

Women's tractor run aids breast cancer research

FIFTY women from all over East Anglia drove vintage tractors along 18 miles of country lanes to raise money for research into breast cancer.

The tractor run started from Pulham St Mary, near Diss, and headed for Syleham on the Suffolk side of the county border for the lunch stop.

Yesterday's event, along public roads and private tracks, was organised by Annie Chapman, of

"amazing". "I am thrilled and stunned by it," she said.

She rode a 1950 David Brown tractor, which she calls her "red devil".

Mrs Chapman said the only two disappointments were the loss of one tractor as the result of an oil leak and a rain shower on the lunch-time picnic.

"Otherwise it has been marvellous," she added.

Most of the participants were farmers' wives from the Suffolk-Norfolk border area but others lived further afield and there was one from Buckinghamshire.

They wore pink, the colour associated with the breast cancer support campaign, and the tractors were decorated with pink ribbons.

"Some women learned to drive tractors just for the occasion," Mrs Chapman said.

She thanked her partner, her three daughters and friends, Pam Grimmer and Christine Creasy for their support.

The event is expected to raise thousands of pounds in sponsorship and other donations.

'Two more friends have been diagnosed'

Boundary Farm, Pulham St Mary, some of whose friends have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

"Since starting to set up the event two more friends have been diagnosed.

"The experience has made me realise research is our main tool in the battle against this horrible disease," she said.

Mrs Chapman said the response to the tractor run idea, suggested by her partner, John Chapman, had been



POWERFUL MESSAGE: Some of the 50 women from across East Anglia gather in Pulham St Mary for an 18-mile tractor road run in aid of breast cancer research

Photograph:
SONYA BROWN