

Farm Machinery Preservation Society Ltd.



Magazine No. 172
December 2024



A Very Happy Christmas to you all

F.M.P.S

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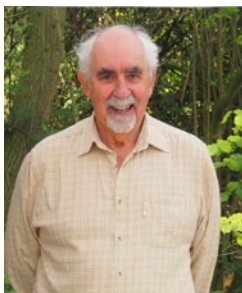
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Cover Picture.
A very Happy Christmas and
New Year to you all.

Honorary Members
Mike Laflin, John Couch,
Colin Cracknell

From the Chair

Magazine 172 December 2024



The chairman's report for the December magazine tends to start as a review of the year's as far as FMPS is concerned. So as a reminder, we had 4 speakers at our monthly meetings, Brian Francis (thanks Brian for stepping in at the last moment) Clair Mitchell from the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust, Dolores Blazhevksa from Indaver and Karl Lumbers from Trinity House. We also had 4 visits, Earls Colne Heritage Museum, Coopers Farm Lawshall, Thelnetham Windmill, and the Airbase for the Ambulance Helicopter. We supported the Tractor Road Runs at Stebbing and Waldringfield as well as organising our own road runs at Rivenhall and Gt Henny (thanks Ken).

We promoted the club by taking along tractors and engines to events at Langford Museum of Power, Polstead Art Weekend, Essex Industrial Archaeology Group at Coggeshall and Apple Day at Cressing Temple Barns. We also provided the food at the Lawshall Threshing Day.

And, of course, our two main events again this year were: The Crank Up at Woodhouse Farm Rivenhall and assisting the Cracknell family at the Grove Farm Working Day.

In addition, we still provide public liability insurance for all our members' static exhibits.

Next year we are planning a similar programme. We hope to produce the full calendar showing all the meetings and events at the AGM.

The pleasing thing for me this year is that we are seeing a gradual increase in the number of members coming along to our meetings and events. Also, we are seeing more members volunteering to help out at our two main functions. It is beginning to feel like a club again after Covid. If anyone wants to come along to one or more of the promotional days next year, please let me know, you will be very welcome.

There has been not so much progress on the workshop facility at Woodhouse Farm, Rivenhall. Our sponsors, Indaver, are prioritising work on restoring the grade 2 listed farmhouse as there is a time constraint on finishing that part of the project. Maybe the workshop build will start later next year?



The Tractor Run and Working Day raised money for the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, above is the presentation of a cheque for £1500 to the Air Ambulance.

We can discuss next year's programme and the direction the society should take at the AGM in January. It is the place to have your say and make suggestions. So, I really hope I will see you there.

From the Editor

Magazine 172 December 2024



Here it is yet again, just about Christmas and the end of another year. Yes, we say it every year, “where did the year go?” We of course will look back and reflect on the past twelve months and in our minds think about the things we planned to do and never quite managed it. (from a personal perspective I plead guilty; having had a new gearbox for one of my motorcycles sitting on the shelf for some three years and still it sits there with the promise of being fitted in the winter, perhaps this winter!)

As a club we have members all over the UK but there is, as you might expect, a core element in Essex and Suffolk which make up very roughly half the total membership but, for a multitude of reasons we don't seem to maintain much close contact. We have some club events during the year such as our Crank Up, Tractor Runs, Working Weekend and monthly meetings but there is still room in the calendar for more “getting together”. One of our newer members, Gavin Edwards, has recognized this and is arranging a monthly social gathering for members with the first being a Christmas meal. However, by the time you receive this magazine this particular event will most likely to have been and gone. (December 5th) but, we look forward to the New Year and therefore watch our Facebook page for more details. The proposal is that interested members meet for a “catch up” on the lunchtime of the first Friday in the month with the venue changing as suggested by members.

I receive several club Newsletters from John Couch who is a member in New Zealand and the idea Gavin is pursuing is commonplace there, sometimes meetings and general “get togethers” happen as a lunchtime event on a weekday or, more likely on a Sunday as there is a recognition some members do actually work for a living. However, I am sure there is mileage here to be gained and, in a small way, might draw our members closer which can only benefit the club.

If you want more information or have comments ask Gavin:-

Gavin can be contacted on:- **07745 121161.**

or gavin.edwards1964@gmail.com

With this magazine there are various inserts such as your membership form for 2025, the minutes of the 2024 AGM a nomination form for election of Officers and Committee and a financial statement.

The 2025 AGM is well publicised elsewhere in this magazine but because it is the most important meeting of the year we really need members to be there and bring ideas which might shape the future of the Society. And, remember, all positions are up for re-election which means you could be our next Chairman, Vice Chair, Treasurer or Committee member.

Don't just think about it, go for it !

It just remains for me to wish each and every one a very Happy Christmas and a Successful and Healthy New Year.



A follow up to Mike Laflin's article, "FMPS 1968,"

In the March issue of this magazine Mike Laflin, the first Chairman of our Society back in 1968, gave us some fascinating history of the Society and the involvement of the Steed family in promoting the FMPS and the early days of the rallies they organised.

Mike has dug deep into his collection of old Tractor magazines and has managed to find some information and photographs which bear testament to the engineering skills of David Steed.

(who I was lucky enough to know) editor.

The following was taken from "Old Tractor" April 2005.

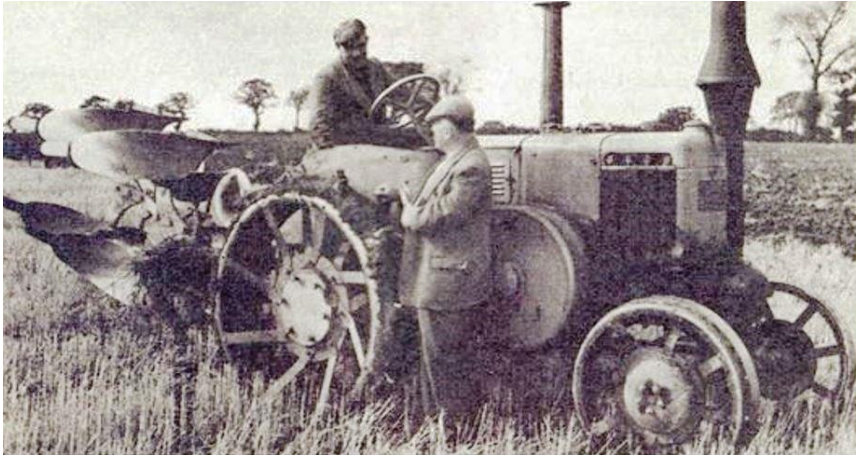
Colin Steed of Sudbury in Suffolk has responded to a picture that appeared in Postbox in our December (2004) issue. This cutting was taken from a 1962 farming magazine and it showed his father, Donald Steed, standing next to a 1937 Lanz Bulldog that had been adapted with a Fordson hydraulic lift to handle a Ransomes reversible plough. The conversion was done by Colin's brother, David Donald Steed who sadly died in September (2004). Colin tells us that David had earlier carried out a similar adaptation at Tye Farm, Great Cornard in Suffolk, using a 30hp Bulldog fitted with a Smith's lift from a Fordson E27N.

David's last conversion was to drop a Perkins R6 diesel into a Case LA and Colin has kindly sent in a photograph of this remarkable machine.



Above;

David Steed at the wheel of his Perkins R6 diesel conversion of a Case LA tractor in the mid-1960s. The rear wheels are fitted with Darvill retractable strakes made by Stanhay of Ashford in Kent, probably necessary to get the extra power on the ground.



Above;

Donald Steed with the 1937 Lanz Bulldog – a 55hp model fitted with a Fordson hydraulic lift. The 4-ton machine was ideal in wet conditions and could plough an acre on a gallon of diesel. The driver, William Smalls, had been on the farm since 1930.

I doubt if any conversions such as these take place today but, “back in the day”, I suspect this type of “improvement” was relatively commonplace in an attempt to make what was already standing in the barn just a bit better.

The question is:-

Where are these machines now ??? (editor.)

Annual General Meeting

January 29th 2025

Support the Society, have your say, all posts up for re-election.

Please take a few minutes to read the documents accompanying this magazine.

Financial Statement/Accounts.

A statement of the Society income and expenditure over the past financial year.

Should you have any questions or require clarification of any points please contact **Bob Feaver**

Nomination Form.

This form is to allow you to either nominate a person or apply yourself for any position within the Society. Please complete and forward to **Terry Angland**

Membership Form

Complete this form with all relevant details to ensure membership of the Society for 2025. (address on the form)

Payment by BACS is preferred

Cheque or Postal Order will be acceptable.

Remember SAE.

Cheque or Card payments preferred at the AGM

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The Club Working Day at Grove Farm

From our hosts, Mark and Brigid Cracknell

As I write this piece it is just over a week since the latest FMPS working day at Grove Farm. While we were thinking the day through, we were also wondering if anyone knew when the first of these days was as no-one in the family seems able to pin it down? We do have a family photograph of Mrs Cracknell (Brigid my wife, not my Mum!) driving my Fordson N whilst pregnant with Blake (child number 2) and he was 30 this January so it has been going at least 31 years.



*I am not sure when the first Henny Working Day was but I can add I know it was at least 38 years ago. The above picture is of our then Chairman, the late Ron Mansfield, and my son Martin who was seven at the time and, was taken in 1986. I believe the Working Day had been running several years before this.
Editor.*

Whenever the start date for these events was the working day this year I felt went very well. Despite the weather forecast on the day itself it was fine, then for the tractor run even better and there was a good attendance at both events. The tractor run must have gone very well as some tractors were still parked by the pub late into the afternoon.



We had a wide range of tractors working and it was great to see the heavy horses working alongside.

(sorry, no pictures of the horses) Editor.

The stationary engines and vintage vehicles completed the interesting selection of items on display and Project Seven fed us all and kept us watered. Today I spent the day levelling out the bumps you had all made and I am currently sitting on a soft cushion to recover!!





Dave Monk, winner of "Best Tractor" with our Chairman Terry Angland.

Hopefully the winners of the 'best' tractor and stationary engine were pleased to receive their cups and that all those taking part enjoyed the day.

I would like to thank all the members who came to help set up and run the event, due to all their help, especially on the Friday afternoon, everything ran very smoothly, and everything was left very tidy on Monday too.

Thanks again for a lovely weekend, Mark Cracknell



Steve Daltry winner of "Best Stationary Engine".

Static Exhibit Insurance

With this magazine you will have received a card as below; no doubt you will wonder why.

Our insurance company have introduced a stipulation which states we must confirm we are exhibiting on behalf of the Society in order to receive the full £5.000.000 Public Liability cover.

**We are insured through, and are exhibiting here today on behalf of the:-
Farm Machinery Preservation Society**



www.fmps.org.uk

To comply with the insurance requirements this notice must be displayed with your exhibit.

Please be sure to display the sign at all events

Essex Industrial Archaeology Group

From Paul Ewers

The FMPS was represented at the EIAG show at Coggeshall barn on Saturday 14 September.

I took my MF 575 and a MF 565 that belongs to a man called "Gary" (sorry no more detail) The Ford 2000, belongs to Ken Bailey and the MF 135 belongs to John Humphries.

I also had my Ruston Hornsby 2xhr behind the tent unfortunately; I could not get a photo of all in one picture as the car park was in the way!

We all had a very good day with a lot of people asking questions and the organisers of the event thanking us for going.



Thank you Paul for taking the time to share this small but important event which demonstrates what the Society is all about. Editor,

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Club Visit to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

From Paul Ewers



The new Augusta Westland AW169 of the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

The club visit to the Headquarters of the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance on the 25th of September was attended by a good number of members; we were welcomed by Clair Mitchell and with one of her colleagues gave an

introductory insight into the work and operation of the Air Ambulance. After the intro we donned high vis jackets and taken out on to the airfield with the intention of being shown the new Helicopter

recently purchased by the Trust, however, as we assembled around the aircraft the emergency



Some of our members assembled around one of the Fast Response cars also used by the Trust

telephone rang out and, as you will guess, the crew who were about to give us a “tour” of the helicopter all went into action mode and we were treated to a close up view of seeing the helicopter take off to attend an emergency. Not what we hoped for but of course somewhere there was a casualty in greater need than us. Still a very worthwhile visit enjoyed by all.

Part 4; of a continuing story as we follow our resident HiFi expert Jimmy. Who is busy restoring an old:

Edison Bell 259 1920s Portable Gramophone.

While we wait for the handle to be expertly restored by Tony Smith, a leatherworker in Preston; Jimmy has been travelling around looking for a suitable key to fit the case lock.



Normal locksmiths couldn't help, so he ended up at the antiques complex at Battlesbridge where he picked one up for a few pounds. After filing the end of the key down to work the single lever lock, the assembly was refitted to the case.

Jimmy was still not happy with the clockwork motor of the gramophone and stripped the spring again to find the grease had become sticky. Luckily he had some more runny graphite that finally did the trick! Now the gramophone plays a record at the correct speed on one winding of the spring.

While at the antiques centre, Jimmy spoke to a gramophone and radio restorer who mentioned the different types of needles that can be used in the sound box.

On returning home Jimmy looked carefully at the Edison Bell original sound box to discover the needle arm-adjusting screw was broken!



Not a brilliant shot but you can just see (arrowed left) the stub of the pivot screw poking out of the casting – there should be a slot in it! This screw is held with a locknut on the other side.



This was the only way to release the screw. The 8BA locknut was slacked a little and tweezers just fitted into the gap to turn the screw thread a little at a time! Eventually the screw came out and the sound box could be dismantled.



This is the diaphragm that came out. Not the original but it looks as though these could be bought as replacements and cut to fit. Anyway, Jimmy decided to make a new diaphragm from 4 thou gauge plate.

Here marking out with dividers.

This stuff is so thin cut and shape it scissors! The hole needle arm was with an old steel and the 9BA nut on of the arm was to the diaphragm varnish, as no wax - the original was available.



you can with for the made needle the end sealed with nail candle method,

Jimmy had to buy some 8BA machine screws but was able to use the original locknut. The screw had to be given a point for the needle arm to pivot on so this was done in the lathe. Also the gauge plate was used to take up slack in the bayonet joint between the sound box and the tone arm.

Next time in:



We see the finishing of the restoration and the unveiling!

Thank you Jimmy for once again sharing your trials and tribulations. A note to other members; please contribute your interests to this magazine; it absolutely does not have to be old farm machinery. Editor.

Gt Henny Tractor Run 5th October 2024

We were welcomed at the start with tea and biscuits and a lot of chat by volunteers April & Cathy and Lyn & Ian Prince.

At 10am we left the ploughing field, headed down a farm track to Grove Farm, and down the drive. Then turned right, onto the Henny Road. After a short run, we turned towards Twinstead, then left and left again heading for Alphamstone, then right and skirted round the village where we were waved on by April, Cathy and Rebecca.



At the end of the road, we turned left at the T junction heading towards Bures. After a short run we turned onto an unsurfaced road and after about a mile we joined the road to Colne Engaine. Then over the Staggered Cross Roads at Countess Cross, a right turn and then left towards Colne Engaine. Before Colne village we turned right and headed for Pebmarsh. A right turn then left towards the main Halstead-Sudbury Road. Two

marshals, Kingsley and Martyn, saw us across the A131 and we headed for Great Maplestead. We followed the road through Little and Great Maplestead. Just before Castle Hadingham we turned right on a partly surfaced and unsurfaced road. After the last two farms at the end we went right and then turned left to the Hedingham to Sudbury road. Then into Castle Hedingham, and headed for the halfway stop at Memories.

The burgers and sausages, cooked by James Clark and his Dad, were very welcome along with the tea and coffee with Ian and Lyn on duty again.

We left Memories and turned right onto the Halstead/Haverhill Road, aided by the two marshals. We headed for Great Yeldham, then we were marshalled right and right again through the village and headed for Little Yeldham. We turned left in the village towards Tilbury Juxta Clare. We then turned right through Nowles Green up into Belchamp St Paul past the school and turned right and onto Belchamp Otten. At the end of the village, we turned right onto a concrete road. We followed this for getting on for two miles round the edge of fields and woodland.

At the end of this we turned left towards Belchamp Walter, then right and right again past a few houses and farms into Gestingthorpe. We turned left at the crossroads through Bulmer and onto Sudbury. We were marshalled across the crossroads at the bottom of Ballingdon Hill. Off towards Henny we then turned right into Middleton. The view of the Stour Valley from the top is spectacular. We turned left in the village and headed down the hill to the Henny Swan public house. We parked up in the field next to the Swan and headed for some refreshments. Amazingly all 24 tractors made the whole journey without a hitch and, at 37 miles, was a long but really enjoyable trip.

Ken Bailey

Coopers Farm Threshing Day

Words and pictures from Paul Ewers

Coopers Farm, Lawshall, Suffolk courtesy of Ray Debenham.

The Threshing Day went very well but unfortunately not as much threshing to entertain us as last year due to a reduced crop of the special wheat grown for thatching straw. However, it was still quite a sight to see the old machines once again working.

The weather was a bit threatening but it held off from raining while the threshing drum was running.



Our resident “Burger Kings” Arthur and Kingsley, were cooking all the time and nobody went away hungry .

Our host, Ray Debenham had some of his tractors on a dyno tester to measure the power they were producing which proved interesting to see some of the old machines being put through their paces.



Three Train Hand Wound Striking & Chiming Tower Clock.

A large tower clock mechanism with locking plate control to the hour strike and 'ting-tang' quarter chime.

The going (time) train features a Gravity Escapement (similar to that on the Great Clock in the Houses of Parliament) and has 'sun and planet' maintaining power and reduction gear (to ease winding) built into the winding barrel. The clock was supplied new to St. Anne's school, Redhill in 1885.

After being retired it was stored for many years being slowly robbed of various components. These were largely replaced by the previous owner.

The clock originally drove a large dial or dials via the bevel gears and forked coupling to be seen to centre top of the mechanism.

Inside the barn we were treated to some amazing examples of Victorian engineering in the form of some

clocks Ray had on display which, are true master pieces to see working.



I think perhaps the pictures do not really do them justice, especially when one chimes on the hour but, all in all another very good event.



Above and left is the amazing scale model Burrell Engine and Drum all fully working and owned by Ray Debenham.

Cressing Temple Apple Day, October 20th

Paul Ewers

Here are some pictures of Cressing Temple Apple Day which I attended with some other members of the FMPS, Gary



Edwards who exhibited his Massey Ferguson 565, John Humphries who brought his

Massey Ferguson 35x and Arthur Catlin with a Ferguson TE20 and a Lister sheep shearing set and a small gas engine.



I took my Bamford EV4 stationary engine.

Also attending were Ken Bailey and Terry Angland. The weather forecast said rain and strong winds; but, we escaped with some drizzle and fortunately, one of the buildings sheltered us from the wind. Despite the weather, there were a really good number of visitors and, I am sure the organisers must have been pleased with the attendance.



To the Editor,

I have cobbled this together in an offbeat way to impress to members that we are in this for a chuckle as much as raising funds for the charities.

Hopefully they will get the impression we are more about doing the job than looking pretty.

John Court

Waldringfield Tractor Run. August 10th 2024

We had 39 tractors turn up and take part and produced a few 'failures to proceed' along the way but with so many seasoned participants in the group there is always a tow strap close by to help out their mates thus leaving the low loading breakdown trailer clear in case there are non towable casualties like punctures.

There was a worried Ferguson driver before the start with an iffy fan belt but with no spare he had committed to take part so was joining in. It was fortunate that total belt failure happened before we went past his house so when it let go he was soon hooked up and proceeded on the run by tow and was left on his drive. Was that the end we asked? With no spare belt at home he drove to a local motor factor and picked up an armful of belts looking about the size (no charts for Ferguson cross reference numbers at MPD), fitted the one closest to correct and drove straight to the lunch stop arriving well before the rest of us. Very resourceful and pretty crafty to get ahead at the food and drink queue.

After the rest of us rocked up at the lunch stop and after engines silenced a small gang of the local scouts had a look at the grass below the tractors and any oil marks showing had a sheet of cardboard put down to absorb any further drips - referred to as the 'card of shame' by the cheeky herbets.

They were almost beaten by one Fordson that dripped diesel quicker than the card could soak it up but with their motto of 'be prepared' they legged it into the Pavilion nabbed a mop bucket and put it on the card of shame to catch the fuel. I

presumed it was poured back into the leakers tank before we left but I never could find out whose tank it really went into.

Another runner earlier slowed to a halt and had to take the shortest route to the lunch stop on a tow rope. Fuel starvation was the problem and with no method to shut off the tank to remove and clean the strainer the mechanic working on it was heard to say something implying when he had unscrewed the pipe and pulled it off put a finger over the hole bloody quickly or there will be a lot of fuel all over us and the playing field and we won't be invited back - no second chances on either. The pep talk had the desired effect, and with filter cleaned and engine running we had a clear conscience to book the field for next year's run.

Everyone watered, tractors route and back home. A steady numbers raffle



suitably fed and with the raffle drawn the continued their scenic through the marshes to the start for the drive

day for all and when the were added up from the ,donations and entries

the total amount given to St Elizabeth Hospice was £2345 and the local Scout group made a profit from the cakes, bacon sandwiches and drinks of £338 to use for their local activities.

Already thinking of next year:- we are running again on 16th August 2025 - that is the third Saturday.

Early next year and with the help of the Editor J.S. we again hope to have a link on the FMPS events website to the entry form. Looking forward to seeing more people this side of the River Orwell next year.

Club Meeting February 26th 2025

The History of Pearl Land Drainage from the 1950's to the noughties in words and pictures

By Dick Hughes.

Established in 1955, Hugh Pearl has expanded to become a leading contractor for Land Drainage and Civil Engineering projects in the South East of England.

Founded by Mr Hugh Pearl, generations of the same family are still involved with the business and those founding values allow them to go from strength to strength.



Now in its 70th year, Pearl has completed 1000's of projects for many large and small clients encompassing household names, major contractors and Government departments.

Our Guest Speaker Dick Hughes, spent many years working with Pearl and during this time built up extensive knowledge and no doubt some stories, which I am sure he will be pleased to share with us at the meeting.

Club Badges Now Available

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Co-ordinator, Bob Adams:-**

r.adams389@btinternet.com

Phone:- 07518 380188



For Sale and Wanted

For Sale: Ferguson 1950 TED 20



Ferguson TED 20,
1950 petrol and paraffin
tractor for sale.

Also the transporter box
and a 2 furrow plough for
sale.

All in good condition,
they have been kept in
dry storage.

We are open to sensible
offers. Welcome to come
and view. Located in
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Contact:- Jayne Paul. 01371 870402. 07791438999

Email:- jayneandgypsy@yahoo.com

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History of engine is known.

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Contact :-John Holdway

johnandp@btinternet.com



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

And Finally:-



On behalf of the Officers and Committee it just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year.

May I thank those who have supported the Society at events both as helpers and/or exhibitors and, may I also thank those who have contributed to this magazine, your input is vital.

Remember our monthly meetings / visits help bind the club together. See our 2025 programme and join us.

Editor.



Merry Christmas
from the Gipping Press Team

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www.gippingpress.co.uk

2025

FMPS Meetings/Visits/Events

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

January 29th

Annual General Meeting.
Come and shape the future of our Society.
The most important meeting of the year.

February 26th

Talk by Dick Hughes
The history of Pearl Land Drainage from the '50s to the
noughties in words and pictures.

March 26th

Talk by Mike Laflin
"To be a Farmers Boy"
The first Chairman of the FMPS in 1968

April 30th 3pm

Outside visit 3pm to Steve Knight's
Private museum / collection
of all things related to our Postal Service
109 Head St. Halstead. CO9 2AZ

Always check the WEBSITE www.fmps.org.uk
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:- February 15th 2025

Great Christmas Gift

Club Polo Shirts £16

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available**

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