



Chairman's Report

Annual General Meeting - Saturday 24th February 2024

I start on a very sad note, you will all know that Margaret Badham died unexpectedly last year. Margaret and Derek were true stalwarts and from the beginning attended countless events representing the Club up and down the country. I dread to think how many cups of tea Margaret gave members always with a great welcome, somewhere to sit and usually a piece of cake. I'm sure that you are like me who cannot recall attending many shows when she and Derek were not there. She was loved by all and will be sorely missed. I know you will all join with me on offering Derek our very best wishes.

Shows are back, all be it with a different feel, the 'new normal'. A notable exception is The Great Dorset Steam Fair, that is now, apparently uneconomic to stage. The Club has had stands and put on some splendid displays of members machines in 2023; it could not happen without your support. Our thanks to all who those members who have worked so hard, to make this happen. I should mention that it does make organising any stand much easier if you let us know what you are thinking of bringing beforehand. The marquee at Newark was a great success, but never forget that without members organising and supporting events they just would not happen.

The election of those retiring under the 3-year rule and new committee members is yet to come but I must thank those who have decided not to offer themselves for re-election. Luke Burgess who as a young man, is busy making his way in life but we hope to see him back, Graham Clark (Ernie) who launched our web site and ran it successfully for many years and Peter Godwin who was chairman before I started and gave me invaluable support and guidance my thanks to them all.

As with any enterprise much goes on behind the scenes, in fact the smoother things run the more work has been put in beforehand. I shall single no one out as it has been a team effort but my sincere thanks to all members who have contributed to another successful year.

Thank you.

PP/February 2024