



The Tractor Volunteers group at Sandstone in early March 2024. Part 1

Three volunteer vintage tractor stalwarts, Garth, Chris and Basil have been doing maintenance and light repairs at Sandstone this week. They have also been doing assessments on some unusual tractors that have never run there before with a view to getting them up and running.

The farm gave them full cooperation and it was a productive week.

Our video gallery in Part 1 shows some of the highlights with the John Deere 720 and the International TD6 while Part 2 is a short photo gallery on the John Deere 720D and 70 and the IH TD6 plus a new arrival, an early 1950s Allis-Chalmers WD.

Our first video shows the John Deere JD 720 D, languishing for many years with burnt out coils on the donkey starting engine starts for first time with new coils, points and condensers.

The donkey starting engine was a V4 petrol engine mounted on the tractor, only used to start the main diesel engine. In the 40's & 50's there simply weren't batteries and starters strong enough to start such big 2 cylinder diesels.

In cold climates the donkey engine also served to warm up the main engine prior to starting it.

Our second video shows the IH TD 6 after full service, and replacement of faulty spark plugs starting on petrol for first time since 2018. This us how IH got around the weak battery/starter problem as mentioned with the JD720 D. By starting on low compression, petrol, then by pulling a lever, a third valve closes and the diesel fuel injection takes over.

Part 2 of our story is a short photo gallery on these units plus a new arrival.

Read more below



The Tractor Volunteers group at Sandstone in early March 2024. Part 2



Basil gets mind into the JD 70 carburettor.



while Garth contemplates his next move!



After a good wash the IH TD6 track rollers got a lube from James.



The JD 720 gets full service after starting so well... Sandstone mechanic James is keen to learn about the older tractors!



A new arrival is the early 1950s Allis-Chalmers WD. This tractor will feature in Part 3 of our story to follow.