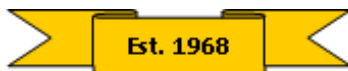


Farm Machinery Preservation Society Ltd.



Magazine No. 175 September 2025



F.M.P.S

Committee, Officers, and Editor

Terry Angland (Chairman)
 Elm Barn
 Hartest
 Bury St Edmunds
 IP29 4JN 01284 830034
 07867 334084

Brian Mansfield (Vice Chairman)
 17 Queens Road
 Sudbury
 Suffolk
 CO10 1UH 01787 375321

Bob Feaver (Treasurer)
 19 Raynsford Road
 Gt. Whelnetham
 Bury-St-Edmunds
 Suffolk
 IP30 0TW 07531 642032

David Hunt (Committee)
 Brazenhead Farm
 Gt Bardfield
 Braintree
 Essex
 CM7 4PT 01371 810314

Mark Cracknell (Committee)
 Grove Farm
 Great Henny
 Sudbury
 Suffolk
 CO10 7LT 07753 522756

John Humphries (Committee)
 1 Evelina
 Mallows Field
 Halstead
 Essex
 CO9 2LJ 07949 172866

email : All Officers and Committee
fmpsarchive@yahoo.com

Ken Bailey (Committee)
 May Cottage
 1 Oaker Hill
 Ridgewell Road
 Gt. Yeldham
 CO9 4RG 07702202311

Arthur Catling (Committee)
 The Bungalow
 Lower Road
 Westerfield
 Suffolk
 IP6 9AR 07810 618931

Bryan Mills (Committee)
 4 Sycamore Close
 Haverhill
 CB9 9DT 07967 366344

Paul Ewers (Committee)
 Uplands
 Sunnyfields Road
 High Garrett
 Essex
 CM7 5PG 07765 675914

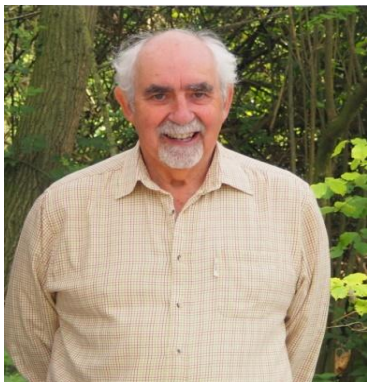
Martyn Woodhouse (Committee)
 Flt 46 Dutch Quarter Apts
 West Stckwell St.
 Colchester
 Essex
 CO1 1FQ 07762 326635

John Southall.
 (Magazine Editor Membership Secretary)
 4 Tye Lane
 Willisham
 Ipswich
 IP8 4SR 07340 781621
fmps.magazine@btinternet.com

Gavin Edwards (Safety Officer)
 The Mantles, 47 Clough Rd,
 Gosberton, Risegate,
 Spalding
 PE11 4JW 07745 121161
gavin.edwards1964@gmail.com

Honorary Members
 Mike Laflin, John Couch,

Cover Picture
 A beautiful Petter M Appletop seen
 at the Launceston Rally



Our Spring/Summer programme has been reasonably successful this year. The visit to the Post Office Museum in April proved to be a popular afternoon. We had 24 on the, very well received, Rivenhall Tractor Road Run (thanks Ken) and 880 visitors and participants on the Rivenhall Crank Up day. The introduction of a

tombola stall and some musicians both proved to be a hit. However, our collection for the Air Ambulance Trust was down a bit at £800. We really struggled with volunteers this year and we were very dependent on two non-members, Messrs Neil Bailey and Kevin Catlin to pull us through. We have agreed with our sponsor Indaver that we will attempt another Crank Up on the late May Bank Holiday Monday next year but we will need more help if we are going to pull it off. Watch this space for your chance to volunteer.

June's visit to Pond House Farm, Bocking, was another highlight, with about 50 visitors and making over £200 for the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust. We have our hosts Jan and Ken Vince to thank for the invitation. Hopefully we will be able to arrange something similar next year.

July saw another good club meeting at Mangapps Railway and Wibblers Brewery. Report elsewhere in the magazine and both places made us very welcome.

Our Autumn programme will include a visit to Claydon Drills on Wednesday 24th September. They are at Bunters Rd.

Newmarket **CB8 8XY. Please arrive for a 6PM START.**

Claydons have asked me for names and numbers, so if you want to see their fantastic, high-performance equipment please let me or one of the committee members know by 10th September. Guests welcome

The annual Working Weekend at Gt Henny returns with a Tractor Road Run on Saturday 4th October and Ploughing Day on Sunday 5th October. This is a very popular event and with limited space, so get your entry forms in pronto. We've included an entry form with the magazine so there is no excuse for not joining us.

The October club meeting will be a talk by, firm favourite Jeffrey Giblin. Be prepared for another evening of entertaining reminiscences. Usual place and time Halstead Town FC 8pm.

We have another entertaining speaker booked for November, Jim Davis, with a talk about historical Halstead. This will also be at 8pm at Halstead Town FC.

It is with some sadness that I have to tell you that our minute secretary Rebecca Bushell is leaving us. She has had to listen to me and the other committee members droning on at meetings for the last 3½ years so I don't blame her. However, she has yet another promotion at work and is now a deputy head. This obviously involves her in a lot more work. So, I would like to congratulate her, thank her deeply for all the help and assistance she has given us and wish her well for the future.

That does mean however, we have a vacancy and really need the help. If you think you can help, we will be very grateful. Please check out the vacancy notice.



As an engineer I always worked very much in the belief of “if it’s not broken, don’t fix it”. And, over the years this has almost always proved to be the right approach. However, there are times when this approach might not be wholly right.

In July I absolutely proved there are times when “don’t fix it” really was short sighted and so very wrong. I am not referring to a mechanical engineering problem but to the wondrous technology of my computer.

I had a computer which was thirteen years old and as such was totally comfortable with, it did everything I needed and even after all these years I occasionally found something new to make a task quicker or easier. But, I was becoming aware it was a bit slow at times and sometimes had an “off day” (much like its owner!) It was these warning signs I ignored and decided “if it’s not broken don’t fix it”. Big mistake! The day came when suddenly it stopped working, initially I was not too worried, generally a reboot got it up and running again but, not this time. I rebooted it and was met with a message which in laymen’s terms said I am dead!

Now I really did panic. Many hours of applying my limited knowledge proved nothing more other to confirm it was dead and worse everything pointed to the problem being the hard drive. (the part of a computer where all data is stored) Now the panic reached a new level.

The possibility of losing every piece of data which had been built up over the years (including 20+ years of this magazine) was beyond imagination yes, I backup and save documents and files to an external hard drive from time to time but in the real world this was never done often enough to protect everything.

I had a real problem to sort out and therefore contacted a computer company in Halstead, Essex, I had been recommended. I duly took my computer to them and as suspected the hard drive had failed and, after inspection and tests informed me they could not recover any data. Now a specialist data recovery company in Cambridge was suggested who, I contacted, they wanted the hard drive which was dispatched using the most secure service the Post Office could offer. A few days later I received a phone call to tell me they also could not recover anything but, they knew of a laboratory who might be my very last resort however, they warned me they were expensive, very expensive. I had reached the point of desperation and, any costs were secondary. I gave the laboratory the go ahead to do what ever they could and, after a few more days received a call to say they had recovered a significant amount of data but, possibly not everything. The recovered data was saved on to a hard drive and dispatched to me. At this point I did not have a computer to check what had been recovered but I had ordered a new one from the shop in Halstead which has the latest and most up to date “everything” not to mention it is no larger than a typical paper back novel. Absolutely tiny compared with my old, trusted friend computer.

The recovered data was loaded on to the new computer and here the “fun” started. The good news was the majority of FMPS data appears to have been recovered the bad news was things like my email system and much associated with it had been lost. And, now I have the latest “everything” I have to

learn how to work it. I won't bore you any more with the trials and tribulations but sometimes I feel like a complete novice trying to find my way around parts of the new system.

To go back to the beginning I still stand by "if it's not broken, don't fix it" but now I will add the caveat "up to a point" if only I had followed my gut instinct which told me it was time to replace the old computer before the inevitable happened but, I didn't and I paid the price literally in £s but more importantly in drama, hassle, inconvenience, frustration and absolute desperation.

For those who regularly use computers take note and don't wait until it breaks.

On a lighter note, and here I put my Membership Secretary cap on, the membership numbers are buoyant and, at the time of writing have surpassed the number of members in 2024. However, there are still a significant number of 2024 members who have not rejoined this year. As I have said in the past there are reasons for this such as giving up the hobby, change of circumstances or interest or, possibly, they might have left us to exhibit in the rally field in Heaven.

The 2026 membership subscription has increased slightly due to ever increasing costs and will now be £25 but, remember, this includes £10,000,000 public liability insurance to cover all of your static exhibits, the quarterly magazine, in full colour, monthly meetings, usually with a guest speaker, outside visits to places of interest which are often subsidised by the club. And, from 2026 Junior members (under 18s) will benefit from all of the above and **membership is now free ! Yes, £0.00**

FMPS Crank Up May 26th

Some pictures and a few words by Paul Ewers

Another very successful event from the Society which saw many of the local communities join us to share our interest in old machinery and, to also enjoy the other attractions which included children's football, some petting animals, a bouncy castle and several stalls to browse.

As always at these events we are at the mercy of the weather but despite some heavy clouds we were only slightly dampened by a small shower. Our hosts Indaver, provided so much in the way of support, not just allowing us to use their site but also arranging some of the really important facilities such as quality toilets, first aid cover and some staff to generally manage our event. We thank them for making our day possible.

The following pictures from the crank up are in no particular order but just represent a flavour of the day.



FMPS Crank Up Pictures



FMPS Crank Up



FMPS Crank Up



Many thanks Paul for the words and images, very much appreciated. I am sure members will enjoy these and hopefully might be inspired to do something similar in the future.

Just email your words and pics to:-

fmps.magazine@btinternet.com

Editor.

Vacancy

Secretary/Minutes Secretary

Job Description

Taking minutes at Committee meetings. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month except December. They take place, normally, at Halstead Town Football Club. They start at 7.30pm and generally last about 2 ½ hours. The successful candidate will just need to record actions, policy changes and the results of ballots.

As an additional option also, the successful candidate could agree to assist the Chairman with general secretarial duties for a couple of hours per week.

Skills Required

Computer literacy, patience and a sense of humour. We use various email platforms, Microsoft Word and Excel. We have a website and a Facebook Page. Your own computer would be a great advantage.

Remuneration

The post attracts a payment of £15 per hour.

If you think you can help, please email:

fmpsarchive@yahoo.com

You will have noticed my many pleas to share some words and pictures of events or visits or anything of interest. To this end a new member living in Devon crossed the Devon-Cornwall border to exhibit at the Launceston Rally and took the time to give us this superb article of interest and some great pictures to illustrate it.

Allison, I really thank you for sharing what was obviously a great day out and, I hope this inspires other members to do the same. (Editor)

A Day at Launceston Steam Rally

Contributed By Allison Hotchin

We bought our Stationary Engine quite by chance. Not a usual impulse buy, but I'm sure we're not entirely alone. A chance comment from a work colleague led to a quick viewing, and there, husbands Birthday present bought!



To be fair my husband has a long standing interest in anything steam or vintage machinery, so long story short, our 1936 Fowler P

Type 1.5 HP Engine came home, along with a Stuart Turner water pump working a shower head in a glass Milking Jar.

The Engine hadn't run for some time and after some teething problems and the revelation that the spark plug gap needed to be smaller than we thought at 15 thou., she ran like a dream.

We have been to our local Steam Rally at Launceston several years running and it's always a great day out, so we thought we would ask if we could exhibit the Fowler (known as Gladys Emmanuel at home) along with Emma, a hybrid Steam Boat Engine / Allen Scythe, and some other vintage cream making and shearing bits and bobs. After a rush to get insurance (FMPS of course!) and a flurry of emails to Antony the Stationary Engine Section Lead, we were in!

We went for the final day of the 3 day show and there was a really good turnout of Stationary Engines. Our section was in a good place near the entrance so had lots of footfall and interest, with many people not just interested in the engines, but stopping by to reminisce about making cream with the old turn handle cream makers, or remembering shearing using the

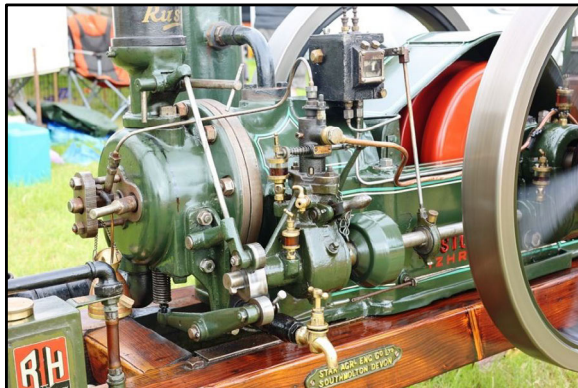
Lister hand cranked sheep shears.



There were some really superb stationary engines on show, and the other exhibitors were so friendly. Many of the stationary engines were running water pumps of various types, and some running clippers, and other interesting vintage machinery. It was great to see so many being maintained, loved and as importantly, shown off to the

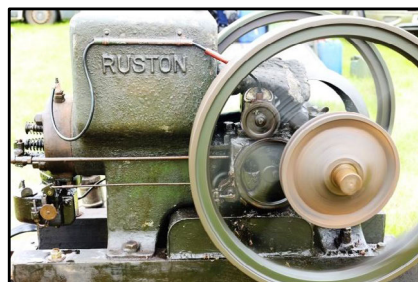
public. We took lots of photos, a few of which you can see here.

Emma the steam engine was a real hit, but we don't currently have a boiler test certificate so we couldn't run her up sadly. This is proving difficult as she is of nonstandard construction and we don't know when her boiler was built, so a work in progress.



During the afternoon we had a bit of an incident with dye for the water pump when we thought the water would look better with some colour which I then managed to coat

myself in, and I can confirm that it is a devil to wash off. Got a few funny looks at work the following day, but I can 100% say we will be back at the Launceston Steam Rally again next time.



And, here is “Emma” which is totally unique: - built from an Allen Scythe and much more including a steam engine from a steam boat which once sailed Loch Ussie in the Scottish Highlands. Allison has promised to tell us more about this very unusual (bizarre almost) steam powered machine in a future edition of our magazine. (Editor)



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At this year's events

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Phone:- 07518 380188

Mangapps Railway Museum Visit

Terry Angland



Our July club meeting involved an afternoon at Mangapps Railway Museum followed by an evening meal and brewery tour at Wibblers Brewery. About 20 of us made the trip.

Curator John Jolly, his wife and museum volunteers were on hand at the Railway Museum to explain and inform and generally guide us round. We had a trip on one of the Gardner 6-cylinder diesel engine trains and plenty of tea. We found the museum is very well laid out with a very large number of railway related exhibits and is certainly worth visiting.



At Wibblers Brewery the Wilcox family- Phil, Abby and Lucy-Amelia poured our drinks, made us dinner and showed us round the brewery. It was a sunny, merry evening and everyone, especially me, seemed to enjoy it.

Club Visit 25th June to:-

The Ken Vince Tractor Collection

A very big “thank you” to Janice, Ken, Mark and Paul for hosting the evening's farm visit at Pond House Farm, Bocking.

Also, a big thanks to all who attended;
the event raised a whopping £215 for the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Service who, we are always happy to support in recognition for the amazing and selfless work they do.



Once again, many thanks.

Terry Angland, Chair of the Farm Machinery Preservation Society.

**FMPS Great Henny Working Weekend
October 4th and 5th
Grove Farm Great Henny CO10 7LT**



**Saturday 4th
Charity Tractor Run.**

**Sunday 5th
Working Day.**

*(many thanks to Mark and Brigid
Cracknell for the use of Grove
farm)*

Join us for the FMPS main
event of the year.

Come along and work your old machines, this is a fun day and not a competition. Novices are particularly welcome. Stationary engines and, anything and everything all help to make the event,



**For the Tractor Run contact:-
Ken Bailey.
07702 202311**



**All other
entrants
contact:-
Terry Angland.
07867 334084**



Email:- fmpsarchive@yahoo.com

Air Ambulance Trust Donation

On 4th July we took a trip to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust offices at Earls Colne. We were able to present them with 2 cheques. One for £800 which came from donations at the received at the May Crank Up and the other for £215 which came from donations received at the June Club meeting at Pond House Farm Bocking.



Clair Mitchel, Senior Fundraising Coordinator is receiving the Cheques for the Air Ambulance Trust from Jan Vince and Ken Bailey.



Charity Tractor Road Run

Sunday 25th May 2025

In Aid of the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

Submitted by the event organiser Ken Bailey

Pictures thanks to Paul Ewers

At 10 o'clock 25+ tractors left Woodhouse Farm, we headed left on a private road.



At the end we turned right, then left towards Silver End. We turned left in the village, then right heading for Cressing. Before Cressing we turned left onto Snakes Lane up to and across the B1018 into White Notley, over the level crossing at White Notley Railway Station, then turned left towards Witham.

After a short run we turned right at Maltings Farm onto a private road which came out at Webbs Farm. Then we turned left towards Terling. After a few junctions we went straight over the crossroads and through Terling village. Then turned left, sharp right and left again towards Little Waltham. After a few junctions we headed towards Great Leighs, then turned right into Fuller Street village where we turned into the Square and there we stopped at the “Compasses” for a much-needed lunch.

In the Compasses we were all seated together and settled down for a drink and a rather large ploughman’s lunch, great food and good quick service.



Lunch stop at the Compasses

Now feeling suitably fed and watered we resumed the run.

We turned right out of the pub towards Ranks Green, then turned left and followed the road for a few miles. We turned right towards Braintree on the old A131 before joining the bypass. We turned right heading for Dagnetts Farm where the road ended and we joined a track. We followed this towards Black Notley and came out just down from Webbs Farm, then turned left into the village. We then turned right down past the water mill, over the level crossing at Cressing Railway Station and headed towards B1018. We crossed into Cressing village and turned left towards Bradwell, then right to Purley Green. At the T junction we went straight over onto an unmade track and turned right onto the new road from the A120, past the quarry and into the Indaver site. We went through the security gate, past the new weighbridge and up towards Woodhouse Farm for a cup of tea/coffee.

A round trip of 32 miles. Everyone made the whole trip, we managed to stay together all the way, stay dry and stay happy.

From the comments received I know everyone had a good day and all going to plan we will do it all again next year.

Many thanks to everyone involved for making the day one we will remember and of course, many thanks for the donations, every penny will help keep the Air Ambulance flying and saving lives.

Ken Bailey

Many thanks Ken for all your hard work in organising the Road Run and of course for taking the time to share the details of almost every mile covered.

Editor.

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale:

We have owned the Grey Fergie VBJ 245 for 20 years and have had lots of fun and done much work with her. But she is now wasted with us.



Great Condition £2500 ovno
Ready for work or Road Runs

She is diesel and in good condition with 4 very good tyres and comes with a V5 registration document.

I have the T bar and connector bars and she has the 9 hole bar on her. We used her to turn and row up our hay, and bring it in and also roll & harrow the paddocks. She has been barn garaged and is starting well.

Located near Stowmarket (Suffolk)

Contact Helen, 01449 673828

Or:- haseymour63@gmail.com

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale:-

1928 Bernard Stationary Engine Pumping Set.
Fully restored.
£800 ono

Ingeco Type W.
2 1/2 HP Stationary engine
Restored on trolley
£1,200 ono

Located near Colchester, Essex

Contact Adam -
07999 964378 after 6pm week nights or weekends

Sell your surplus items here.

When you pack your items away for the winter take a look around at what you have in the shed or barn. We all have things which seem to never move, ask yourself: -

“do I really need it?”

If you give yourself an honest answer then why not send me the details, preferably with a photo, and I will include all items in the next magazine.

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2026 Membership

Here we are already thinking about next year and, no doubt wondering where the year has gone! 2025 has not quite disappeared into the dim and distant past but 2026 is closer than we think and it is time to think about 2026 membership. Because of ever increasing costs to the Society we have been forced to slightly increase the membership subscription and for **2026 it will now be £25.00**. This of course includes Public Liability Insurance for static exhibits to the value of **£10.000.000**.

The good news is that Junior Members (13 -18 years old) will benefit from **free membership**.

There will be a membership form in the December magazine and there is also a form on our website. It would be appreciated if you could wait until December before renewing membership.

It is increasing common for members to pay by Bank Transfer (BACS) and to date around 50% of members have used this service. We absolutely welcome this and we aim to make BACS the primary method of payment as now, every cheque we pay in costs £0.50p and, cash is similarly expensive.

The membership form has a box asking for a BACS reference to confirm payment and to cross reference this against the bank transactions.

PLEASE, PLEASE, fill in the box on the membership form with a reference to confirm BACS payment

Bank sort code 30-99-50 Account 12420062

Use your name as the reference

Thank you in advance; Membership Secretary



**Gipping Press are proud
to print this publication**

- 
- A scenic photograph of a lavender field at sunset. The field is filled with rows of purple lavender plants, with a narrow green path leading through them towards a large tree on the right. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the foreground, an open book lies flat on a wooden surface, with the landscape and sky of the photograph appearing to be printed on its pages.
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2025

FMPS Meetings/Visits/Events

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

**September 24th Club Visit 6pm.
Claydon Drills, Bunters Road, Newmarket CM7 5PL**

**October 4th-5th
FMPS Working Weekend
Great Henny (see full details within this magazine)**

**October 12th
Cressing Temple Apple Day CM77 8PD
FMPS promotion event (Tractors/Engines needed)**

**October 29th
Club meeting 8pm :-
A talk by Jeffrey Giblin (former President of our Society)**

**November 26th
Club meeting 8pm:-
A talk by Halstead Heritage Museum**

**Always check the WEBSITE www.fmmps.org.uk
and our Facebook page for meeting updates.**

Deadline for next Magazine input:- November 15th 2025

Club Polo Shirts £16

(plus £4 post and packing)



**All sizes
available**

**Contact Bob Adams r.adams389@btinternet.com
Phone:- 07518 380188**

***Also available at the
Gt. Henny Working Weekend***