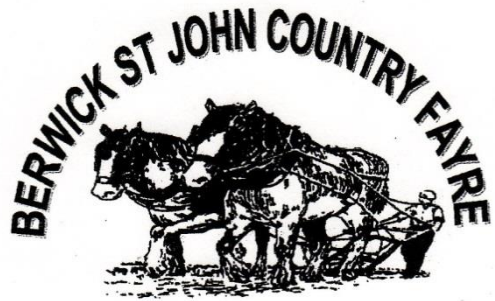


PRESS RELEASE



15th and 16th September 2018
www.berwickstjohncountryfayre.co.uk

**GRAND TOUR OF SALISBURY PLAIN
TRACTOR / 4x4 ROAD RUN
RAISES OVER £7,000**

Following Richard Pocock's idea, Sunday 29th April saw nearly 300 vehicles congregate at Wiltshire Grain for the Grand Tour of Salisbury Plain. There were tractors of all shapes, colours and sizes, old and new, Land Rovers, Jeeps, tanks, military and vintage vehicles, some of which were on two. Participants had travelled from all over the country, Yorkshire, Shropshire, Berkshire, Warwickshire, Cornwall and Lincolnshire to experience this unique adventure.

Devizes Young Farmers did a fabulous job cooking bacon rolls, coffee, tea and an essential tuck shop prior to departure at 10am.

Bruce Waight of Sargeant and Waight who farm on Salisbury Plain led the convoy in his Massey Ferguson 1200. The route took in 33 miles of undulating countryside driving over and through historical points of national war history, whilst a live exercise was taking place all around. It was a privilege to have been able to have access to and enjoy the Plain. The route had been carefully planned with the co-operation of the MOD, whom we would like to thank for having given their permission. Salisbury Plain is 96,000 acres the same size as the Isle of Wight. A splendid large team of Marshall's from the Fayres Committee organised by Fayre Chairman Tim Mayhew, who all stood out in the bitter wind in the middle of nowhere all day directing traffic and safely patrolling the many tank crossings.

One quote of the day "only Richard could organise an event in the middle of a war zone, but he pulled it off!"

Everyone enjoyed the day albeit rather chilly for some. There are some great pictures and comments on the Fayres facebook page.

The ploughmans lunch stop was at Enford Village Hall, where over 400 lunches were served (thank goodness it wasn't raining) by Helen Lodge and her team of ladies. A successful raffle was well supported with prizes being donated by many.

Charlotte and Alison from the radiography/MRI department drove tractors with the Stars Appeal flags flying high throughout the day.

Richard Pocock thanked everyone for coming, for their support and generosity. The sponsors, Lloyds Bank, Woolley and Wallis, R Hunt Ltd, James Dean Church Farms, Sargeant and Waight, The Co-op and Rob Beale Ltd.

Louise Hall spoke to the large crowd and thanked everyone for coming and supporting the Berwick St John Country Fayre team and their affiliation and commitment to the Salisbury District Hospital Stars Appeal. The Stars Appeal campaign currently is for a second MRI Scanner, but on top of this dedicated appeal, the work and support the charity provides throughout the hospital every day requires £1 million a year to fund.

The Berwick St John Country Fayre takes place on the 15th and 16th September and entry forms can be downloaded from the website www.berwickstjohncountryfayre.co.uk Following the Fayre in 2016 £35,000 was raised and presented to the Stars Appeal. The show is unique as no appearance money is paid or haulage costs covered and yet the line up of steam engines, tractors, vintage and commercial vehicles, cars and bikes is quite a spectacle.

Further Information from Louise Hall, Show Secretary 01747 828272 Email louise_t_hall@yahoo.co.uk