

Down

MID DEVON TRACTOR ENGINE AND MACHINERY GROUP

FIRST NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 1983

SOCIAL EVENING

This event will be held at Wallingbrook Hall, near Chulmleigh at 8.00 p.m. on Saturday 26th November. We will start with a Brain's Trust, and then refreshments. The "Wag from Widecombe" has been booked to provide entertainment later on. Tickets cost £2 each and cover the food, entertainment etc.; use of the licensed bar is extra. Tickets can be obtained from Committee members.

WINTER MEETINGS

These will be held at the Village Hall, Chulmleigh, as before, at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of December, January, February and March. The Group's winter programme is :-

- November 26th : Social evening (see above)
- December 8th : Annual General Meeting, followed by members chance to give their comments, suggestions and views about the running of the Group. Would members also bring any slides which they would like to show to the Group.
- January 12th : Film show - David Brown, the first 40 years.
- February 9th : Talk and slides - Ferguson tractors, by Charles Moore.
- March 8th : Films and slides - Stationary engines by Colin Woollacott.
- April : Gas-Up (date to be fixed).

BADGES

We keep a stock of badges which are for sale to members (and others) at £1 each. Please ask Dave Colgrave, who holds most of the stock, or any Committee members.

TRENCHARDS/EGGESFORD

The weather was mostly forgotten (it had to be) by those who attended this annual event. There were about 35 tractors, 10 stationary engines and 3 elderly cars. The field was ploughed in every direction by experts and by novices, and the threshing was finished in good time. The event was successful in raising about £45 for charity. If any members are still awaiting plaques they should apply to Nigel Skinner.

STOURPAINE BUSHES

The organisation of the coach trip worked well, so that a good day seemed to have been had by all the fifty or so members, (and friends), who were prepared to get up early in the morning. Apart from the fairground and the huge number of steam engines, tractors, cars and stationary engines, there were many other unusual events such as the Fowler Gyrotiller in action and the ploughing engines working with anti-balance plough and cultivator. From favourable comments afterwards, we shall need a bigger coach next year!

POLTIMORE

This was a good day out for many members of our own group as well as for the organisers, the East Devon club. Andrew Goodman and his team are congratulated on taking 3rd prize in their class.

THELBRIDGE

Ten tractors carrying about twelve members formed a very damp convoy from Winkleigh via Eggesford to Thelbridge. The chairman and treasurer came last in the dry but fume - filled cab of the David Brown Gaspmaster : confusion was caused when they stopped for air and everyone else thought there had been a break down. However all arrived at the field in good order, and there followed a short test to see how many could be carried in the link box on Norman Down's P6 before the front wheels lifted. Then there was a break for refreshments. After the ~~pub-closed~~ ploughing was nearly finished, the sun came through so that we could all dry out on the way back.

OVERHEARD

Graham Ellicott has bought a Fowler crawler (plus a rough one for spares) : this is a model with the Marshall single cylinder engine and it weighs more 4 tons. Dave Colgrave has found a derelict E27N Major, with seized and tyre less rears and no front wheels, which took nearly four hours to get loaded onto his trailer : this is now being rebuilt with a Perkins I4 engine. Work on Bill Foyster's diesel Major goes on at a snail's pace, and he now has two Fordsons which are painted at front end only. The Down family have just bought a Cropmaster diesel at a farm sale near Whimple. Other people are keeping quiet about their activities so perhaps there will be some surprises at the Gas-Up in April?

FOR SALE

- 1) Stationary engines, complete but not rally condition. Lister "D", BSA, Villiers and others. E. W. Daniel, Chulmleigh 80323.
- 2) Part - worn 13 - 24 rears. D. A. Colgrave, Lapford 492.
- 3) Lister "D" - offers to G. Ellicott, Winkleigh 451.

WANTED

No one wants to use this space this time, but it will appear in future newsletters.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will be produced as often as the editor has enough material for it. Please tell him of anything of interest which could be included, anything from one - liners to reports on events attended and long articles on anything of general interest to members. Please make use of the "For Sale" and "Wanted" spaces. Contact the editor, Bill Foyster at Coombe Barton, Roborough, Winkleigh, or telephone him at High Bickington 60289.

F.C.A

w.R.