

Chairman's Report – Pat Pawsey

I will begin by highlighting two important developments that during the last twelve months have brought profound and beneficial and improvements to the Club. One was the arrival of Chris Graham as the Ford & Fordson Tractor magazine editor. The magazine had become rather tired and needed brightening up and a fresh approach to make it more relevant to readers aspirations. Chris has certainly done that and the feedback I receive has been good and as a bonus he is a pleasure to work with.

The other is the massive improvement both in membership and the number of events where the Club is represented in the North and particularly in Scotland. These are areas that had desperately needed strengthening for a long time and one where very little progress had been made. It has only happened now because of the enthusiasm of newly joined members who are doing a splendid job and our thanks and a warm welcome to them all. In particular to Phil Gibson our roving representative and to representatives; Gary Capp (Lincolnshire) Bill and Robert Ironside (North East Scotland), Willie West (Dumfries & Galloway), Lee Coxon (Commercial Vehicles) and Roy Cowgill (South West Scotland) who is also our new committee member.

The Committee: The Club's main job is to support members largely with advice, by answering their questions and providing somewhere at events to meet and chat. Much of this is done by Representatives and non-committee members, indeed many of you in this room already perform these functions very ably. In the hope of encouraging members to join the committee I will briefly outline what membership involves. Committee meetings are not held on a regular basis due to the distance members live apart, the cost of travelling and time involved. They are held at shows when sufficient committee members are attending and can be called if required; however, most matters can be and are resolved by consensus as we contact one another on an irregular basis by 'phone or email and if the need arises. We are a friendly group who work well together, the present system has evolved over the years and seems to be working well.

I'm pleased to report that the Club again had a very successful year and as I have said before that success is due entirely to your efforts and support. We hope to continue to strengthen our area representatives this year to make the Club more relevant in parts of the country. If you would like to help in any way, please contact any committee member and have a chat.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the birth of the Fordson Major E27N and we are featuring it at this event and at many more throughout the coming year. It was not the tractor Ford hoped to build at Dagenham but due to shortages following the war it was all that could be managed. It had a shortish production run from March 1945 to

January 1952, however use of the Perkins P6 engine convinced Ford that the diesel had a serious future in agriculture and led to the development of Ford's own very successful 4D diesel and the introduction of the E1A Major.

We continue our relationship with the magazine publishers Kelsey Media and I am very grateful to those of you who send me articles and photographs for inclusion in the Club's pages, it does keep them fresh and interesting, please keep them coming.

Finally, my thanks to all Committee members in particular to Jane, who tirelessly keeps everything in order, to Margaret and Derek who over the years have represented the Club at so many shows, to Ken, Lin and Ian and Rodney, Peter and Luke – the Kent team, for their continuing work. Also sincere thanks to Wendy Gibson for her sterling work over many years; as you know Wendy has now stepped down.