

# MID DEVON TRACTOR ENGINE & MACHINERY GROUP

NEWSLETTER ~ JANUARY 2024



## Chairman's Chat

Welcome to our group Winter Newsletter 2024.

We have experienced a Summer of Extremes on the weather front. Despite that our summer programme of events went well with good attendance figures.

Now we embark on our winter programme with similarly good numbers booked for our Christmas meal at the Countryman which is followed by our season of indoor meetings up to May 2024. For details refer to the list within this newsletter plus our revamped web site.

I would like to extend my thanks to our outgoing committee and officers who, at our recent AGM, were re-elected. Sadly Stewart Rice, past Chairman and committee member, has decided to stand down due to health reasons. I would like to publicly thank Stewart for his input to our group over many years and wish him well in the future. The committee welcomes Derek (known to many as Del!) Smith as Stewart's successor.

To close - New Year greetings from myself and all the committee.

## Officers and Committee for 2023/24

<b>President</b>	Keith White		
<b>Chairman</b>	John Moore	<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Malcolm Vile
<b>Secretary</b>	Steve Williams		
<b>Treasurer &amp; Membership Secretary</b>			<b>Tina Slade</b>

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
Derek Smith	Barney White	Ian White	

**Inside this issue:**

Chairman's Chat Committee members	1
Donations Updates	2
Communications	3
Events Diary 2024	4

**Donations made by the club in 2023**

Following our AGM in November members voted for the following:-

Devon Air Ambulance	£400
Alzheimer's Society	£150
Motor Neurone Disease Society	£150
Cancer Research UK	£150
Parkinson's Society	£150
Crediton Foodbank	£150
Macmillan Cancer support	£150

**Updates**

The **Christmas Party** was well attended and a great success. Following the traditional Christmas meal at the Countryman (though some murmurings about Christmas Pudding being unavailable) We were royally entertained by Titch Scott on the legends of Dartmoor. He never ceases to entertain and include members of his audience whilst spinning some ghostly tales!

**January meeting** ~ A very well attended meeting proving how popular is **Dan Downs**, best known to BBC Spotlight viewers as a regular presenter of the weather. He gave us a very detailed account of his pathway to reaching his present position. He clearly is a very talented man, an engineer as well as a presenter, with a wide range of abilities and experience. It was amazing to hear just how many regions he covers with his weather forecasts for radio and just how much work has to go into making them as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

Dan then gave time to his father **Gerald Downs** who entertained us with his knowledge, and use! Of the Devon Dialects. Clearly understood by the majority of our members (the Devon bred ones anyway) it was a delight to hear the full range of words and phrases used 'back when' and their origins. The wonderful story of 'The Maisters Sow' entertained us all.

Dan then returned to give us more details of his very full daily schedule and then shared an interesting ditty written by himself involving the weather in some local areas, very clever!!

**Tina**

## What type of Communication do members prefer ?

In recent months our committee at M.D.T.E.M.G. have been involved in updating our **website**. We have invested some of our funds to make the site simpler to navigate, ie. 'easier to use', so if possible give it a try.

Other communication tools we use are :-

1. The half yearly newsletter, published via email, website and paper copies are available. *More items needed for the future editions please!*
2. Email, our quickest and easiest method. Please ensure your membership details include an email address to which you have access or can be passed a message from. This is most useful when we have weather issues just prior to an upcoming event.
3. Word of mouth e.g. please tell any member with whom you have day to day contact – not always very reliable.
4. A person to person telephone call which can be costly in time etc. but it is always good to talk.
5. Social media – useful again but no indication that the communication has been received.

Recently our President has donated many examples of the club's newsletters going back to 1985 which are now in the club's archive store.

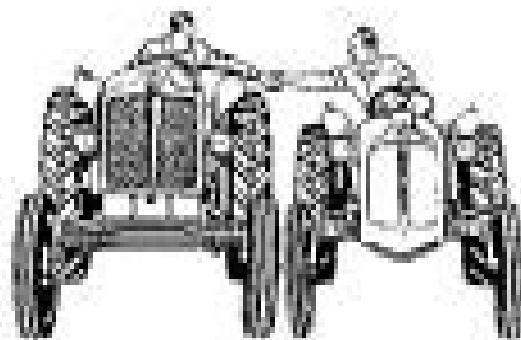
They were clearly very important in those days to members who did not have the benefits of modern communications. This is best demonstrated by the number of 'For Sale and Wanted' items, no **ebay** or trading sites then.

So in conclusion could members have a go at looking at the updated website. Please feed back to committee members how useful/convenient you find it and our other methods of staying in touch.

**John Moore**

# **Mid Devon Tractor Engine & Machinery Group**

Newsletter Contact - Tina Slade  
15 Cherry Tree Drive, Landkey,  
Barnstaple, EX32 0UE  
01271 593722



## **Speakers & Club Events for early 2024**

### **Club Meetings held at Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall**

- Jan 17 Dan Downs ~ TV weather man! & Gerald Downs**
- Jan 27 Somerset Tractor Show, Shepton Mallet - includes Allis  
& 28 Chalmers auction on 27th**
- Feb 21 Club night - Mole Avon Stores ~ it's History up to the  
present Day.**
- Mar 16 Skittle Night - against East Devon Club at London Inn  
Morchard Bishop**
- Mar 20 Club night - Mike Lawrence - Heavy Road Haulage**
- Apr 6 Working Day at Barnstaple Cross (new venue)**
- Apr 17 Club Night ~ Woody Bay Railway & rolling stock**
- May 3-6 Abbey Hill Steam Rally - Yeovil Showground**
- May 15 Club night - Nigel Skinner, Eggesford airfield and its historic  
aircraft.**
- May 16-18 Devon County Show**
- June 29 Coldridge Fete ~ EX17 6AX**
- July 27 Mid Devon Show ~ Knightshayes Tiverton EX16 7PP**
- Aug 1 Honiton Show ~ Gittisham EX14 3AW**
- Aug 17/18 Yesterdays Farming ~ Hazlebury Plunckett TA18 7RW**
- Aug 22 Holsworthy & Stratton Agricultural Show**

**\*\*\*\*\*Great Dorset Steam Fair—Will NOT run in 2024 \*\*\*\*\***

- Sept Working Day - tbc**
- Sept 18 Club night ~ tbc**
- Oct 16 Club night ~ tbc**
- Oct Gas Up/Road Run – Morchard Road.**
- Nov 20 AGM**
- Dec 18 Christmas Party**