Farm Machinery Preservation Society Ltd.



Magazine No. 171 September 2024



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Cover Disture	llenerer Membere

Cover Picture. Our Chairman getting up close to Paul Ewers' Ruston <u>Honorary Members</u> Mike Laflin, John Couch, Colin Cracknell

From the Chair,

Magazine 171 September 24



We have, more or less, completed our busy summer programme and it went, more or less, to plan with some success. At least no complete failures. So now, without pause for breath, it is on to the Autumn programme.

For September we have a club

promotion day at Coggeshall Grange Barn at the Essex Industrial Archaeology Group Fairon Saturday 14th

We will just take a few tractors and engines and our gazebo to promote our society. We have had some success at similar events this year by signing up a few members and selling a few polo shirts and badges. If you would like to join us, you will be most welcome, please let me know.

September's Club Meeting will be a visit to see the new helicopter owned by Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust. Details elsewhere in the magazine.

5th and 6th October sees the Gt Henny Tractor Road Run and Working Day. Entry form and details included with this magazine. It is always a great weekend even if you don't bring a tractor. Hopefully there will be plenty of static exhibits too, please bring one there is lots of room. If you fancy camping or caravanning for the weekend there will be plenty of space for you. Just let Ken know. His number is on the entry form.

The following weekend 12th &13th October, at Coopers Farm Lawshall, *Hopefully*, Ray Debenham and his team will be holding their annual wheat threshing event. It involves a steam traction engine and large Ransomes' Drum, a sight definitely not to miss. This event is very weather dependant so the date may move, but, if it is on, we will be there. Normal free Tea and Burger service will be served on Saturday lunchtime.

The following Sunday 20th October we have another club promotion day at Cressing Temple Apple Day. Last year we had a very good day. We hope to take a few engines and tractors to promote our society. So, if you would like to join in, please do let me know.

At the end of the month (Wednesday 30th), by popular demand, Jeffrey Giblin will be entertaining us again at Halstead with his reminiscences.

Normal start time 8pm sharp.

On Wednesday 27th November, our final club night for the year, at Halstead TFC, we have a speaker from Trinity House to tell us about the vital nautical safety work they do.

Phew, seems a lot to get through, however, all our meetings, events and visits go so much better when they are well attended.

From the Editor

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By the time you read this the year will almost be in its last quarter with autumn now upon us and winter just an icy blast away. I feel sure I say this every year but looking back at this year I really question "where has it gone". For reasons I won't bore you with I have been unable to attend almost

no events/shows or rallies this year but all going to plan I hope to make it to what is now considered by many the main club event of the year, the Great Henny Working Weekend and Tractor Run. (see details in this magazine) This takes place on the 5th and 6th of October and is always very well supported. After the Working Weekend we hope to be at Lawshall for Ray Debenhams's Thrashing Weekend followed by the Cressing Apple Day then, a long winter gap before we get going again in the springtime next year.

With the long winter gap in mind it has been suggested that perhaps a small low key get together could be arranged in the form of what is known as a "swap meet" by those on the other side of the Atlantic. In reality it might consist of a "bring and buy" as well as some displays of collectables or what have you. Anything members think might be of interest.

If such an event could be arranged an under cover venue would be preferable (a barn would be ideal) and perhaps this could be just after Christmas on a Saturday or Sunday morning.

Plenty of tea and coffee and maybe bangers and burgers to ward off the cold. Just an idea but it is something we would love to hear from you, our members if you think it might be of interest.

A Brief History of Woodhouse Farm

By Gareth D Jones

For the past three years, the Farm Machinery Preservation Society's annual Crank Up has taken place at Woodhouse Farm near Kelvedon, Essex. The site is now owned by waste management company Indaver, who are constructing a waste management facility in a worked-out section of quarry that was formerly an airfield, which previously was a farm field. This new state-of-the-art facility is the latest chapter in the history of Woodhouse Farm that goes back to medieval times.



One of the most striking features of the farm is the moat. It is thought that the moat was constructed in the 13th century and originally surrounded the farmstead. Only three arms of the moat remain, and this is how the farm appears on the earliest map from 1635. The fourth arm, if it existed, was filled in before that time. The moat is now home to Great Crested Newts, a

protected species. Trial holes were excavated in all three arms of the moat when it had dried out during the summer of 2023, under the supervision of an ecologist and an archaeologist. Sadly, no interesting artefacts were found.

The current farmhouse was built in the 17th century and is a Grade II listed building. Maps from the 17th century onward show various outbuildings coming and going, as well as arable fields becoming wooded, an orchard being planted, and then later cleared and returned to arable usage. Three pear trees from the 19th century orchard are still on site, bearing a variety of pear called Black Worcester.



The farmhouse was extended in the 18th and 19th centuries and modified in the 20th century with internal partitions that split it into two dwellings. The neighbouring brewhouse is also a listed

building. A cottage was built at the far end of the moated area in the late 19th century, and received a pebbledash coating sometime during the 20th century. The cart lodge is early 20th century, while the high barn and workshop are mid-20th century.



During World War II, much of the farm was appropriated by the MOD to build an airfield, which was used by the USAF and then the RAF. It was named Rivenhall Airfield, even though it is in the parish of Kelvedon and the nearest village is Silver End. Several airfield buildings still remain in the vicinity, including the squadron office, strafing bunker and two substations within Woodhouse Farm.

After the war, the airfield was taken over by Marconi, while the now much smaller farm continued to operate. The farmer finally retired in the early 80s. He and his wife left the farm, as did the land girl who had stayed on after the war. The house was abandoned, except for being used by Essex Police for live fire exercises during the 90s. The cottage too was empty by the 1990s, and the workshop was evidently in use until 1993. Among the collection of tools, artefacts and junk left in the workshop was a copy of the Sun newspaper from 1993. The neighbouring farm continued to use the high barn and cart lodge for storage until the site was taken over by Indaver in 2021. They continue to farm the last few fields that were part of the historic Woodhouse Farm.

When Indaver took over the site, the farm buildings were derelict, the footpaths covered in moss and mud, the moat almost completely hidden, and the moated area overgrown with brambles and young self-seeded trees. One of the planning obligations associated with the construction of the waste facility is to refurbish the two listed buildings, and to bring them into use as an education and visitor centre, offices, and an airfield and heritage museum. Lots of other interesting things emerged from the undergrowth as we began exploring and tidying the site. We soon discovered that there were lots of possibilities, and much work to do.

Clearance of the debris and undergrowth had to fit in to a complicated scheduled that revolved around bird nesting season, bat hibernation season, bat maternity roosting season, and newt hibernation season. Many of the trees are also protected by tree preservation orders, so works to remove dead and dangerous trees and trim branches also had to be carefully assessed and approved by the local council tree officer. Numerous surveys were carried out across the site: historic building surveys, unexploded ordnance surveys, underground services surveys, topographical surveys, measured building surveys, bat surveys, newt surveys, habitat management surveys, reptile surveys and nesting bird surveys. All this before

we could even start drawing up architectural plans for refurbishing the buildings.



Amongst all the surveying and exploration we came across all kinds of interesting items. Various pieces of farm machinery had been abandoned in the barns, and are now being stored in the cart lodge awaiting restoration. Amongst them is a seed drill with a tractor

attachment, which was retrofitted to the original horse hitch. In the squadron office, some of the doors still bear the handstencilled names of the officers who served there during WWII. Lots of smaller items related to the farm and airfield have been gathered together and will eventually end up on display in one of the smaller buildings.



During a public consultation event held in late 2021. we were first introduced to the Essex Shed Network and the Farm Machinerv Preservation Society. The Essex Shed Network were looking for a location for a new community shed, and the **FMPS** were looking for a

new location for the Crank Up. We had no real plans for the outbuildings at that point, so we began to develop plans to refurbish the high barn and workshop for use as a community shed, with the high barn and cart lodge also available for the FMPS to store and work on farm machinery.

The planning and listed building process has been long and tedious, but work on these buildings is finally due to start in autumn 2024. Meanwhile, the Crank Up had proven to be a great venue for the FMPS, an excellent use of Woodhouse

Farm, and a great opportunity for Indaver to develop good relationships with the local community.



We will soon start planning Crank Up 2025, and by the time you all come back to site next year, there should be yet more progress to see. Woodhouse Farm is not the same as it was in medieval times, but after all of the changes on site it is now entering a new chapter of life.

About the author:

Gareth has worked for Indaver for 17 years and is currently the project manager for Woodhouse Farm. He is also unofficially the second most widely translated science fiction short story author in the world.

Club Working Weekend



We need somebody, (Help) not just anybody (Help) you know we need someone, help!

When we were so much younger than today we never needed anybody's help in any way but now these days are gone.

(John Lennon-Paul McCartney)

Working Weekend on October 5th – 6th at Grove Farm.

To make the weekend actually happen we need **HELP** from members to set up and get ready and **HELP** during the day.

On the **Saturday morning HELP** is needed to Marshall the Tractor Run, mark out ploughing plots, erect a safety fence for stationary engines, erect our gazebo and, a host of other little jobs which must be done in advance.

Please come along on Saturday to lend a hand with setting up or, as a Marshall for the Tractor Run.

On the **Sunday HELP** is needed with the Static Exhibits set up, manning the FMPS Gazebo and, most important, circulate with collection buckets (in aid of the Air Ambulance)

To HELP with the Tractor Run contact:-

Ken Bailey 07702 202311 To HELP on Saturday / Sunday contact:-Terry Angland <u>fmpsarchive@yahoo@yahoo.com</u> Or phone 07867 334084

If we have enough **HELP** it will be a great weekend, if we don't, it will all fall apart. Please **volunteer** now.

A Very Big Thank You

Mrs Phyllis Gooderham, the main organiser of the Nedging Fete held at Nedging Hall Suffolk on 23rd of June has asked if I would pass on her sincere thanks to our members who exhibited their machinery and vehicles at the Fete.

Mrs Gooderham has received many very positive comments and feedback from visitors who all agreed it was a really good day out.

And, the event raised £6060 to benefit Nedging Church.



Well done to all concerned, editor.

Club Visit to Coopers Farm June 26th

From Terry Angland

We were again made very welcome at Coopers Farm Lawshall by our hosts Ray, Debbie and Luke. We were fortunate to have



a warm sunny evening for this well attended event and the time just flew by. The collection of farm

machinery has grown and there was plenty of opportunity to try your hand at cultivation. We were well fed by Arthur and Kingsley. Thanks to all involved. May have to make it



a longer event next time!

Club Visit to Coopers Farm June 26th



A small part of the machinery collection at Coopers Farm



Arthur and Kingsley made sure nobody went home hungry by cooking up some great burgers and sausages.

Club Visit 25th September _{3pm}



We will be visiting the Headquarters of the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and be given a presentation of the work they do and, also have a chance to get up close and personal with their new multi million pound helicopter.



Flight House, Earls Colne Business Centre, Earls Colne Business Park, Earls Colne, Colchester, Essex, CO6 2NS

Please follow the signs to the Airbase (which is staying right at the first bend).

Reader's Letters

In the last magazine Jimmy Waters asked the question:- Does anyone know what this tool was / is used for?

Two readers have come up with an answer. Editor.



I can remember using one of these in the 50's to break holes through concrete to insert fence posts. We called in a ' lumper' , standing up and

lumping the tool up and down with all your might was better than being on your hands and knees with a 'lump ' hammer and chisel, no electric chisel hammers or compressors available in those days. *Michael Mills*



More information from Candy Sheridan and Andy Bates.

Ref. the question around the large iron tool and what it was used for and, what it is actually known as; Andy has two similar tools (see picture) and we know them as "Pritches" or "Fold bars" used to make holes in the ground to put up the hurdle fence panels he say!

Candy

Club Tractor Run and Working Weekend

October 5th and 6th

Grove Farm, Gt. Henny, Sudbury, CO10 7LT

Once again we have our Tractor Run and Working Weekend open to all members and non-members.

The Tractor Run takes place on **Saturday October 5**th (more details on the entry form enclosed with this magazine)

Donations will be in favour of the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Service.

The run has become a firm favourite with tractor drivers and is over a well thought out route devised by Ken Bailey and of course, there is a lunch stopover at the Henny Swan. To book in contact Ken or, just use the entry form accompanying this magazine. Find Ken on **07702 202311**

Sunday 6th is the "Working Day" and here we invite you to join us to have a go at using your old machines to practice ploughing, this is strictly a "Play Day" and not a ploughing match although there will be some very skilled ploughmen showing us how it can be done.

Please Note:- If you wish to plough, or just "scratch the dirt" you MUST complete the entry form and send it in advance to Ken Bailey. NO "ON THE DAY" ENTRIES CAN BE ACCEPTED

To entertain the visitors we invite owners of just about anything. Static tractors, stationary engines, classic commercial vehicles, cars, motorcycles, military vehicles and absolutely anything you might wish to bring. Please complete the entry form.

Continuing the story of restoration from our member Jimmy Waters.

Edison Bell 259 1920s Gramophone.

Well, the postie delivered the Governor bits from Cornwall and Jimmy began to decide what parts to use from the package. A complete governor was fitted but this failed on the speed control lever. It was decided to fit a single Bob-weight to the old Governor and try it.

Here we see the new Bob-weight (rusty) attached to the Governor assembly.



The gold screws (Bearings) either end of the Governor shaft are drilled offset for adjusting the clearance between the Drive Pinion and the Spindle Gear. The black screws lock the Bearings in position. As the Governor whizzes around the brass Brake Disc is pulled up the shaft by the weight springs expanding outwards. Thereby pressing against the Brake Pad (the Red bit

on the end of the Brake Lever), which slows it down and allows the Brake disc to drop away towards the Bearing– which starts the whole process over again!

Jimmy now fitted the repaired Spring Motor after greasing and oiling it and carefully wound the spring until the Spindle began to revolve. Starting with about 1 dozen revs of the handle the spring was left to run down. Then the Turntable was fitted and the Handbrake applied (a Lever at the front) that locked the Turntable. The spring was now given the full treatment and was fully wound at 30 revs. Handbrake was released and the Motor ran the Turntable for about 3 minutes. Success!

While dealing with the Cabinet Lid, Jimmy noticed a bracket and screws missing from one side of the Record Holder, mounted inside the Lid. The existing bracket was removed and a mirror image created from stainless steel, just a fraction thicker than the original.



Two screws to match the originals were found and the brackets refitted.

This shows the position of the brackets for selecting records. This is the normal shut position. Note the two little clips bottom right that hold the Winding Handle.

Next time in;



We look at the Tone Arm and Sound Head.

With thanks to the East Anglian Transport Museum for use of "The Repair Shed" logo

Recent FMPS Club Visits

Since our Crank Up weekend in May we have, as a club, had two successful summer visits.

The first, in June was, following an invite by Ray Debenham and his team, to Coopers Farm Lawshall. We were blessed with a lovely evening and had a wide variety of farm machinery



and implements to view and chat about. Arthur flipped the burgers for us again and Ray led a group cultivating a small field. Thanks again,

Ray, for a great evening.

The second visit, in July, was to Thelnetham Windmill. Again,



we were made very welcome, by Chris Mills and his fellow volunteers. We were split into 2 small groups for demonstrations of the windmill workings and starting the large Ruston Hornsby Engine. Plus, it was interesting to see a video of the Windmill Restoration in the 1980s.

Our guides were very knowledgeable about their subjects and our hosts provided us with tea and cake in the summer sunshine.



Afterwards we visited the farm next door, and we treated to an incredible collection of over 100 tractors plus many implements. The collection included some very rare tractors too. We have made a good contact there and hopefully will be back for another visit when the owner, Brian Davey, has his next open day.

Eleventh Stebbing Vintage & Classic Tractor Road Run. 12th May 2024

Report from Dick Hughes

This year's event, as always, started & finished at David Hunt's farm, Oxen End, Little Bardfield & on the day 95 old tractors turned up to participate. The oldest being David's 1939 American Case R sent over under the lend-lease agreement during the war.





Each year we finding a different route to that we have used previously to make it interesting for those taking part. A few years ago we obtained permission to

run down the main runway at Wethersfield Airfield in a "V" formation which was quite fun.

As is the case in most years, our first port of call was Stebbing village. Throngs of locals turned out to wave us through which was much appreciated by us 'Old Tractor Nuts' as we've come to be known. We then turned back from the High Street along

Clay Lane to Brickfield Farm. From there, along a byway that runs north-east through to Bardfield Saling.



The route marshal (yours truly) hadn't paid enough attention to overhanging branches which present no hazard to those of us on old tractors that don't have cabs but are a nuisance to those that do! This caused delays and hold-ups and even reports of wing mirrors being

knocked off!

Our next village was Great Saling and then along the lovely country back road to Rayne turning left by the church. Both the farmers at Rayne Hall and Panfield Hall had given us permission to go through their land across the grass strip airfield to link up between the two villages.



From there we travelled back to Hubbards Farm at Shalford Green for our comfort break. Adam and William Grove Smith made us very welcome. Their family has an old motion picture film from the 1940's taken by their late father of various farm tasks. They had set up a projector and were running the film projected on to the barn wall that proved most interesting for us.

Our route from there took us past Deersbrook Farm and across the fields to Great Lodge Farm & back out onto the road past the Blue Egg into Great Bardfield. Again, vast numbers of villagers were there to wave us through. Little Bardfield was our last port of call and then back across the fields to the farm.

Our lady helpers provide refreshments in the barn for the participants, both before we set off and on our return and we received donations of beef and bacon from the farm shops at Deersbrook Farm, Shalford and Great Garnetts, Barnston. It would appear from some of the drivers' remarks, that this part of the day is just as much a draw as the event itself!

As many of you will know, we raise money for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. Through sponsorship, donations, & rattling collection boxes & buckets we have this time achieved what is a record for us of £14,067.93.

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance ALL MARKEN Date 12/2/24 PAY Essex & Herts Air Ambulance FOURTEEN THOUSAND SIXTY SEVEN 95 100 POUNDS £14,06793 ON BEHALF OF STEBBING TRACTOR ROAD RUN R.E. Hughes SIGNED Dudget up istered Charity, 1108989 We can't fly without VOU

Each year, when the time comes to hand over the proceeds we have a 'big cheque photo event' usually at David's farm. This year we were invited to the air base at Earls Colne Airfield to see their brand new helicopter. The attached photo shows the three of us along with my wife Pat, David's wife Primrose & Clair Mitchell their fund raising manager who has been so supportive of us over many years now & last but not least the on-duty paramedic.

Dick Hughes (joint organizer along with David Hunt, Mac Beanland and a host of others who put in a huge effort to make it all happen)



Handing over the amazing contribution to the Air Ambulance Team. Fantastic effort from all concerned. (editor)

Club Badges Now Available

Promote your Society



Cloth Badge £2.50 Plus £1.50 Post/packing

Available now, these fine quality woven and metal badges. The woven badge is 90mm diameter.



The new updated, top quality, metal pin badge is 25mm and just £4.00. plus £1.50 post/packing

Contact our Merchandise Co-ordinator,

Bob Adams:- r.adams389@btinternet.com

Phone:- 07518 380188

From your Membership Secretary

The Committee have decided our subscription for 2025 membership will remain at **£23.00** and **£12.00** for juniors.

Should a new member join on, or after, September 1st 2024 the membership will be valid until December 31st 2025.

Membership will include monthly meetings/visits; a quarterly magazine and, static exhibit Public Liability Insurance.

Please be sure to complete a membership form which will be enclosed with the December magazine or can be downloaded from our website, <u>www.fmps.org.uk</u>

Always enclose a Stamped – Addressed Envelope, *No SAE means no receipt or insurance certificate.*

Payment can be by Cheque, Postal Order or Bank Transfer,(the preferred payment method) but, be sure to use you name as the reference and, do not assume making a transfer will automatically renew membership, we still need a membership form and SAE

Please be sure to inform us of any change of postal address or email address as soon as it happens.

Thank you for your co-operation.

John Southall.

Apple Day 20th October 2024, 10am-4pm

Join The Friends of Cressing Temple for Apple Day and buy some of our heritage apple varieties.

You can also have a go at apple juicing with a traditional press, learn from apple experts and identify your own apple varieties. You can learn more about the orchards at Cressing and how to care for your fruit trees.



Also on the day: Cider, bee-keeping, honey, craft stalls, Medieval re-enactors, entertainment, children's activities, plant and produce sales, craft stalls and refreshments.

The Farm Machinery Preservation Society will be supporting the event with a display of some Tractors and Engines. Call Terry Angland if you wish to join the display.

It's a fun day for all the family!

£3 Adult entry, Children under 18 free. Free parking.

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale:-

Villiers Clutch Locking Tool (ST 25554 CT)



New and unused £10.00



Cylinder Barrel for Villiers 9e 197cc motorcycle engine. Rebored but not used. Comes with new piston and ring set.

£50.00 for all.

(the piston alone would cost this !)

John Southall. fmps@btinternet.com 07340 781621

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale:- Blake 1H1 water pump on trolley about 1960s



Not used for some years may need a bit of fettling.

£110.00

Contact:- John Holdway johnandp@btinternet.com

For Sale:- Ruston Hornsby model BPR. 1928. 4hp.

Unfinished project, not a lot more to be done it's been hanging

around too long, part of a clear out.

History of engine is known.

Open to sensible offers.

Contact :-John Holdway

johnandp@btinternet.com



Are we up to date?

Have you moved house?

Have you changed your phone number?

Have you changed your email address?

We have email addresses which have "bounced back" *PLEASE* ensure any changes are notified and *PLEASE* clearly write the address on the membership form

Are there any other changes we need to be aware of in order to ensure any communication from the Society reaches you in a correct and timely manner?

Please let us know of any changes:-

email:- <u>fmps@btinternet.com</u>

Phone / Text:- 07340 781621

Mail:- FMPS, 4 Tye Lane, Willisham, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 4SR



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2024 FMPS Meetings/Visits/Events

Meetings at Halstead Football Club CO9 1HR 8pm (unless otherwise stated)

August 24th-25th-26th Event:- Polstead Exhibition CO6 5AG

September 25th 3pm Visit:- to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Earls Colne Airfield CO6 2NS

October 12th–13th Visit:- Threshing Weekend Coopers Farm, Lawshall IP29 4PX

October 20th Event:- Cressing Temple Apple Day CM77 8PD

October 30th Talk:- by former FMPS President Jeffrey Giblin

November 27th Talk:- by a representative of Trinity House

Always check the WEBSITE <u>www.fmps.org.uk</u> and our Facebook page for meeting updates.

This magazine is also available to read on the website along with back copies for past years

Deadline for next Magazine input: - November 15th 2024



(plus £4 post and packing)



Contact Bob Adams <u>r.adams389@btinternet.com</u> Phone:- 07518 380188