



LADIES ON THE ROAD: Pink ribbons, bows, balloons and bunny ears adorn the tractors and the drivers – for the Ladies' Tractor Road Run at Topcroft in aid of breast cancer research.

Tractor girls in the pink again



Decked out with bright pink ribbons, feather boas and balloons they made their way along the roads and lanes of South Norfolk.

It may have looked a strange sight, but for the women taking part in yesterday's Ladies' Tractor Road Run it was all for a good cause.

The annual event has so far raised more than £34,000 for Cancer Research UK's breast cancer research and awareness programmes.

Almost 90 women, including some from Dorset and Scotland, took part in this year's road run, which covered about 21 miles and involved tractors dating from the 1940s to 2004.

Massey Fergusons, David Browns, John Deeres and Fordsons all started out at Airfield Farm, Topcroft, near Long Stratton, and went via Harleston and out to

nearby Redenhall, where the ladies were joined by family and friends for a lunch break at Gawdy Hall, before heading back to Topcroft.

Since it started in 2004, with about 50 tractors, the event has grown each year.

"It's gone brilliantly," said organiser Annie Chapman, of the Suffolk and Norfolk branch of the David Brown Tractor Club.

"I think we had two breakdowns and my daughter's exhaust flew off at some stage. We were clapped and cheered when we went through Harleston.

"I just like people to recognise the bravery of some of these ladies. Quite a few of them have had breast cancer and the majority of them have not driven tractors before.

"We have to thank the people who have taught them, put fuel in the tractors and delivered them to the start."