparing all the food and to finish off with all the lovely puddings, we also need to thank Pete and Mark Wheeler for their BBQ-ing skills.

Many thanks must also go to Richard Worboys for the raffle and everyone who brought prizes, I would also like to thank Emily Walker who helped Richard sell tickets and call out the raffle numbers.

I would like to move on and just say a few words about the events that I've been to so far this year and the events leading up to them.

As you may know, I'm a keen Ferguson and Massey Collector, but I did branch out, last year I purchased a Showman's Caravan and started restoring it. This was a far bigger job than I first thought it would be, but the same as always I set myself a deadline, which was that the outside of the caravan had to be finished and water tight, for the Rushden Cavalcade in May, so that gave me a year!

With lots of work ahead I set about stripping away the rotten wood and started again, the frame was built by August, and with harvest finished, work was done again on the caravan until September.

I took delivery of the new cladding on the Sunday of last year's Haynes rally and I completed all the cladding by November. The new Mollicroft, or Clerestory, (the part sticking up out of the roof) was made and dry fitted together in the workshop, all this work was done over a break up with my then girlfriend Hayley and the Christmas holiday.

I worked long into the night with so much help from my best mate Darren. The Mollicroft was glued together and put into place and the roof built and clad. There is even a video on You Tube showing Darren and me applying the waterproofing. Darren made the video and applied the sound track.

Over the next few months Darren and I worked through the night sanding and painting. It was like painting the Forth Rail Bridge, what with all the other jobs that needed doing, oh and nearly killing Matthew Pirks one day when he fell off the ladder.

All the work was eventually completed and then on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May I set off through Bedford to Rushden for the Cavalcade, and up the A6 nearly 2 hours later we got there. Much fun was had by all and we had a line of visitors, even one of the Ouse Valley Tractor Rally Signs came on tour with us to advertise the rally. We saw an endless list of club member visiting and exhibiting their tractors.

We've just got back from the Bolnhurst Rally, where, as always, there was a very good turn out, even despite the overcast weather. I handed out forms to many people who are interested in coming to our Rally and of course the "Rally" signs went on tour yet again.

My next rally will be Haynes, so plenty of time to get ready apart from harvest, in between now and then, I hope to see you all there.

Please do remember we are always looking for new Members, so if you know of anyone that is interested please bring them along to the rally or a club night at Wilstead, so they can see what it's all about.

The Committee and I are planning on going to some YFC meetings to drum up new Members, so if you'd like to come along with us or have any ideas for an evening's entertainment please let us know. When I first came to the club it took Pete and Marcus to persuade me to come along one evening and finally for Marcus to call me and say are "you are coming to the club meeting, I'll pick you up at 7pm" - Sometimes that's the best way. However I'm not saying Marcus will pick everyone up ☺.

Edward Garner

P.S.

I would like to add, if anyone is interested in helping with the harvest, for the threshing drum at the rally, jobs including cutting, stacking and collecting sheaves, and even helping with the drum at rallies, I'm sure any help would be more than welcomed, by Geoff and Annemarie, If you are interested could you please let me know your name and contact details, so if help is needed I can pass them on, I'm sure you are aware that it is not easy, as it can be at short notice and is very weather dependent.

## **Club Visit of 8<sup>th</sup> May to the Grace & Bryan Biba Tractor Collection, with Gordon Carson**

About 25 Club Members went out to Walpole Highway, this side of Wisbech, a nice easy run out, where the rain had stopped, though there was plenty of surface water on the roads. We were all very impressed with the range of tractors on display, and the standard of restoration was breathtaking. An excellent spread was laid on for us all, and a donation was made by the Club, in memory of Bryan's late wife, Grace. DB.

## OVTC Clothing

Available on request at Club Meetings or Events, telephone Richard Worboys on 01234 294055 or 07763 355668 and he will bring along what you want. All very serviceable, don't show the dirt

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | <b><u>OVTC Club Polo Shirts</u></b><br>Currently in navy. Sizes: S, M, L, XL and Children's<br><br>£12.00 |  | <b><u>OVTC Club Caps</u></b><br>Currently in black, adjustable<br><br>£7.50 |
| <b><u>OVTC Fleeeces now available</u></b> - in black in a range of sizes - £18.50 |   |  |   |

## Donald's Wanderings

I like all sorts of old tractors (I find it difficult to excited about modern ones, though I do appreciate their abilities and work rate compared to those from the 1960s), but my favourite type are tracklayers or crawlers or, as Caterpillar call them, **Track Type Tractors**.

I am a Member of the Link Club, a Club for Caterpillar enthusiasts (though their Members own other makes of crawler as well) and I enjoy going to their events and writing articles for their quarterly magazine, *The Link*. For information, go to [www.thelinkcaterpillarclub.co.uk](http://www.thelinkcaterpillarclub.co.uk).

On Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> I went to Arthur Hinch's collection at Little Casterton. I had never been there before, so it was quite an event for me. There were plenty of Allis Chalmers crawlers, including letter series, Hesselman engined (running on Diesel fuel, but with ignition by spark plug rather than compression) "O" series and then the soft blown -71 Series 2 stoke GM engined models. The Clayton Crawler was a lovely machine, powered by a Dorman engine.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May was Russell Saywell's open day, near Eaton Socon, where a Caterpillar D7 that he has fitted with a D1700V8 Diesel was working with a scraper. Russell has a very interesting collection of Ex US Army Caterpillar D7 tractors, both cable and hydraulic control, including dozers, cranes, loaders and an armoured UK Army model. The Clarkair CA-1 miniature dozer that would have been parachuted in was interesting to see working, tidying up after the scraper.

In mid June I went off to deepest Norfolk to see a keen MH collector, my report should soon be/have been in *Tractor & Farming Heritage*. I was amazed at how many wild flowers, especially poppies, there were alongside the roads. The Starting Handle Club's rally is held on his land at Marsham on Sat/Sun 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> August.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June was the 4<sup>th</sup> Muck Shifting event at Sibbertoft, where members of the The Link Club were continuing their previous years' work using old plant to continue to reshape an off road course.

Then on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June I was commentating again at our Haynes Village 100, in aid of the Village Hall. 159 cars, light commercials and motor bikes of all ages, plus a few tractors (thank You June Wheat, Marcus Billinton, Ed Garner, Matt Pirks, Ron King and Clive Monk) drove around the village roads, which had been closed to the public. We also had a flyover by a WW2 plane. DB.

## The Higgins, Castle Lane, Bedford

I had heard of *The Higgins* in Bedford, but new nothing about it. It is a combined museum and art gallery, and very interesting it is too, located on the site, and in the buildings, of the Higgins Brewery. I didn't have long to look around, but I did see the gallery with information on and exhibits from various of Bedford's manufacturing industries, including J & F Howard, W H Allen and Cryselco. I'll be going back soon to have another look around (it is free of charge) and will also have something to eat in one of the many restaurants in Castle Lane. If you want somewhere to take a loved one, that does good sized portions, then The Higgins Pantry is to be recommended. DB

## Cowslips & Honey Tankers

For a week every June, my wife Jane & I go on holiday on a Narrowboat, of which 2 of our friends have a weeks share. It needed some work doing on it so on the last Sunday in April we went to help them move it by 1 lock and seven miles to a boatyard. The area of Northamptonshire where the boat is based has lots of grassland with beef cattle and sheep quietly grazing. It was amazing how different the fields looked in late April compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June. What really amazed me was the number of cowslips that were growing in several small field ridge and furrow grass field near the boatyard.

I was quite enthralled and amazed by their presence. I assume that the fields have not been reseeded for many years, and that the fields receive little, if any, nutrition, apart from manure from the animals that will be grazing on them in months to come. I have sent a couple of photos to Annamarie for putting on the web site.

When we reached our destination I went to have a chat with Trixie, who has a very important job. When you are on the canals, rather I suspect like when one is staying in a caravan on dry land, you try and "go" elsewhere, but there are the times when you are in your pyjamas that one wants to "go" near to. The toilets on most boats on the canals are of the pump out, rather than cassette, type, so you need to find a suck-out place. Trixie pulls the honey tanker at Union Canal Carriers at Braunston. Trixie was waiting patiently, waiting for her next big job. *Donald*.

## Sherrington Ploughing Match, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2014

I went along to the North Bucks Vintage Tractor Club's Sherrington Ploughing Match, congratulations to Max Cherry who won the Silver Plate, using his Orange N.

## Meetings Programme 2014/15

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

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Sept 11 <sup>th</sup> | Rally Plans ( <b>Rally date 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; 21<sup>st</sup> Sept</b> ) <b><u>All club Members</u></b><br>and Club Night – <b><u>NB Rally Theme is World War Vehicles</u></b> |   |
| Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Old Farming Home Cine Films  | Clive Woodcraft's Father                            |
| Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>  | All You Ever Wanted To Know<br>About Thatching - And More  | Chris Dodson<br>Chris Dodson Thatching Services Ltd |
| Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>  | Club Party with Food   | Club Committee                                      |

|                       |   |                            |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Date TBA              | Road Run 2014 - Start Venue TBA   | Ray Gibbins, 01908 379800  |
| Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>   | Quiz  |                            |
| Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Waterways Wonders - A look at some marvels of the Waterways System, including Foxton Inclined Plane, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and the Anderton Boat Lift | Richard Thomas             |
| Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>  | To be decided   |                            |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup> | AGM + Photo, & Caption Competition - Please bring along your farming, farm wildlife, old machinery & tractor photos                                   | Dave Smith + Donald Bowler |
| May 14 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Visit :- To be Decided</b><br><b>YOU MUST BOOK A PLACE with Donald</b>   |                            |
| June 11 <sup>th</sup> | BBQ - Pre booking is essential  | Venue, TBA                 |

## Alec Worbey's Recollections

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1961, the wooden fencing surrounding the high bank alongside the railway line in our farm was being replaced by concrete posts and wire, so I was soon off down to the Chief Civil Engineer's Office at Hitchin Station.

"How much do you want for all that old fencing" I asked the gentleman in charge? "Well, I think there must be about 5 cwt weight there, how about 2 shillings a cwt?" I nearly fell over with surprise. I quickly agreed and quickly handed over a ten shilling note.

He wrote out a receipt, and I quote :-

"2 shillings per cwt - 10/-  
The above amount will be brought to debit on the Goods Balance sheet for the month of October as Chief Civil Engineer's Department Firewood Sales"

That is what the receipt said.

There must have been nearly 2 miles of 3" x 2" lateral fencing as there were 3 lines of that as good as new, and there were the upright posts, 3" x 7", spaced about every 10 feet with 2 upright smaller posts about 3½" x 3½" in between each 2 big posts, and all posts were about 7 feet tall. Most of the wood was as good as new and most of my barns contain some of this wood and it was all impregnated with creosote.

I have recently put up a fence near the house so I can hang on to this as I stagger up to my house in my old age; this is some of that railway fence. The wire that replaced the lateral wood has already been replaced once, whereas as if the wood fence had been left it would still be standing as good as new.

(Editor's note - I reckon that Alec got about 752 cubic feet of wood, which, assuming a density of about 0.7, would mean he bought 32,900 lbs or 14.7 tons of wood, all for 10 shillings, or 50 pence in today's money! NB 1 cwt = a hundredweight = 112 lbs = 1/20 ton.) DB.

*Thank You Alec, always interesting hearing about things from years ago - Donald*

## **A Plea!**

I'm sure you all get up to interesting things in your tractoring and other exploits. Why not write 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, 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. *Donald.*

## **Club Website**

Annamarie Scott-Coomber is our Web Master. See [www.ovtc.org.uk](http://www.ovtc.org.uk). Annamarie is pleased to put your sales & wants on there, along with your photos, or anything else as long as it is legal. Annamarie may be contacted at 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**

|   |
|---|
| <b><u>Put your things for sale in here</u></b> – Nothing this time around |
|---|

## **More Club Members Needed**

Quite a few people at the 2013 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, and that is very good. 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.

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

## **Old Tractors (mainly) - see the following links on This Newsletter at the Club website at [www.ovtc.org.uk](http://www.ovtc.org.uk)**

Dutra D4K ploughing <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2N3CVaRKEs>

Howard Drainer on Rotapedes <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6u4ptksD1s>

How strong is a picnic table? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzLqdEy1yx8>

Is it a tractor - or a bike? [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGGIODF7\\_RY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGGIODF7_RY)

Unloading 1948 DDH Cletrac crawler 6 cyl diesel <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiU6SXzrY7o>

Euclid TC-12 dozer <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFkNyq65v7U>

1947 IH TD 18 Dozer Still Does the Heavy Work <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC6r1L1IMa4>

IH TD25 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihHoDDRvK4>

IH TD18 Period Images <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uKcZgDhtiw>

IH TD18 Drilling <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snRfCctkTQo> **AND**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ewq19VZNc>

Allis Chalmers HD15A ploughing <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdfpdDhOEq0>

MH 726, with Bat Reels, Combining in 2013 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3t4K3y2HR8>

## **Footnote**



And if you thought there were too many jokes in this edition, and want fewer jokes in the next one, then why not write something about what **YOU** have been up to and that can go into the Newsletter instead?

This newsletter is both posted out to Members, and also placed on the Club Website - [www.ovtc.org.uk](http://www.ovtc.org.uk) - by Annamarie. 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)**.