

## Run to the SE Davis Historic Vehicle and Plant Collection– 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024

This year's run started from Halfpenny Green Airport car park where 14 riders gathered in bright sunny weather. There was a good mix of classics and modern classics. Unfortunately the airport cafe was not open due to rebuilding work.

The run was to visit the S.E. Davis collection of historic vehicles. This is a private collection of construction and earthmoving machinery not usually open to the public. The Davis family kindly allowed us to visit on the same day as the Traction Engine Trust were attending a training day. The venue is located south of Redditch, consequently the route needed to cross several main roads while avoiding busy areas, finding good sight lines at crossings. Fortunately there were no road closures on the day.



Above: Mike briefs some of the riders at the start.

Riders set off at 10:30 but unfortunately Phil's Norton International refused to start. Paul Harris kindly stayed behind to offer assistance but, it later transpired, without success and Phil diagnosed magneto failure. This meant that both riders were not able to reach the lunch stop or the afternoon event. Some riders stopped en-route for coffee at Rowberry's garden centre and then lunch was at the Nevill Arms near Redditch, where an exclusive space was reserved for us. A short ride after lunch took us to S.E.Davis premises where a slight problem arose in that the entrance gate was shut. A little exploring found a staff member who was able to open the gate. It then re closed before the group of riders appeared. Fortunately a car was leaving just before they arrived and the gate opened, letting everyone in.



Bikes parked up next to a very large gravel washing machine.



A short walk past the office block took us to open front sheds crammed with bulldozers, graders, cranes, tractors and all manner of related equipment. In the open areas there were several steam traction engines and a steam roller manoeuvring round the extensive yard with drivers under instruction. There was much to see and members got to chat with Davis family members and traction engine folk.



Eventually we joined the traction engine crews in one of the sheds for tea and cakes courtesy of the traction engine's ladies.



When riders came to leave, the gate was shut! A little exploring found that the larger lorry gate had been opened during the afternoon and we left through that. The return route was the reverse of the morning ride with a few small changes.

Many thanks to the Davis family, particularly Mr. Paul Davis who arranged our visit. And to the Traction Engine Trust for putting up with us and their generosity with the tea and cake. Also The Neville Arms for good service.







The  
SE Davies  
Collection  
(some of it!)

