



NBVTC

news

September 2024

Issue 92



Who is Who in the NBVTC 2022~2023

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Spot the club member trying to get a bargain of Henry Cole!



Ed's Notes

When I last wrote in the magazine, summer was just starting... we weren't to know what an abysmal season we were going to have. As I am writing this, summer is coming to an end... the rain is coming down by bucket full and our area has had two months of rain in one day! Not good.

Roger and I went to the COEPS sort out a couple of weeks back. We were celebrity spotting while we were having our coffee. Henry Cole and his crew were there filming Henry's 'Junk & Disorderly' programme. Henry, Allen and Guy had a stand, selling off some of the junk they collected to raise money for the Buick Roadmaster they want to restore.

We do like this sort out because we never know what we are going to find. Roger bought me another scales to go into my collection. I was told by the vendor it was a post office scales. I was also told by a friend that the very same scales were used by the family business to weigh the large cheeses before being placed in the chillers for maturing. The maker's plate reads 'C. Stevens & Son' London. It measures a metre high by half a metre wide. If any of our members could enlighten us, we would really appreciate it.

We had brilliant time at John Sheppard's working weekend in Blakesley, two days of pure nostalgia on how working the land was done in the old days. A big thank you to John, Amy and the family for inviting us and for their great hospitality. We cannot wait for 2026! A full report has been included.

I would like to say a big thank you to Sue & Steve Casebrook for the reports they sent in of their time away in Yorkshire. It is good to hear our local stories but it is great to also hear how it is all done in other places. Please do send in some words and photos, lets keep your newsletter interesting.

See you around...



The next club magazine will be due out in December 2024. Any material you wished to be included, please submit by mid August 2024. My email address is sandistockham@gmail.com

Cover Photo: Flying the flags at the Blakesley Working Weekend with David Jones' early Ford 961 on display.

Chairman's Message

So for my last report as club chairman.

Firstly as we head into the new season of meetings and AGM I'm saddened by fact that after over 12 months' notice not only has no one stepped forward to stand as Chair but there's not even been one suggestion of who may be good for the club as Chairman.

I will be stepping down, on the whole I've enjoyed my time as chair but to be fair it's a position that's made really easy due to the efforts of the rest of the committee. I was hoping someone could step into my shoes with some new energy and new ideas to drive the club on into the future but hey ho, we'll see, but I'm sure the club will survive regardless of their being a Chairman or not.

In other news we've just heard of the sad passing of Mick Herdman. An active club member particularly participating at ploughing matches and road runs. Thinking back Mick has known me for longer than I care to remember, mostly due to connections with drainage board. His quiet reserved by funny nature will be sadly missed.

Myself since last report we've been busy with bits of hay / silage and then into cereal harvest. Wheat yields around average but not the quality we were expecting, mostly due to the lack of consistent sun shine (not muse can do much about that!)

Mid July Rachel and I travelled back to Isle of Mull to help friend gather the hills. Nowadays if possible I use my 200 cc motorbike. This does at least mean I can climb uphill at the rate the sheepdogs do!!

This summer the Same tractors where joined by another, although this one certainly isn't original. It's basically the same as our Leone 70 but instead of the air cooled V4 Engine it has a 6 cylinder Perkins. It's got a handmade bonnet, grill and dashboard, it's a bit ugly but underneath it's not a bad conversion.



Remembering a Friend

It was a very sad day on the 9th of September when I learned that my good friend Mick had passed away, he was ninety one.

My early recollection of Mick was when he used to bring his International Crawler TD14 to Haynes to do some evening contracting ploughing after his main job. I had a TD8, half the size, but we mixed well and built a relationship.

When the NBVTC started and used to do a lot of working weekends, Mick would be there and we used to get together.



**Michael (Mick) Herdman
1933-2024**

Mick and I used to meet up on the 421 in Buckingham with Malcolm Foster, Johnny Johnson and Steve Spavins to travel up to Banbury to take part on their ploughing matches. Mick was a very keen ploughman, ploughing at the North Bucks, Young Farmers, Banbury & District Ploughing Society and Ouse Valley Club matches.

A few years ago at the Llama farm, Mick brought his 1936 Allis Chalmers model U and I fell in love with it, I asked Mick then, if he was ever going to get rid of it, I would like to have first refusal. It was some seven years later, Mick let me become custodian of the Allis.

A couple of months ago, I visited Mick and took him out for a spin around the village in the Model T. After a few lessons on where the controllers were and how they worked, he drove it back home. We sat in the garden drinking tea and having a good chat putting the world to rights. Conversation was always constructive with Mick, as we both enjoy a bit of tinkering engineering, I would always come back home a little bit wiser.

Mick was a very quiet person with a dry sense of humour. He was intelligent and a hardworking man. A clever engineer, always mending one or other machine in his shed. I will miss him dearly.

RIP my friend.

-

Max Cherry

Diary of Events & Shows 2024

Sept 28th	Ploughing Match ~ Valence End Fm Dunstable Beds LU6 2LD
Oct 5th	Patrick Erdwards Sort Out ~ Clanfield Oxfordshire OX18 2RS
Nov 9th-10th	Newark Tractor Show ~ Newark Showground NG24 2NY
Dec 7th	Mark Canvin's Roadrun ~ Mill Fm Gayhurst MK16 8LT
Dec 15th	NBVTc Xmas Roadrun ~ Concept Park Towcester NN12 7YD

Club member Alan Pearce has informed us of the Bedfordshire Young Farmers 60th Ploughing Match on the 28th of September at Valence End Farm, Dagnall Road, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 2LD. The closing date for entries was September 14th but visitors are most welcome. If anyone is interested please contact Alan by email: alan.pea614@btinternet.com

Just a quick reminder that the NBVTc WILL NOT have a stand at Newark Tractor Show, which this year it takes place on November 9th & 10th at the Newark Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe NG24 2NY.

MC Services - Second year attempt for their Tractor and Vehicle Christmas Road Run. Saturday December 7th 2024. Location is Mill Farm, Gayhurst MK16 8LT. Open from 12 noon, departure 1600 hrs prompt. Catering and bar on site for the day. There will be toilets on site. Entry is £10 per vehicle. MUST be decorated in Christmas lights decoration, a £100 CASH from Mark will go to the best decorated vehicle. Looking for donations for raffle prizes etc. Every penny taken going to Willen Hospice. Please message Mark if interested mark@mc-services.me or ring him on 07831 834239. Mark would like to make this a massive event and raise as much money as possible for this great cause.

The NBVTc will be having their Christmas Road Run on Sunday December 15th. We will be meeting at FJ Morris, Concept Park, Watling Street, Towcester NN12 7YD. Meeting at 9am and leaving at 10am. All sorts of Tractors, Cars, Lorrys, Motorbikes welcome! Vehicle entry £10 members, £15 non-members. Prize will be awarded to the best dressed vehicle. Raffle prizes will be most appreciated. Food and drink will be available to buy before the start and on our return. Please email us if you require more information. A big thank you to Frank & Haydn Morris for hosting the venue.

Club Nights

Oct 16th AGM & Ruth Roper on Halloween Ghosts
Nov 20th Dr Gerald Lynch on Bricks and Bricks Making
Dec 18th Ernie's Christmas Quiz with Nigel Felts

We meet at the Newport Pagnell FC on Willen Rd, Newport Pagnell MK16 0DF, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm start. For updates please check our website: www.nbvtc.org.uk Or our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1495381607427872>

FOR SALE ~ WANTED ~ FOR SALE ~ WANTED ~ FOR SALE ~ WANTED ~ FOR SALE

For sale ~ Five foot Fleming topper to suit grey Fergie, complete with pto clutch and rear wheel. Price £515 . Ray 07831 110955 Milton Keynes.



There were various machines working on the fields around the farm

Blakesley Working Weekend

At the last weekend in August is the Blakesley working weekend, this is a popular event amongst club members due to its variety of working tractors and machines.

We arrived early Saturday morning and spoke to John Sheppard about where to erect the tent and one of the hoard of young farmers who are always around this site too help and organise the entrants. John had looked after all our gear from the Blakesley show at the start of the month so it was collected from the racks in the barn and delivered to the pitch and club members erected and got the kettle boiling.

The layout of the event is very much by machinery rather than by tractor so the whole event is busy and varied. On one field on Saturday there were 3 working horses two vintage tractors and a rare Caterpillar 60

M: Two of the three Latils that were on display

B: The club heavies had their own field to play on





a local farm shop (Radmore farm) and open the whole time.

In a plethora of interesting items for me one stood out. On Saturday morning many engines were working on the sloped field when above all came the sound of a big engine the mechanical equivalent of Beethoven 5th symphony pure perfection. Despite pulling a five furrow plough up the gradient the engine still sounded languid. It turned out to emanate from the Caterpillar Sixty.



hauling a very large plough. On the field below this one the combines were harvesting, this year for a change there were more tractor towed devices than self propelled devices. We overheard a conversation in the club tent where a mid 90's retired ag dealer stated that he had not known that Marshals had manufactured a combine and he had certainly never seen one, we had here one towed by a Field Marshal working.

But this was no ordinary Sixty. Henry J Kaiser who had a major contract on the construction off the Hoover Dam ordered four Caterpillar Sixties, with Atlas Standard diesel marine engines to increase the power. This engine was generally regarded as the most reliable of its size and require minimum amounts of daily love and care.



As the combines finished their areas the various period balers took over and finished the job.

Interestingly it was the first diesel Cat who were a bit slow to improve on gasoline engines it produced. There were four of these tractors, if you have time look up Hoover Dam construction, some of the pictures show the Cats working and marvel that they survived to go on to levee construction around New Orleans. Only one of these tractors is known to have survived The Atlas engine was a 4 cylinder 24 litre diesel and the standard Cat was 4 cylinder 18.5 litre petrol.



The club heavies, Steve with MF 2640, Guy with Muir Hill, Ashley with a County and Ben with a John Deere all using three or four furrow reversible ploughs were taking the opportunity to cover some large areas.

The steam traction engine unfortunately suffered a winch problem so its McLaren partner shackled a John Deere to the cable and continued ploughing in this configuration. There were three Latil timber tractors, unfortunately, no trees, so no working.

- T: A Ransomes Crawler doing a bit of ploughing*
M: No load is too big for a Shire
M: Hook Norton Brewery Shires were here on both days
B: The Cat Sixty on light work

The proceeds of the whole event go to support Blakesley primary school and the catering and the bar are run by the friends of the school. It is a pleasure to imbibe, fast service, food cooked perfectly excellent burgers from



- T: How to improvise when your ploughing partner has to retire*
M: A rare Marshal combine doing a bit of work
M: Powered by a Massey 35 a JF combine
B: Another baler working



online donation QR code, for those campers who like many are now cashless and use their mobile phones to pay for everything. This year we raised £120 with our online donations and over £500 in our buckets all for our charity of the year Willen hospice.



There is always a lot of interest in the tractors, and the feedback is they love the tractors, they are a life saver, thank you for the ride and hope to see you again next year. The tractors are very popular with the children, who hop on just for a ride round the campsite, then there are the children who wave to the drivers every time they pass by their tents, our drivers are happy to give them a toot and a wave to keep the children entertained.

At the end of the weekend there were many tents and awnings left in the bins, as the high winds had destroyed them, you have to admire the stamina of those campers, who braved all weathers over the weekend.



A huge thank you to all our drivers, as they were kept extremely busy from dawn to dusk.



Silverstone Classic Tractor Taxi 2024

words & photos Sue Casebrook

This years Silverstone Classic event was held over the August Bank holiday, its our 8th year of supporting the Woodlands campsite, ferrying campers down to the Silverstone circuit. However, this year was a real mixture of weather we started off on Friday with a lovely sunny day, followed by 30 mile an hour winds with heavy rain overnight and rain showers during the day and finished with a beautiful sunset, followed by an overcast day on the Sunday.



Our line up of drivers and tractors were Haydn Morris with his MF65 as well as his New Holland TX55 (for when it rained), Steve Casebrook and his Massey 2640 and Ben Wheeler with his John Deere 4640 and I as usual come along with my caravan, to provide refreshments for our drivers and somewhere for them to rest in the dry.

As in previous years we hung donation buckets on each of the trailers and we also put up an





The NBVTC stand at the show was well visited by every passerby



Blakesley Show

The club was again invited this year to have a stand at the 39th Blakesley Show, which took place on the 3rd of August. Unlike last year, when much of the day was spent inside the marquee as Mr Sheppard forgot to order the weather. The day started a bit cloudy but soon the sun came out in the afternoon. It was a very pleasant day indeed!

The animals play a big part of the show and every variety is in some form of competition. I wouldn't like to be a judge, because in my eyes every one of them would take the top prize. It is also good to see the young ones getting involved in their own 'young shepherd' comp.

The tractor section of the show is always well supported. Not only were there members of our NBVTC with their pride and joy to display,

M: Some of the young shepherds taking part

B: Some fabulous tractors on display



but also members of the Bicester and Friends of the Ferguson club were there.

This year two wonderful Steam Engines were on show, a red 1921 Marshall Traction Engine and a green also 1921 Burrell Engine. Both were in steam and led the tractor parade into the arena. The tractor boys and girls do like a good parade and the totality of the machines on display made it to the ring.

After the parade there was a 'slowest tractor' competition which brought in some young competitors all making great effort to hold their tractor back. The winner, the last tractor to make it to the finish line, was young George Turnham with his Massey 135. I reckon it was the weight George he had on the back in the transport box helped him nail it!

The usual 'tug of war' was again part of the show. Members of the public were invited into the ring to take on the 'Little Pink Fordson' on the challenge. Anna Griffiths and her Fordson Dexta who have been for the past 2 years raising money for Dementia UK are close to reach their target of 10K. If you see Anna and her tractor do give generously to such a good cause.

For a one day show Blakesley has so much going for itself and for anyone attending, it doesn't disappoint.

T: The two steam engines, a Marshall & a Burrell

M: Winner of the 'Slowest Tractor' comp: George Turnham

M: Anna & her 'Little Pink Fordson'

B: Tractors in the arena





Earls Barton Transport Show

The weather forecast for Saturday was for continuous rain and so it proved, it was an easy choice to go on Sunday. Peter said that he had not been to the commentary box all day on Saturday.

Everyone was raring to go, on Sunday, and the site was buzzing. This year they have good coffee stall so the day starts well. There is always a good variety of mostly local motor vehicles.

The tractors on show were pretty varied with a good combination of restored sympathetically and on their working clothes. Under the stewardship of ex club member Brian Kettell and his wife Ann Marie it is well organised.

Brian is planning a charity five day road run next year on his 1964 Nuffield tractor. Starting from London on June the 14th and arriving to Edinburgh on the 18th.

Under the banner of 'Badger on a Tractor' Brian hopes to smash the target he has set himself of 5K. The charities he has chosen have a personal meaning to him and they are: Man Up, Young Lives Versus Cancer, Jack Russell Terrier Rescue UK, Foster Care Matters, Adoption Matters and Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary.

T: Some of the tractors on display

M: Badger on a Tractor

M: A fine way to be taxied around the rally

B: A rare Case 910



To learn more about it and to follow Brian's journey visit his Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/6rVMujiuWZSrMq8p/?mibextid=K35XfP>

There were 44 motorcycles, I notice that a larger portion are smaller models is it that they are easier to move about or are more sensibly priced?

The cars are a good selection of makers and models. I did not realise how many Wolseley enthusiasts there are. There was one real rarity a Sears P4 of 1910. Yes it is the department store and the car was ordered from the catalogue and was delivered as a flatpack for you to construct. It is somewhat more exciting than IKEA!

TL: A good array of motorcycles

TR: Many Wolseley enthusiasts here

MR: A very rare 1910 Sears P4

MR: The Hollowell boy's theme this year was a bit early

BR: One minute silence to pause and remember those who served

BL: People connected to the forces were invited to take part





We had 19 miles to travel from our caravan, we left at 9.20am and arrived on site at 2.20pm, 5 hours of solid traffic, at one point we were on a dual carriageway and moved 1 tenth of a mile in 1 hour.

Was it worth it, of course it was...



Bangers & Cash Live August 2024

words Steve Casebrook, photos Sue Casebrook

We took a trip to the East Riding in August primarily to attend Bangers and Cash live held at Scampston Hall, which still is a family owned home and estate.

The event was a very good and the weather was beautiful.

The Mathewson guys were entertaining the crowds whilst making a few pounds flogging motors and memorabilia live on stage, you could enjoy the show whilst enjoying a cold beer or ice cream, as well as looking round the many cars on show.

Also on display were vehicles, that have gone across the block on the show along with their new owners. However the event was to capacity and getting there was a long-drawn-out process.





Driffield Steam Fair

words Steve Casebrook, photos Sue Casebrook

On the Sunday as we didn't want to enjoy another stimulating traffic jam, we tried our luck at the Driffield Steam Fair.

The drive in was extremely good, easy parking, the sun shining, and on display was a mixture of Lorry's, coaches, motorbikes, cycles, loads of big steam and miniature engines and of course a good turnout of tractors.

The event was in its 4 year and was very good.

However, what the engines were burning lord only knows, they were puffing out some black smoke all day, which hung heavy on the site.

It was a very good event which had something for everyone, including a sizeable funfair for young'uns of all ages.





Hollowell Steam Rally

On their 35th year, the Hollowell Steam Rally took place on the 6th & 7th of July. Saturday started a bit drizzly but it soon stopped and although it stayed a bit cloudy, the day remained pretty pleasant.

The show attracts over 40,000 visitors. Some 600 exhibits, include large steam engines, vintage tractors, classic cars, motorcycles, fairground organs, and military vehicles, as well as many traders. A couple hundred volunteers help to put on a good show.

Hollowell Steam Rally has since 1986 raised nearly £2 million pounds for local charities and good causes.

- TL:** Don't you just love it... his & hers Fordson Major!
- TR:** How to save £15 on fuel...
- MR:** This 1927 Rolls Royce stood out in the crowd
- MR:** A 1940 Dennis with its matching Trailed Pump
- BL:** A Little Owl, part of the display of 'Owls to be Hold'
- BR:** Rob & Max



Classic Stony

This year Classic Stony took place on Sunday June 2nd. The weather was very kind and the turn out was huge. We like this event and try to support it when we can.

The town closes the high street and various carparks to let all display their pride and joy vehicle. Their show in June It is mostly aim to the Classic sort and their sister show on New Year's day is mostly aim to the Vintage sort. We find both shows well organized and highly enjoyable.

Both events have supported Willen Hospice from the start and this year their Classic show raised a whopping £7175.

- TL:** You just don't know what will turn up at the show!
- TR:** All classic Fords were well represented
- MR:** An arriving MG
- MR:** Minis are popular... this one was a superb example
- BR:** A lovely E-Type
- BL:** I'll say it again... anything can turn up!





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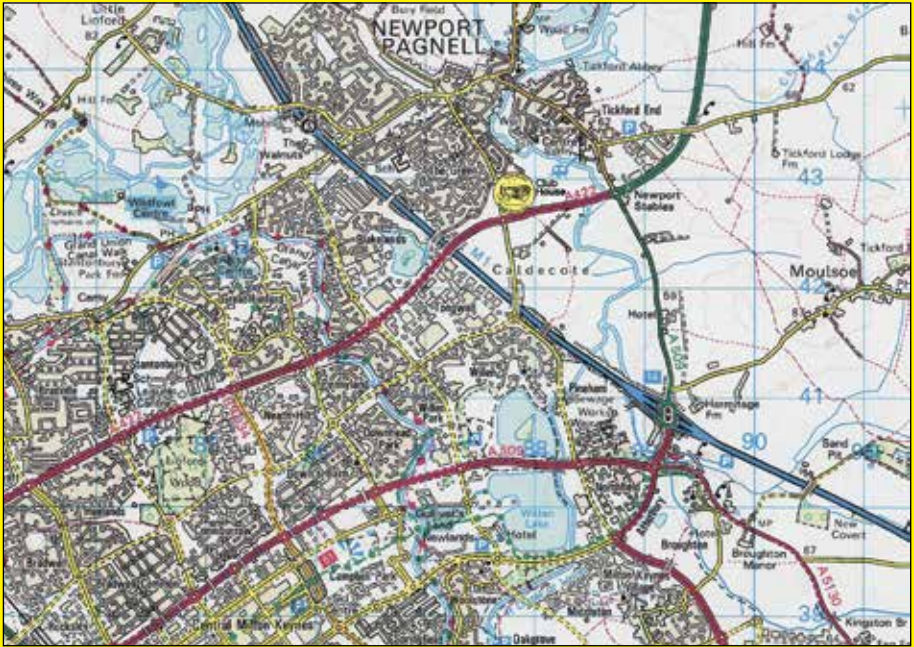
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

END OF TENANCY:

Clearance, painting, cleaning: including garden and outbuildings as required

Contact 0789 4040509

nroper@hotmail.co.uk



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 and on our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1495381607427872>

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