

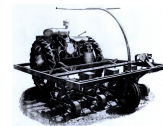


Ouse Valley Group

Based in Bedfordshire, Cradle of the UK Tractor Industry

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

www.ovtc.org.uk



2012 Autumn Newsletter

A note from your New Editor

This is **your** first newsletter, with me, Donald, as the New Editor. I say it is **your** Newsletter, because the *Ouse Valley Group* is **your** Club and the newsletter is to tell you what **your Club** is doing. I happily agreed to become *Editor* of the Newsletter, on the understanding that it is the role of an Editor to collate and put together things that others have written - it is **not** my job to write it. Your Committee undertook at our committee meeting in August to each provide me with at least one article a year for the Newsletter. I would also like Club Members to send me articles on what they have been up to, such as renovating a machine, or being at a rally or working event, or perhaps their recollections from years ago. I know that Members find Alec Worbey's recollections interesting, and Clive Monk writes of his ramblings around rallies. You can either e-mail things to me, or give them to me at Club Meetings, or post them to me - if you write things though, rather than typing them, please use your best un-joined up hand writing, so I can read it, as, from seeing the Ridgmont Ploughing Match entry forms, most tractor people's writing is even worse than mine, which is saying something. The same goes for adverts for things for sale or wanted, please e-mail them to me or give me a written note, and they will go in the next available Newsletter. **Items wanted & for sale will go in the Newsletter only once, unless you explicitly ask me, after they have been published, to put them in again.** The intention is to publish the Newsletter 3 times a year, in March, July & November.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank Liz Molyneux for being the Newsletter Editor of the last few years.

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 01234 381525 Or hand me a note at a Club meeting
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A short biography of the Editor

Born at an early age, lived in Breaston, Derbyshire, until 18. Used to spend holidays at Easter & in Summer at Granddad's, Uncle's, & Cousins' farm in County Durham, where there were milking cows, beef cattle, sheep, pigs, free range hens, wheat, barley, field beans, a few potatoes, grass and a wood. Tractors were 6 volt TE 20, 12 volt TE20, Grey & Gold FE35, Water Wash Fordson N, Old Major, 2 Nuffield Universals, combines were MHF 726 Bagger, MF 780s Tanker, and all engines were petrol-paraffin. A pto powered Allis Chalmers Roto Baler was used, before a New Holland arrived. A Caterpillar D2 with a blade was bought for a short period for grubbing out the Wood when there were grants. I remember the cleared field then being planted with field beans, there was a grant for growing them, they grew really tall, over 6 ft, and some young stirks got into the beans, my cousins & I had great fun trying to find the stirks so we could chase them out. It was driving and helping mend tractors that got me interested in agricultural engineering, so I went to

the National College of Agricultural Engineering at Silsoe from 1971 - 1975 and studied Ag Eng, which is from where I got to know John Kilgour. I then contracted Rheumatoid Arthritis when I was 21, so changed careers. I spent a time driving a County with a Mather & Platt Pea Viner behind it on Romney Marsh on the daytime 4 am - 4 pm shift in the hot summer of 1976, with as many fresh shelled peas as I could eat. I've lived at Haynes since 1982 when I married my wife, Jane. It was in 2005 that John Kilgour asked if I would help him at the Haynes Rally, I thought he wanted someone to drive his E27N Major; I ended up helping in the Commentary Rally Commentator & Meetings Caravan, and after that became the the May visit. It was in 2006 that Secretary, organising speakers and Dungledozer going and at the request Marcus Billington & I got the Overtime going with the help of Max of Silsoe College that I got the Cherry for their Open Day in 2007. I took early retirement/was made redundant in May 2011, and I am now a gentleman of (relative) leisure.



The Chairman's Ramblings

Hi, all,

Well, what a year so far, rallies called off all over by rain and more rain, will it ever stop, I ask myself. I went to Hatfield House Country Show (17th - 19th August) with Shane & the pigs, a few Club members had exhibits on show too, good weekend and worth a look at next year for you. Paul Worbey runs steam & tractor exhibits, give him a call, you may be able to take a tractor etc. I also went to Silsoe Young Farmers Club tractor run at College Farm, Gravenhurst, some members were there too for the run, a very hot day, ice cream and beer called for and a sit in the shade.

Winter meetings here now with the summer gone, well done Donald, should be some good nights to come. If you know of anyone to come to club to do a talk let Donald know please. Beds Steam Rally Old Warden dry all weekend (again), a great show, and lots of members there as well. Well, Haynes Rally, where do I start? Set up Wednesday night, thanks to all of you who turned up to help, Thursday, beer tent going up, time to get caravan & on with set up, lots to do, exhibits on the way in, putting signs up at 10 o'clock at night on the field not a good idea, time for bed, I think. Friday a bit cold in caravan, cup of tea, off to feed pigs, rally field looking good and dry, trade stand & exhibits keep coming, time to get my tractor & binder on site. A bit more set up to do, sort out a few problems, then time for the beer tent, Great Relax. Saturday 6 am still dry, tea, then off to the pigs, back on site for breakfast, then on with the show, take tractor round the ring. Then time to play tractor pulling, where were you all? I had to get the St John Ambulance to help to drive the tractor, thanks to Sue for that. Then Donald went walk about, so I went round with the radio microphone to talk to anybody who would talk to me, most of you ran away, thanks!

Time for a beer & wait for tractors to go round the ring again, next job, to B-B-Q the pig leg for dinner, wash up & off to the beer tent for night entertainment, thanks to 7-20-7 Group & Sue & staff behind the bar for a great night. Sunday, pigs, yes, bit late though, then round the ring. Time to get the mobile mic out, but you know what happened next, RAIN. So time to get everybody out & get field cleared, I went home about 7.30pm soaking wet, Monday back on site at 6.30 am for big clean up, we finished about 6 pm. Big thanks to June Wheat for tea & cake all day, also big thanks to all who help to clean up the field. I had a great weekend thanks to all of you for that. Please let me have your feedback on the rally & the new lay out of the field, it will help to make it better for next year. Thanks again to all, Keith.

A Note from Sue Anderson, the self styled "Gate Lady"

I would like to thank all those helpers who manned the Gate and the Car Parking at the Haynes Rally this year. It certainly ran smoothly and the people involved worked efficiently to make it an easier task for me. Again many thanks, but BEWARE I have a record of your names for next year!

36th Working Rally, S^t Judes Farm, Haynes, Sat/Sun, 22nd/ 23rd Sept 2012

After all of the other rallies and working events that were cancelled in 2012, it was a relief that the days before the rally, the Saturday and the first part of Sunday were dry, it was even sunny on Saturday. At about 1 pm the decision was made to cancel the afternoon parades and close the rally, as by then there were members of the public present and some exhibitors had started going home. Thank you to all who contributed to the Working rally, including those on the gate and car park. Donald would like to say a personal thank you to both Marcus Billington for painting the signing-in/commentary caravan, and to Sarah Willis who did such a great job of collating all of the exhibit cards and programmes into envelopes for handing to exhibitors, making the job much easier.

A big Thank You is due to the Simms Family for again allowing the Club to use their field

The ploughing area seemed to go well, the Working Rally never has been a Ploughing Match, even when cups were awarded for the best ploughing, and it was all very informal. The way the ploughing was done this year, going around and around, with a couple of big lands, gave some great sights of 5 or 6 tractors ploughing one behind the other. The driver with the Ransomes MG with 2F plough was working in a separate area next to Haynes Park and was enjoying himself.

Awards 2012

- Club Member giving outstanding service - Ron King
- The CH Shaw & Sons Youth Challenge Shield - Jamie King

Working Rally Awards

- Tractor - Corin Harris of Meppershall for the 1930 International 22-36 with CLM LC2 opposed piston two stroke diesel engine
- Working Exhibit - Neil Tingey of Shillington for the Blackstone Mill with French Burr stones & Blackstone Engine
- Stationary engine - Alan Gray of Newport Pagnell for 1940 1½ hp Ruston Hornsby PB with Lister sheep shears, Fleuss Vacuum pump and Pillar Drill
- Commercial - Alan Huckle of Bedford for 1954 Buckdale Bedford Leyland Martian JSU 213 Recovery truck, fitted with 4 mpg Rolls Royce straight 8 Petrol Engine
- Car - Ray Hammond of Cherry Hinton for 1946 Wolseley 18/85 hp, owned since 1972
- Special Display - Edward Garner of Haynes for Ferguson & Massey Ferguson display

Hats & Shirts

The Club have for several months had Polo Shirts at £12 and caps at £ 7.50 available with the Club Logo on them. Thank you to Annamarie Scott-Coomber for selling them so well on her rabbit and tomato (no, that's not a hot pot recipe) stand at the Haynes Rally. The clothing is very serviceable, (for which, read, doesn't show the dirt) in easy care dark blue and black (one Club Member did ask if we could provide some white ones, but the Committee thought that, bearing in mind what most Members get up to, they wouldn't be very practical). The clothing is available from Committee Member Richard Warboys and may be examined and bought at Club meetings, or Richard may be contacted on 01234 294055.

5th Annual Ploughing Match, Segenhoe Manor, Ridgmont, Sun 24th March 2013

The next ploughing match at Ridgmont will be held on Sunday 24th March 2013 (please ignore the statement in the Summer 2012 Club Newsletter that the date is 13th March 2013 - it is not, it is the 24th March). The date is later than in previous years, to avoid Mothering Sunday and the East of England Shire Horse Show, and the match is the week before Easter. Entry forms may be printed

off from the club website at www.ovtc.org.uk, or, if you don't have access to a computer or a friend who does, Max or Donald can give you an entry form.

If you don't have a tractor then please come along and spectate, the last 4 matches have each seen over 100 entrants, with the 11 classes including horses and crawlers. Entry is free, there is a hog roast and other hot food, please buy some raffle tickets to support the land owners' charity. If you do have a tractor, but have never ploughed at a match before, then why not enter the Novices & Vintage Demonstration Class? There will be plenty of people willing to give you some advice. If you have a tractor but don't have a plough, then a Club Member may be able to help you out.

Alec Worbey's Automobile Recollections

At the beginning of the war in 1939, one of my father's customers asked him if he would store an Austin 7 car for the duration of the war, father said the rent would outdo the value of the car if the war lasted very long. The gentleman then decided he would sell it to my father for the vast sum of Ten Shillings [50 p], probably £10 today. It was taxed and insured and it was ready to cart our bags of Brussels, cabbages, cauliflowers and other items.

We put a pair of truck tyres on the back axle and it was so light it would go anywhere, we never got stuck anywhere. The hood was lowered as it was in the way and before long it had fallen off completely, the windscreen wiper was worked by hand, and sometime later the bottom half of the windscreen knocked out and we would proceed with a healthy blast coming through the bottom half. The Austin 7 ran summer and winter alike until late 1944, and then it gave up the ghost, we had had tremendous value for our 10 shillings.

Next we bought an Austin 7 Saloon, and cut off the back and made a pickup truck out of it, that lasted for about 3 years, then we had an ex RAF Standard 12 truck. The first Austin we called the JEEP, and the second one we called the BUG, the Standard 12 we called all the names under the sun as it was always breaking down.

Editor's note re inflation.

10s (50p) in 1939 would be equivalent now to about :-

£24.20 *using the retail price index*

£69.20 *using the average earnings*

In other words, wages have increased at a great rate than the cost of goods, which is why we can now afford so many more things than would have been the case pre-war.

Edward's bit for the Newsletter

Some of you may know me, others may not. I've been a member of the club for 2 years and this year joined the Committee. My first real recollection of classic tractors was in 1997, when I was only 10 years old, when we were looking at moving to Hill Farm Haynes. I remember seeing our now neighbour Mr JB King (John) top dressing with his MF 135, coming from a modern farm I'd never seen older tractors working like that, and I wondered what was going on. Once we'd moved in, I was always watching, (trying to help), if mum couldn't find me, I was with John and his mate Rolly and the tractors of course, when Rolly had a stroke in 1999 and was unable to help anymore, Mr King got contractors in to do most of the farm work. In 2005 he had a clear out, I helped pull implements and Combines out for scrap and Mr King sold his International BTD8 to my other neighbour David. I got very interested in helping him restore her, we took the crawler to the rally up at Haynes that year and also the following year, I was showing the program to Mr King when he said there wasn't a baler there this year, Eddy get mine out and take it next year. At this point, I was over the moon as I'd been looking at her in the shed for many years, so I pulled her into our shed and started work. This was the Massey Harris 701, I had it going and took her to Bolnhurst Vintage Rally in the June and later in the year Haynes, where I baled 75 bales behind Pete Wheeler's threshing drum, I also had asked John if I could borrow a tractor to take it to the rally, "of course you can Eddy, put some paint on it if you like" he said. Well, the tractor was his MF 135, the

same one I'd first seen him on nearly 10 years previously. I baled some straw and sometimes try a bit of Hay every year, just to keep it working. Now, the rest is history, I bought myself a TEF 20 Ferguson to restore. Before I'd finished it, I found and purchased a 135 of my own and started to restore that instead, the Ferguson was OK, but not on the top of my list of things to do, I took the 135 with a Ferguson Mid Mounted Mower I'd purchased, I went on the Friend of Ferguson stand and was made to feel at home. I went the following year with my Petrol 135 which I'd purchased and restored earlier on in the year, I was a little damp driving home, it took me just under an hour in the pouring rain, but this year, like many others, was cancelled.

I'm not the biggest fan of Ferguson Tractors, but the implements maybe, I look for them on E-Bay mainly, it's amazing what you can find, but some have come from other sources. Many of you may have seen the collection at the Haynes Rally this year, I have 28 implement and accessories from the original range including some of the more difficult to find ones such as the Buckrake, Hammer Mill and Winch, I also own a rare petrol Massey Ferguson 135 with Multi Power, which I mentioned earlier.

I have a few different bits in the barn such as the International BTD 8 crawler and 4 furrow plough, which when David got bored with I purchased from him earlier this year. I have a 1938 Orange Standard Fordson N which has an early experimental head and engine original to the tractor from new and a David Brown 1410, one of the last to be built in the Meltham factory near Huddersfield, she can be seen cutting grass and footpaths around the farm, moving straw and mowing hay as the grass mower no longer fits on our new Massey tractor.

I do not believe a tractor should sit in a shed and do nothing other than rallies, they were built to work and do a job, all my tractors can be seen working and playing their part around the farm.

Meetings Programme 2012/13

By the time you read this, we should have already had two speakers in our 2012/13 season of meetings. We have about 125 members in the Club, but only about 70 generally come to Club meetings. You certainly don't have to come to the meetings if you are a Member, but I am told by other Members that we do have some good speakers, and it's a chance to catch up with old friends, you will get a warm welcome if you do come along.

For October Frank Summerlin spoke about The New Fordson Major and other tractor related matters, and for November David Walker talked about Massey Ferguson. The programme below shows what the Meetings Secretary, Donald Bowler, has arranged for the rest of 2012/13.

If you have ideas for speakers for 2013/14, also suggestions for a visit, then please let Donald know, (Contact Details on page 1) but he will need at least a name and a phone number, or snail mail address, or e-mail.

Dec 13 th	Bomford & Evershed Apprentice & Green Mech	Tony Turner
Date 28 th Fri	Road Run 2012 - Starts & Ends at :- Hill Farm, Northwood End Road, Haynes MK45 3QB, by Kind Permission of the Garner Family	Ray Gibbins, 01908 379800 Please let Ray know if you are going, to help him with deciding on numbers for food at the pub
Jan 10 th	Peter J Longfoot	Caterpillar Author of <i>Little 10 to Big 10</i>
Feb 14 th	Colin Holwell	Allis Chalmers

Mar 14 th	Marshall Tractors	Peter Anderson Author of <i>Three Decades of Marshall Tractors + Marshall Diesel Tractors 1930-1957</i>
April 11 th	AGM + Photo, & Caption Competition - Please bring along your farming, farm wildlife, old machinery & tractor photos	Dave Smith + Donald Bowler
May 9 th	Visit Maskell's Tractor Museum at Wilstead:- YOU MUST BOOK A PLACE with Donald	
June 13 th	BBQ - Pre booking is essential	Howard's place

Club Website - Update

Annamarie Scott-Coomber has taken on the role of Web Site Master from Ian Scott, who is emigrating to Scotland. A big thank you from the Committee to Ian, who set the web site up several years ago. Annamarie is in the process of changing the website to make it easier to use, with more up to date software. It is the intention to keep the same web address, www.ovtc.org.uk. Once the new website is up and running, Annamarie will be 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

More Club Members Needed - Preferably Alive

The more observant Club Members may have noticed that the average age of the Members might be nearer 100 years old rather than 0 years old. Whilst our older members are of course very welcome, and they bring with them a wealth of experience of farming matters from before the days of big bales and Q cabs, we do need more young members. I remember a couple of years ago, a club member was trying to describe another member to me, and, trying to be helpful, he told me the person was "oldish and had grey hair", which only ruled out only about one quarter of the Members. Of course, our older Members are very welcome, but we do have some younger members, and I'm pleased that Edward Garner from Haynes and Annamarie Scott Coomber have joined the Committee, to bring fresh ideas, and of course Sarah Willis and Mark Willis are also already on the Committee. If you know someone who is interested in tractors and engines and other things that our members "tinker with", then please do try and encourage them to come along to the Club Meetings, to see if they like it. They don't have to join straight away. Apart from anything else, if we don't do our bit to encourage more youngsters to be interested in old tractors and other machinery, there will be no one around in years to come who will buy the tractors when our Members are too old to use and enjoy them.

Silsoe YFC

We are trying to get members of the Young Farmers Clubs, especially Silsoe due to its proximity, though the rest of Beds YFCs are also welcome, to become involved in our Club. Our Members do go along to Ploughing Matches; their 50th one on 29th Sept at Houghton Conquest was well supported, with tractors and competitors of all ages taking part. If you know any YFC Members then please do tell them they will be most welcome to come along to our meetings or events.

THE TRACTOR INDUSTRY.

Whilst reading a *Farm Implement & Machinery Review Magazine* from 1938, I noticed the article about tractor numbers in England & Wales, listed by County.

What surprised me was how many Bedfordshire had (852, including 38 Tracklayers), compared to other Counties, when the small size of Bedfordshire was taken into account.

When though I started doing some calculations, I found that perhaps relatively speaking Bedfordshire wasn't so well endowed, though a proportionately greater area was built up.

Bedfordshire is 306,000 acres, whilst Cambridgeshire, including the Soke of Peterborough, Isle of Ely and Huntingdonshire, is 838,000 acres and they had 2,993 tractors, including 121 track layers.

Hertfordshire is 406,000 acres, but only had 981 tractors, including 36 tracklayers.

It should be noted that only about 70% of farmers returned their questionnaires, so, whilst the figures are not correct in absolute terms, they do give a flavour for how tractor numbers varied County to County

Buckinghamshire is 463,400 acres and had 719 tractors, including 9 track layers. Lincolnshire at 1,719,700 acres had 3,834 tractors, with 313 being track layers.

County	Wheel Tractors for Field Work	Wheel Tractors for Stationary Work only.	Track Laying Tractors.	Total.
DIVISION 1A—				
Bedford	778	36	38	852
Huntingdon	671	32	28	731
Cambridge	1,022	84	25	1,131
Isle of Ely	862	34	68	964
Suffolk, East	1,393	126	36	1,555
" West	961	56	34	1,051
Essex	2,583	156	65	2,804
Hertford	883	62	36	981
Middlesex	186	8	4	198
London	2	4	..	6
DIVISION 1B—				
Norfolk	2,404	161	111	2,676
Lincoln (Holland)	765	21	151	937
" (Kesteven)	997	49	84	1,130
" (Lindsey)	1,607	82	78	1,767
York, E.R.	1,134	90	12	1,236
DIVISION 2A—				
Kent	2,402	159	169	2,730
Surrey	519	39	15	573
Sussex, East	898	52	30	980
" West	874	26	21	921
Berkshire	783	46	43	872
Hampshire	1,434	112	79	1,625
Isle of Wight	131	12	10	153
DIVISION 2B—				
Nottingham	650	42	16	708
Leicester	445	28	15	488
Rutland	140	14	2	156
Northampton	943	68	10	1,021
Soke of Peterboro'	153	14	..	167
Buckingham	631	79	9	719
Oxford	746	65	12	823
Warwick	713	64	21	798
DIVISION 3A—				
Salop	633	58	20	711
Worcester	740	82	83	905
Gloucester	741	97	7	845
Wiltshire	1,120	79	33	1,232
Hereford	653	99	15	767
DIVISION 3B—				
Somerset	799	106	23	928
Dorset	685	80	4	769
Devon	1,031	124	11	1,166
Cornwall	679	71	12	762
DIVISION 4A—				
Northumberland	512	52	5	569
Durham	466	45	1	512
York, N.R.	812	111	7	930
" W.R.	875	68	9	952
DIVISION 4B—				
Cumberland	262	63	3	328
Westmorland	58	9	1	68
Lancaster	760	49	7	816
Chester	509	46	..	555
Derby	304	13	6	323
Stafford	533	51	10	594
TOTAL ENGLAND (excl. Monmouth)	39,882	3,124	1,479	44,485
DIVISION 5A—				
Anglesey	81	8	..	89
Caernarvon	94	18	..	112
Merioneth	20	15	1	36
Montgomery	107	18	2	127
Denbigh	200	29	2	231
Flint	173	6	2	181
DIVISION 5B—				
Cardigan	150	41	5	196
Radnor	41	1	..	42
Brecon	28	10	2	40
Monmouth	115	16	..	131
Glamorgan	190	31	2	223
Carmarthen	184	64	4	252
Pembroke	233	35	4	272
TOTAL WALES (incl. Monmouth)	1,616	292	24	1,932
TOTAL ENGLAND AND WALES	41,498	3,416	1,503	46,417

And Finally, a Joke :-

A neighbour is passing by farmer Joe's hay shed one day when, through a gap in the door, to his amazement he sees Joe doing a slow and sensual striptease in front of an old Massey Ferguson.

The neighbour watches in disbelief as, buttocks clenched, Joe performs a slow pirouette and gently slides off first the right welly, followed by the left.

He then hunches his shoulders forward and, in a classic striptease move, lets his braces fall down from his shoulders to dangle by his hips over his corduroy trousers.

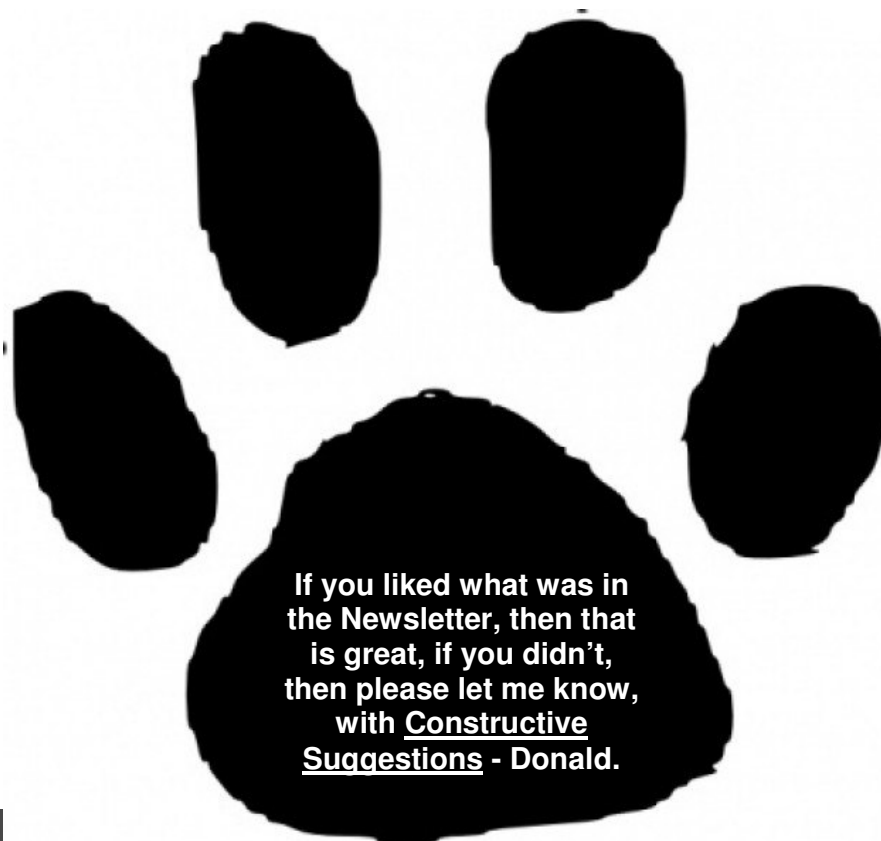
Grabbing both sides of his check shirt, Joe rips it apart to reveal his tea stained vest underneath and, with a final flourish, he hurls his flat cap on to a pile of hay.

"What the heck are you doing, Joe?" says the neighbour.

"Gosh, you frightened the living daylights out of me," says an obviously embarrassed Joe.

"Me and the missus been having some trouble lately in the bedroom department," he explains, "and so the therapist suggested I should do something sexy to a tractor".

Footnote



The End

