

Chairman's Report - Pat Pawsey.

I have now been Chairman for the last year and it has been a busy one. I have enjoyed being out and about at shows and helping on the Club stand and meeting so many members but a lot of the work goes on in the in the background unseen. Sue & I have been to and helped at Tractor World (Malvern) The Eastern Counties Vintage Spectacular (Norwich) The FMPS rally at Long Melford, FFA's Expo 8 at Swavesey, The Summer Show at Marsham, Gt. Dorset Steam Fair, Welland Steam Fayre, and the Southern Area FFA Ploughing Championships. Newark is, of course, still to come and I hope to see many of you there.

I must thank all the committee members because without their dedication and hard work my job would have been impossible. Incidentally it is all done entirely at their own expense be it attending meetings or transporting themselves and Club merchandise to shows. I had hoped not to single anyone out for special thanks but that has proved to be impossible. I must mention Margaret & Derek for their tireless work selling memberships and merchandise at shows, our funds would be considerably less without their herculean efforts. I should like also to mention Jane's contribution as treasurer she has done a superb job in keeping our finances on track. I could and probably should go on but I need to think about our next AGM and must keep something back for then.

Our Club has made real progress this year but there is much still to do, for example:-

Kelsey: Our relationship with Kelsey has improved but more needs to be done, for example on subscriptions we should be able to offer subscribers at least the same advantages as is published in the magazines. This is one of the points I intend to pursue at a meeting with them next month.

Expo's: Due to the high cost of traveling it seems to me that one Expo gathering for the whole country may have had it's day and although we are at Welland next year this annual event may in future be better served on a more regional basis. Say for example two or three each year round the country, we would welcome your views on this.

The Website: Ernie has really done us proud here, but I think a for sale and wanted section would be of benefit to members, and could raise money for the Club. Also Ernie is looking for sponsors but obviously cannot have too many selling the same things, again your help will be appreciated.

Area Reps: The Club does need people to run their own areas, it may be just attending your own favourite show and having a small tent, gazebo or awning, putting up a sign and having the crack with members and potential members, a cup of tea and anything else you want to do. It is surprisingly rewarding don't take my word for it, give it a try.

Finally as I don't want to keep you from your lunch, just two things;

Firstly: I must thank Bill Best for allowing us to use this excellent venue and also my particular thanks to Wendy Gibson and her stalwart team of WI Ladies for all the work they have put in to preparing the lunch you are about to enjoy.

Secondly: and this is important this is our hobby to be enjoyed, please never forget that!