

LADIES-ONLY ROAD RUN DRAWS A CROWD

The 'ladies only' event came about because organiser Annie Chapman wanted to develop a charity fund-raising project that would provide a social event in the vintage tractor calendar specifically for ladies. It was just that, and with many driving tractors for the first time, a huge amount of money was raised for Breast Cancer Awareness (Cancer Research UK). Instead of the dozen or so participants that Annie thought might turn up no less than 50 signed up for the event, whose aim was to raise money for charity.

Below: You can tell how wet it was just as the ladies were setting off for the eight-mile afternoon run by the way Fiona Ball from Fressingfield is dressed. Another 'first timer', she was piloting her father's David Brown Cropmaster.



Left: Annie Chapman, who organised the first Ladies-Only tractor road run on 4th July was astounded by its success. She led from the front on her 1950 David Brown Cropmaster.

Organised with the help of the Suffolk and Norfolk branch of the David Brown Tractor Club, the road run saw participants set off from the Norfolk village of Pulham St. Mary at 11.30 on Sunday 4th July for a run through 18 miles of the beautiful, peaceful countryside in the Waveney Valley.

The morning section of the run, which took in 10-miles of quiet country lanes, was for the most part trouble-free, the only real problem being Cherryl Thomas' first time out 1950 BMB President, which didn't get hot enough, but made it to Syleham Hall. After an hour or so of intermittent rain, the entourage set off again for the eight-mile afternoon section, which took them through the villages of Syleham and Brockdish before returning to Pulham St. Mary via a private farm track. The overall amount raised runs



Julie Wright from Witton near Norwich really got into the spirit of things! She explained it away by saying that this was the only pink thing she had and that she's known for being a bit over the top.



into thousands of pounds, with some individuals alone generating more than £1,500. Christine Creasy, for example, really got behind the project with amazing enthusiasm and left no stone unturned in her efforts to raise money, and drove a borrowed 1963 Fordson Dexta, Christine encouraged 16 others to take part.

Many of the participants had a very personal reason for being there, Julie Wright from Witton near Norwich, has a sister who is recovering from cancer. So, how did Annie feel about it all? 'Overwhelmed' was her answer. She says that she simply couldn't believe the final numbers, which had increased steadily since the first entry from Catherine Casey from Cumbria. Annie thanks T&M for its part in telling people about the project.

Left: These were just some of the tractors parked up for the lunchtime stopover.



Cherryl Thomas on her 1950 BMB President.



Spectators line the start as Ann Bowyer on her MF 35X heads Myrtle Oakes on a Case International 885XL.