

MID DEVON TRACTOR ENGINE & MACHINERY GROUP

NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2022



Chairman's Chat

Welcome to our group Winter Newsletter 2022.

The past year's activities have returned to normal following two interrupted years whilst Covid was so damaging to the residents of the UK. Now that Covid vaccination is widespread, the infection remains but thankfully less disruptive to our lives and the group's activities.

During the past twelve months both our indoor and outdoor activities have returned to normal, which has resulted in our membership numbers returning to near pre-pandemic level. This has meant an increase in fund raising. At our recent AGM we were able to distribute £2,000 to good causes selected by our members, a tremendous achievement.

I would like to thank our committee members and officers for their support during the past year, all of whom were re-elected at our recent AGM for the forthcoming year.

Special thanks to all those members who made our 40th Anniversary celebration so successful.

This winter we have begun a full programme of meetings through to May 2023, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Morchard Bishop Village Hall as usual. On December 21st this year we plan to go out for our Christmas meal, to be held this year at the **Waie Inn, Zeal Monochorum**. I close by sending everybody Christmas and New Year greetings from myself and the committee .

John Moore

Officers and Committee for 2022/23

President	Keith White		
Chairman	John Moore	Vice Chairman	Malcolm Vile
Secretary	Steve Williams		
Treasurer & Membership Secretary			Tina Wood

The remainder of the committee are as follows. All were unanimously elected by members attending the AGM.

Committee Members

Roger Ford	Alan Isaac	Steven North	Ken Nott
Stewart Rice	Barney White	Ian White	

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Site Visit - Michael Thorne's Tractor Collection

Michael kindly invited members and friends to visit his large & varied collection of tractors recently. He has just re-opened his collection following closure forced by the Covid pandemic.

It was good to see so many members re-acquainting themselves with his collection as well as those who had never been before. Michael's new book '**The Tractors in my Life**' has recently been published and is available from *Herridgeandsons.com*

Club 40th Anniversary Celebration Day

For those who were unable to attend, you missed a really good day. Hopefully you were able to read about it in the Crediton Courier though they didn't really do it justice.

I don't know exactly how many people attended but it was busy all day. The ladies doing the refreshments never stopped. Thank you to all those who provided cakes on the day. An especial Thank You to Kate Williams who worked late into the night to complete the Anniversary Cake, it received much admiration and tasted good too!!

Thank you to all those who brought their tractors and engines for all to enjoy. We even had 3 Marshalls as well as Geoff Parfitt's Vintage Tractor to admire. There were 2 collections of vintage farm implements courtesy of Michael Coleman and Edgar Pett There were vintage cars to see and a great collection of miniature models from Michael **Cann** that has taken him years to put together.

Many thanks go to all those who contributed memorabilia to our 40 years of newspaper articles and posters. We had one of every years' Rally booklet.. **Tony Folland** had designed the front cover of many of them and was also responsible for the cover of the 40th Anniversary booklet we put together for this event. It gave a potted history of how the Club was formed and its activities over the years. Copies can still be obtained if you would like one. We also had some 40th Anniversary key-rings made and these too can still be purchased if you fancy one - they make great stocking fillers!!



Recent Sale of David Brown Tractor

Reading in the summer issue of Heritage Tractor about the sale of a David Brown tractor for the princely sum of £3600 takes my memory back 70 years to the Lynmouth Flood Disaster which occurred on August 15th 1952.

Following days & days of heavy rain, a cloudburst occurred over the hills of Exmoor with an estimated 5 inches of rain falling in a few hours. This caused the swollen East & West Lyn rivers to rush down towards Lynmouth carrying with them rocks, trees and debris. As has been well recorded, this caused massive destruction to the village and 34 people lost their lives, climate change is nothing new!

Shortly afterwards a Flood Relief Fund was opened and David Brown Tractors donated a Cropmaster to the fund in addition to a number of Tracmaster models.

These were to be auctioned at Exeter cattle market. My family farmed at that time within a mile of the market and my mother took my younger brothers and I to join the crowds to see them sold. The Cropmaster had a brass plaque on the bonnet inscribed with the details of the flood etc. As I was only 12 years old at the time, I have no idea who was the purchaser and even whether they were local. It would be nice to know whether this tractor still survives and I have asked the David Brown Club to try and find out. Watch this space!!

Keith White

Donations made by the club in 2022

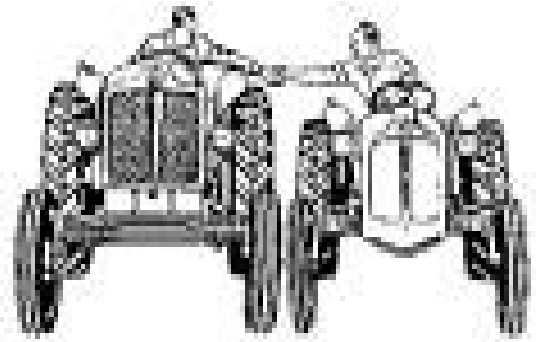
The ability to re-start our club activities following the drab days of the Covid Pandemic has meant we have been able raise funds for various charities as we have done in the past. Following our AGM in November members voted for the following:-

Devon Air Ambulance	£500
Alzheimer's Society	£250
Motor Neurone Disease Society	£250
Cancer Research	£250
Parkinson's Society	£250
Crediton Foodbank	£250

In addition we gave a donation of £250 to North Devon Hospice at the request of Michael Thorne following our visit to his collection in November.

**Mid Devon Tractor
Engine & Machinery
Group**

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Speakers & Club Events for early 2023

NB Club Meetings now held at Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

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| Jan 18th | Club night - George French will share his knowledge of Engine Pistons |
| 28th & 29th | Somerset Tractor Show, Shepton Mallet - includes machinery auction on 28th |
| Feb 15th | Club night - Colin Smallacombe will give an overview of The Farm Community Network who provide support to all those connected with farming, very relevant in these difficult times. |
| March 15th | Club night - James Ashby - all about Vapormatic. |
| 18th | Skittle Night - against East Devon Club at Payhembury |
| April 1st | Working Day at New Buildings |
| 19th | Club Night - Robin Tapp - His visit to Australia |
| Apr 27th
to 2 May | Abbey Hill Steam Rally |
| May 17th | Club night - Site Visit to Halse Machinery at Honiton
Includes supper! |
| May 18th
to 20th | Devon County Show |
| July 22nd | Mid Devon Show |
| Aug 24th | Holsworthy Show |