



NBVTC

news

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Issue 59



Who is Who in the NBVTC

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Ed's Notes

If you did not make the February meeting, real shame, because it was one of the most interesting talks we have had. The talk was on the Ford Model T and the speaker was Neil Tuckett. Tuckett Brothers who are based in North Marston, Buckinghamshire have been in business for over 30 years and provide a service for your entire Model T needs. Neil himself is a bit of a character he has been in Salvage Squad when a Model T was restored and provided some helpful knowledge and driving techniques to Clarkson when a model T was tested in the old Top Gear.

In 2011 to commemorate 100 years since the automobile conquest of Ben Nevis, when a Model T was driven to the top of Ben Nevis some 4406 feet, Neil wanted to do something and the planning of the reconquest had started some years before. It was impossible to drive a Model T up to the top on the original trail as steps have now been constructed for walkers so it was decided that the Model T would be driven as far and from there on it would be dismantled and carried by 70 volunteers and assembled on the top. A mammoth task considering the weather conditions! We did not only saw footage of the 2011 reconquest but some really good photography of the original 1911 conquest. If you have missed all this some can be found on the Tuckett Brothers website at: www.modeltford.co.uk. The only negative was that Roger found out how little it costs to have one shipped from the USA door to door.

The club has had a fantastic year-end both the Christmas road run and the quiz night were well supported by you all. It was a new venue for the road run at Concept Park but this time it was H who came up with a good route with some fascinating sites to drive through. He has also sent in a detailed story of the run and you will find inside this edition. Our quiz night was again another success. It was good to see many of our members who come and bring their good ladies! I was asked to include the teams and their scores; you will find these in the report.

And to start the New Year in a good note.... our ploughing match at Lathbury went ahead despite the weather. It was an arguable case the site looked fine on the Saturday when a few of us went to set up, unfortunately we had some rain on Saturday night and persistent showers on Sunday morning. Well done to all those who persevered because the skies brighten up midmorning and it turned out a very pleasant afternoon. Top man for me was Richard Cook who not only was the best club member ploughman but who also beat son James. Well done Richard! Nuts has sent in a full account of the day.

Spring is just around the corner and with it some events coming up that you will find in our events page. As we go into press we have had confirmation for one club ploughing match in March and a possible other one in April you will find some details at the back of your magazine by the ads section. Any further updates we will post on our website.

See you around the shows...

Sandix



The next magazine will be due out in June, any material to be included please submit by the beginning of May. My email address is sandistockham@gmail.com

Cover Photo

Richard Cook on the Lamborghini crawler and Max Cherry on the Fordson F ploughing in the trailed class at the Lathbury Ploughing match. Richard just pitted Max off the top spot by one point. Richard also beat son James who came third in the same class.

A Note from the Chairman

Hi everybody. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new members to the club and hope that you will enjoy all the meetings and events we have throughout the year. I would also like to thank all the members of the club who have re-joined this year and paid their membership so promptly.

I'm sure that you all know by now that Les King, a club member for a number of years sadly passed away on Friday 22nd January. Our special thoughts are with his family at this sad time. By the time you receive this newsletter the first event of the year will have taken place at Malvern on 27th-28th February. The organisers say it's going to be bigger and better this year so let's hope the weather's good – dry and not too cold.

Once again the Christmas quiz was a fantastic success with many people saying it was the best one yet - thank you Ernie for organising it. I would also like to thank you all for your support for this event and your generosity in donating prizes for the raffle which raised almost £400. It is lovely to see an increasing number of ladies at the quiz and also at many of our other events throughout the year, long may this trend continue.

The ploughing match at Michael Cook's on January 31st went ahead despite the weather conditions being not too good. When I inspected the site with Michael on the Friday the field was in good condition for ploughing and so we decided to go ahead especially as the lorry parking was on hard standing. On Saturday when we were setting up the weather was fine but then unfortunately we had quite a bit of rain overnight on Saturday which meant the plots were a little muddy. However, we had a really good turnout and most of you did a good job. Our thanks go to Michael for providing the land for ploughing and also for presenting the trophy he had donated in memory of his son to the overall winner of the match – Richard Cook. Well done Richard.

I am, at present, looking into the possibility of holding another ploughing match in the not too distant future – details will be posted on the website as soon as it has been confirmed. I hope to see you all soon.

Malcolm

Diary of Events & Shows

March 19th	NBVTc trip to the Black Country Museum in Dudley
April 2nd	Lambing Event at Thrift farm ~ Whaddon in Milton Keynes
April 30th-May 2nd	Rushden Cavalcade ~ Rushden Northants
May 15th	Chiltern Hills Rally nr Aylesbury Bucks
May 28th	Shearing Event at Thrift farm ~ Whaddon in Milton Keynes
May 29th & 30th	Lampport Festival of Country Life ~ Lampport Hall Northants
June 4th	Waddesdon Country Show (Bucks YF) ~ Waddesdon Bucks

Thrift farm are holding their yearly lambing event on April the 2nd and have asked if the club would be able to attend with a few tractors to add to their display, the event will run from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm. For more info and confirm attendance please contact Joanne Collins on 01908 501733 or email: joancollins@buckinghamshirecare.co.uk.

Club Nights

We meet at the NPFC on the 3rd Weds. of every month for a prompt 7:30 pm start.
March 16th Tony Edwards ~ RJ Mitchell and the Spitfire (Battle of Britain)
April 20th Richard Trevarthen ~ Grain Harvest Developments
If unforeseen circumstances arise, changes/updates will be posted on our website at: www.nbvtc.org.uk please check before travelling.



Leslie W King

When Les left school he started work with agricultural engineer Walter Pratt of Leighton Buzzard cycling from his home in Woburn each day. From there he moved to George Brown, then to Lancaster's. Over the years Les gained respect for his knowledge and ability with machines. This was rewarded when he moved to ECF as manager of the Friars Wash depot. He left them and went to manage an agricultural engineers depot at Maulden for Alun Jones. When Mr Jones decided to sell the depot he stayed on with the new owners P A Turney and worked with them until his retirement.

In his early years he collected stationary engines that had been used on the farms he visited. These were made to work and sold. Then came tractors, which again were improved and moved on.

In the late 1960s Les met David Philpot and began helping him with his traction engine. He was soon proficient and started looking for something of his own. He first got an Aveling roller, which was got into working order, then painted and eventually sold. The next was a Garrett agricultural engine that was improved and sold together with the lowloader Les had to move it. The next purchase was a Robey showman's tractor, in pieces and needing a lot of work. This was done and painted and sold on. A portable steam engine was taken in part exchange and after some work had been done on it was moved on. By this time Les was a well-respected steam engineer and driver being asked to drive for other owners.

The portable steam engine was part exchanged for a tractor. From this time Les concentrated on tractors adding to his fleet when something of special interest came available.

Les retired in 2014 after a career in agricultural machinery. He was frequently top salesman although he never exerted any pressure, he just told you what the machine he had on offer could do. Over the years most of his customers became personal friends, this was apparent by the number of farmers who kept in contact after his retirement.

His last major project was the chassis up restoration of a Peugeot lorry. Completed but never run on the road. His last tractors to be acquired were Hurlimann, two of them, which sadly he never drove.

His advice and humour will be greatly missed by his many friends as will his great knowledge of agricultural machinery in general. We extend our sympathy to his wife Wendy and his daughters Tracy and Sarah.

Garth Holman (a very good friend)

NBVTc Black Country Museum Trip

Please arrive at Newport Pagnell football club for 8am for a prompt 8:30am depart on Saturday 19th March. The coach will cost £6.00 per person and please either send a cheque payable to NBVTc to me or at very latest please pay at the March club meeting. The entry fee can be paid at entrance to the museum and will be £12.00 for adults £10.00 for concessions (over 60) and £7.00 for children 5-16. For more information please contact Richard on: 07921461542 and post cheques to 21 Long Street Road, Hanslope, Milton Keynes, MK19 7BL.



NBVC Quarry Hall Ploughing Match

A club ploughing match was held on the 31st January at Quarry Hall Lathbury in memory of Peter Cook. A final inspection of the field was carried out on Thursday with Mr Cook the landowner. The land is fairly gravelly so drains well and the go ahead was given. Unfortunately it rained early Sunday morning, which made the going heavy and sticky. However of the entry of 54 only five did not think it worth coming and one of those had just had an operation and one was ill.

There were five classes. Trailed with 5 entrants, vintage mounted with 22 entrants, classic with 12 entrants, novice with 5 entrants, ladies with 1 entrant and horticultural with 9 entrants.

Matt Turner who works on the farm brought a backup should the MF35 with two furrow plough fail in the conditions, but it looked like he would need three plots just for an opening. To put everything in perspective he said that to plough the whole 38 acre field was only going to take the following morning, and that in air conditioned comfort.

The event got underway, much of the conversation beforehand amongst the experts suggested that it was a day for the heavier tractors. Indeed Ellie's Nuffield pulled well on just above tick over, the engine sounding

T&M: There was a good turn out of tractors despite the early Sunday rain, and only five of the fifty four did not make it.
M: Matt Turner's backup was this Case and 11 furrow plough.
B: Ellie Bullard on the Nuffield was the only lady ploughing.

glorious and no slippage despite the sizeable plough. Most of the competitors kept at it although the going was really heavy for the horticultural entrees however at least 4 of them finished their plots and two of these were two wheeled Trustys. Working big two wheelers in these conditions must be really hard work, painful even. And one has nothing but admiration for their efforts (If not their sanity).

The scores were understandably lower than usual however the trailed again showed the way with a high class average. But it was noticeable that the highest score on the day by far was obtained on a MF35 who scored 23% higher than any other mounted plough outfit and even 10% more than the normally all conquering trailed ploughmen.

It is noticeable that the club policy of encouraging new and young ploughmen is bearing fruit; in the difficult conditions they all stuck at it and made acceptable efforts. The average age of the certificate winners was noticeably reduced with many youngsters again surpassing their older relatives and fathers. However in the trailed class the old man (Richard Cook) finally beat son James for the first time in about 4 years to win both the trailed and the Peter Cook (no relation) trophy for the best club ploughman.

On a sour note, there was some griping (not by club members) overheard about the use of a four wheel drive tractor in one class. We have in the past had to point out to competitors in other classes that we run a club event, not a national qualifier. The club is a vintage tractor club, which runs varied range of events for its members. Ploughing is just one of these events. The idea is that at the end of the day participating members have all had an enjoyable day. Yes it is competitive but that is not to the exclusion of enjoyment. A previous

T&M: It was tough for the horti ploughmen but Pete Shirley on his Iseki and Brian Reynolds with his Trusty just persevered.
M: And it was not too tough for Richard Ingram and his MF35.
B: Barnaby Curtis came 3rd beating his granddad in the v.mounted.



case involved a tractor built in an age that qualified it for a vintage tractor under the rules but it was only built with four wheel drive and some ploughmen protested. The club adheres as far as possible to the rules of the ploughing society but not to the exclusion of common sense.

Horticultural ploughing is a classic example of how to exclude newcomers by not having a classic class. So the cost of complying tractors and ploughs is now so high that it is cheaper to buy a Fergie and plough than a good horticultural outfit. This excludes so many newcomers and youngsters that it is really noticeable, the only youngsters seen are sons and daughters of established horticultural owners.

As an example one owner who owns 15 horticultural tractors all of which qualify for classic tractor class, but only two can compete in the horticultural class, the end result is that it is often easier to compete with the full size

tractors as a classic and forget horticultural. (You certainly have to work at it fast on a full size plot but it is possible to get reasonable result).

The club policy is to encourage new people and youngsters to become interested in the event, not to exclude newcomers because their equipment does not reach an exacting rule book for competitive ploughing. There is plenty of time for them to get involved at that level if they find they enjoy it and wish to proceed further.

Does four wheel drive really have such an advantage? In both examples mentioned it is possible to use crawlers in those classes. In this last match where the going was heavy it was thought that the larger tractors would have serious advantages, there were both four wheel drive and crawler tractors competing, the highest score by far was obtained on MF35!

Nuts



Results
Vintage Mounted
1st Richard Ingram
2nd Oliver Graham
3rd Barnaby Curtis
Vintage Trailed
1st Richard Cook
2nd Max Cherry
3rd James Cook
Ladies
Ellie Bullard
Classic
1st Nigel Pantry
2nd Hugo Hoyle
3rd Tom Baird
Novice
1st Tom Howe
2nd Tom Charge
3rd Ed Shires
Horticultural
1st Pete Shirley
2nd Chris Cook
3rd Graham Soule
Overall Winner
Richard Cook

NBVTCT Official Score Sheets

Lathbury Ploughing Match 31/01/16

Classes	Vintage Mounted														
Plot Nos.	1	2	3	6	7	9	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	25	26
Opening	10	9	15	10	9	8	14	10	8	9	6	9	14	5	7
Start	9	12	16	12	8	12	10	8	9	9	7	12	11	9	10
Seed Bed	10	11	16	12	12	14	9	9	11	7	6	9	10	14	8
Firmness	9	10	16	12	12	14	8	8	11	6	6	9	10	14	9
U'formity	9	10	16	12	10	14	8	8	11	7	6	9	10	14	8
Finish	8	12	16	10	8	14	8	9	9	12	11	8	10	13	5
Ins&Outs	9	9	12	10	10	10	8	11	10	11	10	7	8	9	8
Gen. Ap	9	13	16	11	9	14	10	11	12	13	12	12	12	14	8
Total	73	86	123	89	78	100	75	74	81	74	64	71	85	92	63

Classes	VM cont.			Trailed			L	Classic				
Plot Nos.	27	28	29	11	12	13	31	32	33	34	36	38
Opening	11	15	11	12	15	12	8	11	9	12	7	8
Start	11	12	12	15	12	11	12	13	8	9	11	12
Seed Bed	11	11	10	14	14	13	11	12	8	8	10	11
Firmness	11	11	10	14	14	14	11	12	8	9	9	11
U'formity	11	10	9	14	14	14	10	11	9	10	9	12
Finish	12	10	8	14	14	14	8	14	10	9	9	11
Ins&Outs	10	10	9	12	12	11	10	11	9	8	10	11
Gen. Ap	14	14	12	15	16	15	12	13	10	9	11	12
Total	91	93	81	110	111	104	82	97	71	74	76	88

Classes	Classic cont.					Novice				A	F	G	H
Plot Nos.	39	40	41	42	43	45	46	47	48				
Opening	13	11	12	9	8	9	5	11	5	12	10	8	10
Start	11	8	13	11	11	8	8	8	10	15	12	16	12
Seed Bed	12	10	12	10	10	9	8	8	10	13	12	14	11
Firmness	12	9	12	10	10	10	10	10	11	15	14	15	13
U'formity	12	10	12	11	9	9	8	8	9	14	14	16	14
Finish	14	12	12	10	11	4	5	6	9	6	8	14	12
Ins&Outs	12	11	12	11	11	8	8	9	8	8	10	12	12
Gen. Ap	14	13	13	11	11	9	9	9	10	10	12	15	13
Total	100	84	98	83	81	66	61	69	72	93	92	110	97



This is a line up of some of the 30+ tractors, outside Concept Park near Towcester, that took part on our Christmas road run.



NBVT Christmas Road Run

by Haydn Morris

Last year's Christmas road run was held on 13th December and began and ended at Concept Park near Towcester. I offered the use of our premises because we have plenty of parking and facilities, which are not used at weekends. Once this offer was accepted I set about planning a route which I hoped would be both interesting and minimise congestion on public roads. In this brief report I intend to provide some information about the route, which hopefully will be of interest to those who came along and will make those who didn't come wish they had!

Concept Park Towcester

We purchased the premises from the Hesketh Estate in the mid 1990's as we were looking to expand our Civil Engineering business and needed both office and storage space. The

T: Michael Brandon and his MF3085 entering the racecourse.

B: The tractors did a couple of drives around the track.

premises was previously called Kirby Farm and in days gone by was used to stable the Shire horses that worked on the Hesketh Estate that covered most of Towcester and the surrounding villages. Rumour has it that the Shire Horses had better living conditions than the servants who looked after them. When we took possession the buildings were in a derelict condition and we had to make significant investments to restore them to their present state. Fortunately we didn't scare off the resident ghost, which is still seen from time to time! We have always employed a full time fitter to maintain our fleet of plant and vehicles and as the business grew we saw the opportunity to expand and take on work for other customers so in 2009 - 2010 we built and opened the newer building where refreshments were served on the day of the road run. This is a purpose built workshop with vehicle lifts for cars and vans, a pit in the floor for HGV's and storage for smaller machines. On the Sunday morning approximately 28 tractors together with a trailer full of passengers assembled in the front car park and after a welcome from our beloved Chairman we set off under slightly threatening skies.

Towcester Racecourse

We headed about ½ mile North up the A5 Watling Street then turned into Towcester racecourse and through the main historic gates. I have to confess to being slightly nervous at this point as I had not expected so many large tractors to turn up. The main entrance gates and stone pillars have stood for hundreds of years, the entrance is barely 3m wide and it would've been a shame if we had demolished it! Fortunately with a bit of luck and skilled driving all the large tractors got through, some with only inches to spare! Towcester Racecourse held it's first meeting in 1928 and is one of the country's most scenic National Hunt racecourses with a stunning setting allowing people to enjoy the thrilling spectacle of racing 'over the sticks.' It is run right handed, is 1 mile and 6 furlongs in length with 10 jumps on the Steeplechase Course and 6 flights on the Hurdles course. It has fairly sharp bends and the final steep uphill gallop

to the finishing post tests many horses and often results in unexpected finishes. On 7th November 2013 Tony Mc Coy got his 4000th career win at Towcester rising Mountain Tunes to win the Wetherby's Novices Hurdle. The venue also has a state of the art Greyhound Track that opened in 2014. Greyhounds race 3 times a week throughout the year.

All the tractors did a complete lap of the racecourse on a hardcore track, which runs immediately alongside and is used by ambulances, vets, camera crews and judges on race days. We exited at the far side of the track across a bridge and onto the Easton Neston Estate.

St Mary's Church ~ Easton Neston

On leaving the racecourse and entering the Easton Neston Estate we passed St Mary's Church. This is in the Church of England Diocese of Peterborough and dates back to the 13th Century when the main Towcester – Northampton road ran alongside. It served the communities at Hulcote and Easton Neston. After enclosure & the building of Easton Neston House St Mary's became closely associated with the Fermor Hesketh family and their staff. Today it is the parish church for Hulcote, Showsley and the Shires in Towcester, holding services once a month. The layout inside consists of 18th Century box pews, encased in paneling providing privacy and allowing families to sit together in their own box. These types of pew were prevalent in England from 16th – 19th Century but few examples now exist. In July 2002 my wife and I were married in this church – it was a fantastic day, we had a horse drawn carriage which took us the opposite route to our road run, from the church across the racecourse, South along the A5 and to Whittlebury Hall where we had our reception. Fortunately the weather was kinder on this day than on the day of our road run.

Easton Neston House & Estate

Next we passed Easton Neston House, a large stately home designed in the Baroque style by the architect Nicholas Hawksmoor and built around 1700 using local Helmdon stone. It



was the home of the Hesketh family and the Hesketh Racing team, which competed from 1973 – 1978 in 52-world championship Grand Prix and following this by his motorcycle business, Hesketh Motorcycles, used the adjacent Wren Wing. Sadly a large part of this building was destroyed in 2002 by a fire, a week after our wedding! It has since been restored. In 2004 Alexander Fermor-Hesketh put the house and surrounding estate including the racecourse up for sale for an estimated £50 million. In 2005 part of the estate including the main house, Wren Wing, outlying buildings and 550 acres of land were sold to retail businessman & designer Leon Max for around £15 million. Leon Max now uses the main house as his personal residence and the Wren Wing and associated buildings as the European base for his Max Studio designer women's clothing business. The Grafton Hunt hold their Boxing Day meet at Easton Neston and there are many game shoots around the estate. We then did a quick circuit around Hulcote village, which comprises a few identical cottages on 2 sides of a large green. In days gone by these would have been homes for workers employed on the Easton Neston estate but are now private homes.

To the Crop Store & Beyond

Our next point of interest was the Hulcote Crop Store. This was developed in the mid 1970's by Lord Hesketh and is now owned by D G Preece Associates. It is a commercial crop storage facility storing up to 50,000 tonnes of grains, oil seeds and pulses that come from all over the country and are stored here prior to being transported to national mills and ports for export. Having driven past these huge storage barns the route took us through the Wilderness Plantation to Cut Throat Lane, through a ford travelling up Shooters Hill, past Showsley Pond and on to the Showsley Road. We also passed beneath what was once the Stratford-Upon-Avon and Midland Junction

T&M: Haydn Morris on the MF65, Richard Wray on the NH and Pete Groves on the Ford passing St Mary's Church.

M: Di Sercome on the MF35x over the bridge at Grafton Regis.

B: Journey's end up the lane back to Concept Park.

Railway, which ran towards Towcester Station (now Tesco's). According to folklore Cut Throat Lane is named as such as it was once the site of a major battle between Royalists and Cromwell's army and the story goes that prisoners were hung from the trees with their throats then being cut.

Shutlanger, Stoke Bruerne, Ashton & Bozenham Mill

At this point we rejoined public roads and drove through the picturesque villages of Showsley, Shutlanger and Stoke Bruerne, passing over the hump backed bridge above the Grand Union Canal giving a good view of barges passing through the flight of 7 locks with one end of the famous Blisworth Canal tunnel a short distance to our left. Our Marshalls were on hand to help guide the tractors safely across the busy A508 and on to the village of Ashton, passing first the Rugby Club and turning right at the village pub then following a single-track lane on to Bozenham Mill.

Grafton Regis, Alderton & Paulerspury

On passing Bozenham Mill the road then took us through Grafton Regis, onto and a short distance up the A508 and left to Alderton which is famous for the remains of an English Heritage Scheduled Ancient Monument, a Norman Castle known locally as 'The Mount' which has been investigated by Channel 4's Time Team. This road comes out on the A5 Watling Street and to avoid travelling too far along it and holding up the traffic we crossed it and drove through the pretty village of Paulerspury and rejoined the A5 near Cuttle Mill, believed to be one of three locations most likely to have been the site of Queen Boudicca's final battle. It is now a building materials reclaim yard.

Journey's End

From Cuttle Mill it was just a ¼ mile trip up the A5 back to Concept Park where all the tractor drivers and trailer passengers were able to enjoy some delicious hot soup and refreshments kindly provided by the committee members and their wives. Although

for those of us without cabs it was quite cold and damp, fortunately the heavy rain that had been forecast had kept away and all tractors returned with no breakdowns or mishaps. As is traditional a raffle was held and a special prize of a voucher for a Christmas Turkey reared at Chris Singer's farm was awarded to Neville Gowton and his family for the best-dressed tractor.

Thanks to

Special thanks should go to the following people without whose help the road run would not have been possible: Towcester Racecourse for allowing us to drive around the course. Mr. Leon Max and Easton Neston Estate Management for allowing us to drive through the estate. D G Preece Associates for letting us go past their crop store and on to Showsley Ground. Duncan Wheeler of The Woodlands Campsite / Buckingham Group for kindly allowing us to use their passenger carrying trailer. The NBVTC Committee members and their families for helping with planning the route, setting up on the day, marshalling and providing refreshments. All those who provided raffle prizes and purchased tickets.

We raised over £300 on the day with all proceeds going to Willen Hospice.



Neville Gowton and his family were the winner's of a fresh farm reared turkey for turning up as best dressed for the occasion.



Thrift Farm's New David Brown

Something, which started as a simple conversation, developed into a dream come true for this 52-acre farm in the village of Whaddon in Milton Keynes. Thrift farm is an all year round working farm and visitor attraction with many activities for young kids. The farm's objective is to create future employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and mental health problems through support, guidance and training. The farm has an employment scheme that helps individuals gain experience in a variety of roles with in their café, garden centre, and farm park. Here they develop key skills and enables them to find the paid employment which is right for them.

It was back in March last year when a few NBVTC members attended an event at Thrift farm with their tractors. Manager of the farm

T: One well planted David Brown tractor in its new home.

M: Mark Canvin delivering the tractor with son Cody helping

B: Choosing the right spot for the tractor.

Louise Guy in conversation with our club chairman Malcolm Foster just mentioned in passing how they would love to get a hold of a tractor for the children to play on. Without hesitation Malcolm guaranteed to get them one. So the quest in finding the right tractor began.

In August the club purchased a David Brown from a chap who was renting storage at our club vice chairman Peter Godwin's. The Club paid £200 for the sorry looking tractor. Within days the tractor was moved to club member Richard Wray's workshop where Richard and club member Rob Clarke spent a fair few weekends making the tractor safe for children. Club member Steve Anguish came up with a good set of wings to replace the moth eaten ones on the tractor.

The plan was to deliver the David Brown to the farm before Christmas and reveal the tractor as a Christmas present to them. A couple of days before delivery, the tractor was moved by club member Mark Canvin to his premises, where Malcolm, Mark and young son Cody spent a whole day cleaning it and painting it. On Saturday December the 5th Mark finally delivered the tractor to Thrift Farm.

On delivery day a number of club members attended to finish with the decorating of the tractor and to fit on the front grille a brass plaque kindly donated by Rob's dad. Club member Johnny Johnson brought his digger and with the help of all there, the tractor was well planted into the ground for the kids visiting the farm to play with.

It really was joint club effort! And after a hard morning's work, Louis invited us all for breakfast in the farm's brand new recently renovated café. We hope to continue this relationship with Thrift farm and to support them during their summer events. For more information about the farm you can visit their website at: www.thriftfarm.co.uk.

T: Malcolm Foster and Roger Tyerman with Louise Guy.

M: Johnny Johnson on the digger and Richard Wray guiding him.

M: Tidying it all up and making it pretty.

B: The NBVTC team who helped on delivery day.





NBVTG Visit to SE Davis & Son

On the 15th of November the club visited the largest private collection of plant equipment and machinery at the SE Davis & Son headquarters in Astwood Banks, Redditch.

The 16-acre business of heavy plant equipment and landscaping materials has been in the family for some seventy years. Sandhills farm was acquired by Sydney Ernest Davis in 1930 and as such remained an active farm until the 1960s. His son Bob became interested in earth moving machinery at the early age of nine and by the age of thirteen he started ploughing with a TD9.

In 1956 at the age of twenty-two, Bob and wife Christine started acquiring earth-moving machinery of their own to engage on various commercial projects such as the construction of the M5 and M42 motorways. With the development of the new town of Redditch, the company really came on to its own. Bob and his men were responsible for the demolition of 31 of the first 33 buildings that made way for the new town. The company had to increase the number of plant and trucks to facilitate the work.

Bob and his son Andy have continued to move the company forward. It consistently improves the equipment used and has become the largest stockist of landscaping materials in the Midlands. The family has for the past twenty years been involved in the collection

T: A view of the site shows mostly all Caterpillar yellow.
M: Amongst the tracked machinery the odd tractor on wheels.
M: In another shed a nice collection of Ransomes crawlers.
B: And a few lorries to add to the mix.

and preservation of historic earth moving and agricultural machinery. The collection is now believed to be the largest privately owned collection of such machinery in the country.

It is this collection that the club went to visit, and what a stunning collection! Some initial five hundred machines have been catalogued and that did not include all the ancillaries. The beauty of it all is that the site is a working site and visitors are encouraged to wander all around and climb over the machinery if you wish, at your own risk!

There were open sheds full of tracked machinery fitted with bulldozers and excavators. In other sheds a number of tractors were also found. There was even a shed full of smaller tractors both on track and on rubber. Draglines for obvious reasons were kept mostly out in the yard and in a corner section in the outside yard were a number of shovels. Scattered also around the yard were various cars and lorries. In various sheds was also a sizeable collection of steam engines. And just when we had seen the main office was full of machinery in smaller scale models, machinery decorated plates and pottery. Mr. Davis certainly takes the word collector to another level!

It was all very interesting and a worthwhile visit. A donation of £250 was given from the club to Mr. Davis for the Midlands Air Ambulance and a further £57 was raised from the refreshments purchased by club members.

T: A steam traction engine and a Foden steam lorry.
M: On display in the office was personal collection of models.
M: Yes the photographer did make it to the top!
B: And a few club members soon joined in.





NBVT Christmas Quiz

Our Christmas quiz took place on the 16th of December and as in previous years both rooms in the Newport Pagnell football club were heaving! This event has become quite popular not only amongst club members but also with nearby tractor clubs. Ernie our quizmaster yet again did a very good job pitching those questions just right. It amazes me that every year we keep increasing the number of ploughman's suppers we prepare and every year we end up with only a couple to spare! A big thank you to all who helped make this another successful club event.



The quiz results were:

1st	Jeans Team Dreamers	71 pts.
2nd	Bar Stewards	63 pts.
3rd	Tip Top Ten	61 pts.
3rd	The Fuct Club	61 pts.
4th	Ousells	59 pts.
5th	B & B	58 pts.
6th	The Misfits	57 pts.
7th	The Caravaners	54 pts.
8th	½ Shilling	53 pts.
9th	5 Picks 1 Rose	51 pts.
10th	3 Wise Men	50 pts.
11th	The Knuckle Draggers	41 pts.
11th	The Singers	41 pts.
12th	Neighbours	40 pts.
13th	Bodgit & Scarper	38 pts.
13th	Tom's Team	38 pts.



Alleex's Travels

What to do on new years day when you've got mechanical withdrawal symptoms the answer (if you remember or not to hung over) is to attend Stony Stratford's NYD vintage and classic car and motorbike event. First thing it's free and if you're taking an exhibit there is no pre-booking.

There are always a variety of mechanical marvels from motorbikes, scooters, vintage cars and vans and classics. This year I decided to take along my 1953 Ford Prefect, newly acquired and this would be its first long journey. Got up early not helped by the first heavy frost of the season, anyway the ice cleared and I trundled down the A5, had her up to nearly 45(wow). Arrived in Stony and parked up in Coffridge Close with the post war stuff.

The show is growing now in its seventh year with major sponsorship from the likes of Hearty insurance and all proceeds going to one of our own supported charities Willen Hospice. With all the shops and coffee bars open it became quite busy, 12 noon saw a minute's noise in memory of Lord Montague of Beaulieu who died in 2015. All in all a worthwhile event to support in what seemed to be a record attendance of vehicles and members of the public.

Alleex.F.



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NBVTc PLOUGHING MATCHES

The NBVTc will be holding a ploughing match on grass at Old Dairy Farm in Puxley, Near Towcester, Northamptonshire NN12 7QS on Sunday March the 20th. For more information will ring Malcolm on 07836 525672. Entry forms will be emailed to all on our email database or as requested.

Also another NBVTc ploughing match will be held at Boycott Farm, Welsh Lane in Stowe, Buckingham MK18 5DJ in April, the date yet TBC. As more details come through we will let you know.

Any changes and updates of all our events are posted on the club website at: www.nbvtc.org.uk

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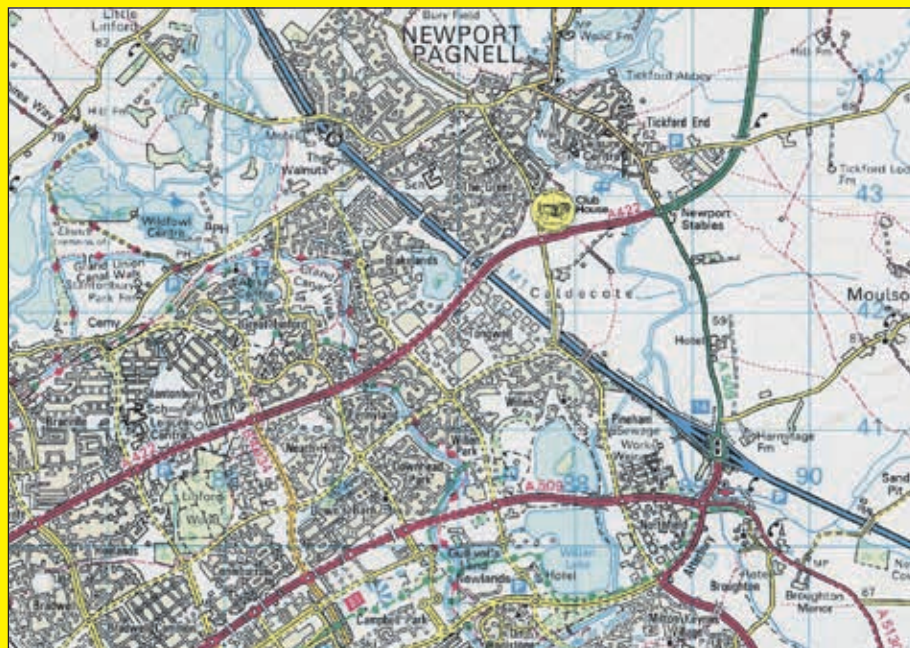
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We meet the third Wednesday of the month from September to April at the Newport Pagnell Football Club on Willen Road in Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes MK16 0DF for a prompt 7:30 PM start. A list of speakers are advertised in advance here inside your magazine on our website at www.nbvtc.org.uk

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