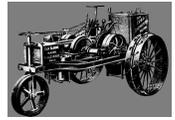




Ouse Valley Group

Based in Bedfordshire, Cradle of the UK Tractor Industry

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



www.ovtc.org.uk



2013 Spring 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](mailto:jadon(AT)picnic.wanadoo.co.uk)
Phone me before 9 pm 01234 381525
Or hand it to me at a Club meeting

The date for our St Judes Farm, Haynes, Working Rally to a Week Later, to Sat/Sun 28/29 Sept 2013

The Chairman's Ramblings

Hi, all,

Christmas has been and gone, thanks to Donald for sorting out winter meetings, been very good, but there is still a problem with background noise at the back of room, when speakers are talking.

Thanks to Ray Gibbins for arranging the road run again, we had 40 odd tractors, + Geoff's Bedford TK + the Old Bill Robin Warner in his Morris Minor Panda car keeping an eye on us. Thanks to the Marshals as well. We all had tea & coffee at Ed's farm before we left at about 10.30, off towards Old Warden round the back way; well some of us did any way, on to Ickwell, Upper Caldecote, Broom & on to White Horse at Southill for refreshments, very good too, we left after about 1 hour, back through Ireland back to the farm, then the road was closed just before Ed's place so we had to turn around to find a way round, got there in the end for tea and draw the raffle. Ray made £500 on the day for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust - thank you all for that.

We are having a road run on Sunday 7th July, starting/ending at Duck End, Maulden. Ned tells me that we have some new Members joining the club, a warm welcome to them all, looking forward to meeting them, please come and say hello to me.

Don't forget the ploughing match on 24th March at Ridgmont; Donald has given you all the details about that. The BBQ in June will be the last one at Howard's, so we are looking for new venue for 2014, please let us have your suggestions for a venue. Many thanks to Howard for letting us have the Barbeque there for so many years, always a very enjoyable occasion. Well that's it for now, thanks, Keith Durham.

TVO Licence Renewals

It's that time of year again.....well actually I am a month late - sorry! 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 2012, unless you contact me to request otherwise. Anyone who does not currently hold a licence and would like one, please contact me on 07900373163 or [sarah.willis79\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:sarah.willis79(AT)gmail.com). All I need is your name and address. Thanks, Sarah Willis

Are you able to help? - Pedal Tractors wanted

Last year I attended Silsoe Young Farmers road run, apart from having a great day, a tractor and trailer ride followed by ice cream, they had set up a children's play area with pedal tractors. My Joseph absolutely loved it, which got me thinking that we could do something similar at our rally - with a small area set up with bales around for parents to sit on whilst children could play at "tractor driving". So...I was wondering if you could help?

In the back of your garages or sheds, do you have any children's pedal tractors or diggers that you would be willing to donate to the club, or sell for a small fee? If the answer is yes please contact me: Sarah Willis, 07900373163, [sarah.willis79\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:sarah.willis79(AT)gmail.com). Thanking you in advance, Sarah

Mick Maskell, RIP

Most Members will now be aware of the Death of Mick Maskell on 24th October 2012 at the age of 64. Mick was a good friend to our Club; he was Chairman and Treasurer for several years and used to give mugs to be awarded for the best ploughing at the Working Rally. The funeral at Wilstead Church was a massive occasion, with Mick arriving on a trailer behind his Fowler Engine, Lord of the Isles. Many of the mourners were stood outside in the churchyard, so full was the actual Church. Mick's son Darren read out the Tribute, a copy of which Darren has sent for including here in your newsletter.

"Born in St Peter's Hospital, Bedford, on 27th Feb 1948, he was the first born child of Gordon & Connie Maskell; he was called Michael Peter Gordon. By 1952 he had 2 sisters and one brother - Dawn, Lorna and John; they all lived on the family farm at Duck End, Wilstead.

He attended the local schools and then Elstow Abbey. It was post war and he was raised on the farm, driving tractors from the age of 8 and carrying out other tasks that would be deemed too dangerous today for a child.

He left school aged 15 and was ready for work on the farm, his father had other ideas though and decided he should learn a trade, so he was sent to Gower's Boilermakers of Bedford to start a 2 year apprenticeship, he cycled to Bedford everyday, he enjoyed his work and the friends he made.

During this time he bought his first dog, something he was never without from that day on, normally German Shepherds and nearly always called Major.

After he finished his apprenticeship he came back to work at the family business, which had expanded into many areas, as well as the farming and engineering, there was demolition, land drainage, agricultural dealerships, MOT testing, the invention of the Maskell row drop tractor, which meant going to shows all over the country, the farm had a parachute club and many different people about, life was interesting and exciting. Although he had to work hard he still found time to socialise.

In 1982 he met Janet and after a courtship he married her in 1969 in this very church in a double wedding with his sister Dawn. They set up home sat the family's farm in Harlington and in 1972 they had their first child "Me". In 1974 his daughter Sally came along. He was a regular in the local village pubs, making many friends; he was a brilliant domino player, never ceasing to amaze me how he knew which ones I had in my hand. He was also known to like a pint or two.

He divorced in the late seventies, and remarried again, having another son, Mathew. During this time he joined the Ouse Valley Tractor Club, becoming an active Member, holding both

Chairman and Treasurer Posts, standing down in 1995. Tractor Club meetings, visits and rallies, dinner with Fred Dibnah, life was never dull.

He divorced again the late seventies and after a while he met Carol, after a long engagement they finally married in 1987 with Richard being born in August, they moved from Harlington, back to Wilstead, to look after Dad's Grandma.

It was during this time that he bought and restored his steam engine, Lord of the Isles, many months of hard work were put into restoring it and he spent time showing it as rallies and fetes. The next project was 6 Foden models he built with a group of friends; these became regulars on the rally circuit.

In March 2000 he lost his father, and he and I took over the family business. It was rewarding and fun, with different jobs on the go, time went very quickly.

Dad was never a holiday from home person, much preferring to spend a weekend at a rally, but this did change in the mid nineties when he discovered Scotland. He fell in love with its peace and way of life, the people accepted him and he spent as much time as he could up there. Eventually he bought a derelict property up in Rogart and soon renovated it into a new home; he could relax up there and forget about his failing health. Dad had suffered greatly with his health in the last 20 years, many illnesses and warning of a short life, he carried on regardless, never stopping him carrying out the things he wanted to do, heart problems, diabetes, lupus and then kidney failure, he never let it affect his next project.

Dad had many interests and was a member of many clubs, the Bowls Club, Model T Club, Tractor Club, Beds Steam Club, to name but a few. A regular at the rallies, he always had time for a chat.

Over the last 4 years we made a Museum at the farm, it was a place he could show people around, he was proud of his achievements and a good place to hold a family gathering, he was a very sociable man.

In February this year Dad & Carol celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary Two weeks ago he was in Scotland, on holiday, when he suffered a massive heart attack, he died in a place he loved, with Carol by his side, he leaves behind 4 children and 7 grandchildren, he was a friend to many people, His suffering is at last over.

I can only take comfort from being part of his life, knowing that he lived his life in full, never wasting time, he made every day count. I shall miss his next project, his political incorrectness, his sense of humour and cheeky smile, and his ability to make anything seem possible."

Note from the Editor re Mick Maskell

I may have met Mick on one Saturday in about 1973. I had been loading up the Dungledozer at the College at Silsoe ready for a rally, and one of the Renold type chains snapped on the Rotapedes. Back then, there was no Wilstead bypass, and as you drove along the A6 you could see all manner of farm machinery in the field next to the A6 and Duck End Lane. There were Howard drainers on Rotapedes parked up, so I thought they might have a joining link, so I went up there, explained my plight, and received a brand new joining link. It may have been Mick, or possibly his father, that I saw. Since I became involved in old tractors again around 2005, I had many chats with Mick, who always dealt with my, sometimes perhaps, odd, questions, very kindly. I will always remember when at Haynes Rally he took my Great Nephew Andrew for a spin around the field in his monocled windscreen Ford Model T racer, and made Andrew's day. - *Donald B*

37th Working Rally, St Judes Farm, Haynes, Sat/Sun, 21st/22nd Sept 2013

The theme for this year's rally is Fords, Fordsons & Their Conversions. Blur Force, the (relatively) new Club for such tractors has asked if they and their Members may come along and show some of their tractors. All other tractors and exhibits will of course be equally as welcome as in other years. If you have a Ford, Fordson or a Conversion then please bring it along, and if you have one that is currently in bits or not running then it would be great if it was ready for the Rally.

Tractor Road Run, Friday 28th Dec 2012

£500 was raised for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, thank you to Ray Gibbins for organising and to Edward Garner for the use of his buildings, to the Marshalls, and to all for turning out - at least it was dry, if cold.

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, they will also be on sale at Segenhoe Manor, Ridgmont, Ploughing Match on Sunday 24th March, Richard may be contacted on 01234 294055. Investigations are being made about extending the range to include jackets/coats.

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

The next Club ploughing match will be held on Sunday 24th March 2013 at Ridgmont. The date is slightly later than in previous years, to avoid Mothering Sunday and the East of England Shire Horse Show, the match is the week before Easter.

At the time of going to print, there are 95 entries, with the 11 classes including horses and crawlers. It is likely that by the time you receive this all the spaces will be taken up. If you want to enter, phone Max on 01525 404504 and leave a message and he will get back to you. Entry forms may be printed off from the club website at www.ovtc.org.uk.

Please come along and spectate, there are lots of interesting tractors to see, in a lovely setting, along with some good ploughing. Entry is free, there is a hog roast and other hot food, please just buy some raffle tickets to support the land owners' charity.

Alec Worbey's Last Wheat Crop Recollections

Reading about a farmer who kept a wheat stack for 34 years because at first he couldn't get a good price for his wheat, brought back memories of when we stacked our last wheat crop in 1945. We had to grow 10 acres of wheat every year during the War, but as we were market gardeners, we stopped at war end. Well, we laid out a place to stack this wheat crop and my father and I started carting, my father estimated the stack area that we should need as he was more experienced.

The crop was a bit larger than we had though and when we got so far up, there was a discussion on when we should start coming in, however, after several more loads, we started to come in a bit more each load, and after a bit more discussion, and finally the stack ended up looking like Cleopatra's Needle, we were amateurs at stack building really, well I now know I was. This stack stood there for five years and one day we stood there discussing what we ought to do with it. I said put a match to it, as I knew I would get the worst job if it was threshed out, I was of course ignores, and as we stood there, this huge rat poked his nose out of the stack as if to say good morning to us. Without more ado my father borrowed the next door farmer's drum and with the aid of several of my uncles we threshed this stack.

Rats, there were hundreds of them, and most of them escaped onto the railway bank nearby, the wheat, what was left of it, we fed to out small flock of chickens, and when I went down the field the next day, early in the morning, there were hundreds of rats feeding on the large amount of straw and wheat that was left laying about. I shouted and they all disappeared under the straw, but when I think about it now, there were enough rats to have been able to have eaten me alive.

And that is the saga of our last wheat crop. - *Alec Worbey*

Matt & Mandy Pirks' Wedding, 2nd June 2012

Little did Arty Warner know when he brought his Fordson Standard tractor from the Hunts Motor Company in St Neots, in 1949, that some sixty three years later it would be taking his Granddaughter and her new husband to their wedding reception. Iron Gert, so named by Arty's daughter-in-law in the 1960s, had spent her working life around the Bolnhurst and Thurleigh area of Bedfordshire. She was bought with the intention of doing contract work, but the RAE opened in Thurleigh in the fifties and Arty found a regular job with regular money and in the dry. So from then on Gert only ploughed the allotment.

In the 1970s Arty passed the ownership to his son Victor who gave her a rub down and a coat of paint. When Victor purchased a Victorian Showman's wagon, Gert was brought out of retirement to tow it to the rallies which it did whilst Vic's wife's parents and uncle were able to go with it, but then she was mothballed for another twenty years or so.

Along comes Mathew Pirks, Amanda's then boyfriend, and between them, unbeknown to Victor and with the help of Ed Garner from Haynes, they restored Gert, removing practically every nut and bolt, she was rubbed down, they lost count of how many wire brushes they wore out. Gert was finally gleaming! Victor's first knowledge of the restoration was when he visited Bolnhurst Rally, he had just celebrated a special birthday, the surprise present was proudly ticking over in the tractor line up, Victor was walking in the rally field telling Mathew all about his tractor, and as he neared the row he said there's a Fordson ticking over, it sounds good, when he got closer and read the number plate he yelled "That's my tractor" and the smile stayed for months. And so it was that Gert, driven by Ed Garner, pulled a specially adapted carriage to take Mathew and Amanda from Riseley Church to their wedding reception at Thurleigh on 2nd June 2012 resplendent in her white ribbons. With thanks to Mandy's Mum, Linda Warner, for the words.



OVTC HARVEST by Annamarie Scott-Coomber

The cycle begins generally in October when the wheat seed is planted by the Compton family, who kindly allow us to use one of their fields in Sutton, near Potton in Bedfordshire. We plant Triticale, which is a hybrid of wheat and rye. It takes its name from the scientific name for wheat (*Triticum*) and rye (*Secale*). It usually grows to a height of 30-40" before harvest. It produces a higher bushel weight than wheat and it looks a bit like barley in that it has 'awns'. It also adapts well to a wide range of soils. Unlike with a modern cereal crop, no growth regulators are applied to our Triticale in order to produce the long straw necessary for thatching. It is also given very little Nitrogen, as this makes the straw brittle.

In July we cut the crop with an Albion reaper binder towed behind a Series 1 Field Marshall. The crop is cut earlier than a modern crop that is harvested with a combine, before it is completely ripe. This is to prevent the ears shedding and losing a lot of the grain. The binder pulls the crop onto the knife with its sails. The straw is cut and it falls onto the canvas. The canvas rolls the straw sideways until it is collected by the elevating canvas. The crop is elevated up to the deck (table) where it is packed with swinging packing arms until there is sufficient straw to trip the knotting mechanism. This ties a single band around the sheaf, which is then ejected onto the field by the discharge arms.

A team of club members follow the binder around, standing the sheaves up in stooks (or shocks, depending where you are in the Country). This always seems to be done on a baking hot day, and we go home exhausted, quite smelly and covered in scratches! Long sleeved shirts are a must. The stooks are left standing in the field in order for the grain to ripen for approximately a fortnight, depending on the weather. We then have to collect up the sheaves and put onto trailers. It is back breaking work to pitch sheaves onto the trailers up to a height of around 16 feet, and we are always short staffed! The tractor driver towing the trailer has to have gentle clutch control in order not to throw the people packing the sheaves onto the trailer off the top of the load. Once full the trailers are sheeted up and left until they are towed to Old Warden and Haynes rallies to be threshed.

We thresh the crop using a Ransomes A54 Threshing Drum (Thrashing Machine) driven off a Series 3A Field Marshall. The drum needs to be level, particularly left to right, because the sieves within the drum hang by gravity, and to prevent the straw bunching up on one side, so care needs to be taken when setting up the drum prior to working it. The trailer of sheaves is parked alongside the drum and one person pitches the sheaves to the person standing on top of the drum, who is called the feeder. The feeder cuts the band on the sheaf and then feeds the loose sheaf into the drum, preferably without dropping his pen knife in at the same time!

The bars on the rotating drum scrape the ears against the concave, which is made from a strong wire mesh. Some of the grain falls through the holes in the mesh. The straw and remaining grain is thrown onto the straw walkers, which shakes the rest of the grains from the ears. The grain, and other broken bits of straw and ear, fall into the first dressing apparatus. A fan blows the cavings, chaff and other lighter bits away on to a tray underneath the cavings riddle. A shaking sieve shakes out other unwanted rubbish from the grain. A high speed fan then blows the chaff down a 6" pipe and into a trailer for disposal.

A cup elevator carries the grain to the top of the drum into the awner and chobber, where the grain is polished and the awns are removed. The grain falls into the second dresser which gives it a final clean. It then falls into a rotary screen which separates the grain into three sizes (best, seconds and tailings) and runs into sacks. The best seed is kept to be planted again in October. And so the cycle begins again.

The good straw comes out of the front of the machine on the straw walkers and into the Ruston Hornsby two string trusser. Packing arms tie the trusses, in a similar manner to that on the binder. The trusses are then sent to be used for thatching. We don't have a suitable terrier to chase the rodents when we get down to the bottom of the stack on the trailer, but Chip the dachshund proved himself an able mouser.

It should be noted that this is how Ouse Valley carry out their threshing demonstration, but is not necessarily the only way it can be done.

Note from the Editor - Thank You for that Annamarie, your Editor would love to hear from other Members about their exploits, whether recent or from timers-past.

Cardington Sheds

Though not tractor related, the Airship Sheds at Shortstown are very interesting. Shed N^o 2, which is the southern one, nearest to Wilstead, was renovated several years ago, the detail included getting Whitworth J bolts specially made because they weren't allowed to use the Metric equivalent. Shed N^o 1 has fallen into disrepair in recent years, but the owners, Fosbern Hangers, have been having it repaired recently, with a substantial area of the roof already having been renewed. I have been in touch with Fosbern about them having an Open Day; they say they are considering it. It should be noted that the buildings are called sheds because they housed airships, whereas hangers hold aeroplanes. Whilst the Sheds are often called Cardington Sheds, they are actually at Shortstown, the new housing development that is being built at Shortstown, through which the A600 now goes on a ridiculously circuitous route, is called New Cardington, due to snobbery about not wanting to associate it with Shortstown. Shortstown was originally built by Short Brothers for its workers, but evolved into a settlement for people working at the RAF Cardington base, which was built before Shortstown. See www.cardington-hangars.co.uk.

Meetings Programme 2012/13

By the time you read this, we will have already had five 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 for November David Walker talked about Massey Ferguson. In December Tony Turner talked about his life in Agricultural engineering with Bomford Bros. and currently with Green Mech, a leading manufacturer of wood chipping equipment. In January Peter J Longfoot showed pictures from 35 years ago taken at Little Casterton and the Peterborough Shows, and in February Colin Holwell talked about Allis Chalmers.

The programme below shows what the Meetings Secretary, Donald Bowler, has arranged for the rest of 2012/13.

Please look out your interesting farming, farm wildlife, old machinery & tractor photos for bringing along to the photo competition at our April meeting, on the 11th.

Donald is taking names at Club Meetings for our visit this year, which is to the Maskell Collection of tractors and other vehicles on 9th May, starting at 7.00 pm prompt.

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.

Mar 14th Marshall Tractors

Peter Anderson
Author of *Three Decades of Marshall Tractors*
+ *Marshall Diesel Tractors 1930-1957*

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

If you aren't ploughing, please come along and see over 100 tractors & horse pairs ploughing, plus there is a hog roast, other hot food, hot drinks, raffle with some great prizes - donations of raffle prizes appreciated on the day or at March Club Meeting.

- April 11th AGM + Photo, & Caption Competition - Dave Smith + Donald Bowler
Please bring along your farming, farm wildlife, old machinery & tractor photos
- May 9th **Visit Maskell's Tractor Museum at Wilstead:-
YOU MUST BOOK A PLACE with Donald**
- June 13th BBQ - Pre booking is essential Howard's place

A Story

Tony Blair and David Cameron somehow ended up at the same barber shop. As they sat there, each being worked on by a different barber, not a word was spoken. The barbers were both afraid to start a conversation, for fear it would turn to politics. As the barbers finished their shaves, the one who had Blair in his chair reached for the aftershave.

Blair was quick to stop him jokingly saying, "No thanks, my wife, Cherie, will smell that and think I've been in a brothel." The second barber turned to Cameron and said, "How about you" Mr Cameron?" Cameron replied, "Go ahead, my wife Samantha doesn't know what the inside of a brothel smells like".

A Puzzle

Name a palindromic farm implement - for answer, see bottom of last page (a palindrome reads the same backwards as forwards).

ADVERTS

To get a for sale or wanted advert put in the newsletter, 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

<p>Kverneland Hydrein Plough, can be used as a 2 - 3 or 4 furrow plough. Spare points included.</p> <p>Eccles Coral Caravan, Ideal for Rallies.</p> <p>Phone Barry Coy on 01462 436907</p>	<p>IH B250 tractor (Diesel) Ferguson TEF - Diesel 1954 48" Howard Rotavator 1 pair wheels & tyres 600 x 16 1 pair Nuffield front wheels & tyres 2 centres to fit 28" rims suit Fe, IH or Dexta 10 Epic Plough Points 1 off 11x 28 drear wheel & tyre fit Fe, IH, Dexta 2 berth Caravan</p> <p>Richard Warboys 01234 294055 07763 355668</p>
<p>2 van tyres 6.50 x 16, nearly new, £15 each ONO</p> <p>Alec Worbey 01462 434430</p>	

Club Website

Annamarie Scott-Coomber has taken on the role of Web Site Master from Ian Scott, who is immigrating to Scotland. Annamarie has changed the website to make it easier to use, with more up to date software, and she has done a great job - Thank You, Annamarie. We have kept the same web address, 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.

More Club Members Needed

The January meeting seemed to have a record number of people, which is very encouraging for the ongoing success of the club. If you know someone who is interested in tractors or implements 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.

Silsoe YFC

We are trying to get members of the Young Farmers Club, 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 their 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.

A Poem

I have a little Satnav
It sits there in my car
A Satnav is a driver's friend
It tells you where you are

I have a little Satnav
I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones
My Satnav is my wife

It gives me full instructions
Especially how to drive
"It's thirty miles an hour", it says
"You're doing thirty five"

It tells me when to stop and start
And when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever
Safe to overtake

It tells me when a light is red
And when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively
Just when to intervene

It lists the vehicles just in front
And all those to the rear
And taking this into account
It specifies my gear.

I'm sure no other driver
Has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car
It still gives its advice

It fills me up with counselling
Each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it
And get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house,
Makes sure I'm properly fed,

W & H Peacock, Bedford, Sale by Auction at Wilstead, 1953

Whilst reading the February 1953 issue of *Power Farming*, I came upon several reports on Used Machinery Sales Prices, one being the auction at Wilstead. I thought Members might find it interesting to see the prices that things made 60 years ago.

Here is the list, in its entirety :-

Massey-Harris two-furrow semi-digger trailer plough, £26,
medium disc harrows, £42,
four zig-zag harrows and pole, £14,
fifteen-coulter combine drill, £90,
trailer mower, £50,
binder (6ft., fair condition) £32;
Dickie nine-tine cultivator, £39;
Lister Blackstone elevator with 1½ hp engine, £80;
Fordson Major tractor, front steels, rear rubbers, 1947,
average condition, £70.

Prices obtained at sales elsewhere by other auctioneers included :-

1984 Fowler Marshall crawlers at £400 and £460,
1948 Case LA on pneumatics £220,
1942 Massey-Harris tanker combines, 370, £360 & £310,
1948 Lorant pick-up balers, pto driven, £130, £165 and £90.

It washes all my shirts and things
And - keeps me warm in bed!

Despite all these advantages
And my tendency to scoff,
I do wish that once in a while
I could turn the damned thing off.

Tractor Club Christmas Road Run, Fri 28th Dec

£500 was raised (the most ever at a Club Christmas Road Run) for Cystic Fibrosis, organised by Ray Gibbins, **Thank You Ray**. Thanks to Edward Garner & Family for allowing the Road run to start/end at their farm in Haynes.

And Finally, a Joke :-

A farmer goes out to his field one morning only to find all of his Cows frozen solid. As far as the eye can see are cows, motionless like statues. It had been a bitterly cold night, but he'd never thought anything like this would happen. The realisation of the situation then dawned on him.

With his entire livestock gone, how would he make ends meet? How would he feed his wife and children? How would he pay the mortgage? He sat with his head in his hands, trying to come to terms with his impending poverty.

Just then, an elderly woman walked by, "What's the matter?" asked the old lady. The farmer gestured toward the frozen cows and explained his predicament to the woman. Without hesitation the old woman smiled and began to rub one of the cow's noses. After a few seconds the cow began to move and was soon back to normal and chewing the cud. One by one, the old woman defrosted the cows until the whole field was full of healthy animals.

The farmer was delighted and asked the woman what she wanted as a repayment for her deed. She declined his offer and walked off across the field. A passer-by who had witnessed the whole thing approached the farmer. "You know who that was don't you?" asked the passer-by. "No" said the farmer "who?"

Wait for It ... "Thora Hird".

Footnote



The End



Answer to Puzzle - Name a palindromic farm implement - answer = Rotavator.

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