

SPRING SUBMISSION NORFOLK AREA - MVT

As always firstly a belated Happy New Year to all MVT members, and may you all have a dry, weather that is, enjoyable rally season.

As predicted in the Winter Issue we concluded our 2009 season without the weather being the foul topic of conversation and right up to the end maintained sunny skies and the ability to drive with soft tops, down! Our last rally of the year was our second visit to *Mannington Hall* Historic Day. This welcome addition to the annual calendar gave the opportunity to speak with our Roman conquerors and medieval past even if the Roman catapult missiles did overshoot the mark into our vehicle display, thankfully without injury or damage.

Last formal outing of the year was to visit *Reymerston Hall*, home of Wing Commander Ken Wallis of auto gyro fame and see his collection. Ken is a fascinating individual and although now aged 93 defies all civil aviation attempts to



keep him firmly on the ground and enthralled us with a personal display of his flying skills of not only 'no hands' plus 'no feet' but taking a picture of us on the ground at the same time! Last commitment of the year was the annual support given to the



Poppy Appeal, Members from the Norfolk Area were out in our regular haunts supporting RBL Branches with Tom Blevins collecting £1630.00 over the period outside B&Q in Norwich, David Hines £415.00 in Diss, Cyril & Marian Salisbury £300.00 in Southwold and Ian & Carol McCallum £2128.00 in Beccles. Well done to all

those who participated. As always it was a very rewarding time and the opportunity to listen to a multitude of 'war stories' with the 'my granddad/dad used to drive one of those!'

Since last going to print several members have embarked on personal planned activities not least Tony Emerson and Liz who tied the knot in true forties fashion, well done to you both and all the very best for the future. It is reported part of the belated honeymoon will be attending the Guernsey Liberation Tour, but I am sure this is only a malicious rumour I took the opportunity of visiting a son in Canada and surprise, surprise, just happened to find several military museums while there. Most poignant however was the visit of John Morter and wife Joy, to Cyprus in early November for the unveiling of a new memorial in the old British cemetery in Kyrenia, North Cyprus. The English granite memorial was made in Diss, Norfolk, and comprises of eight panels bearing the names of the 371 men who lost their lives during the troubles 1955-59. John served in Cyprus with the Royal Army Service Corps and was accompanied on the visit by fellow military vehicle enthusiast John Mitchell, who served there with the Royal Norfolk Regiment, and his wife Audrey. The dedication was lead by the Anglican Bishop of Cyprus and both Johns laid wreaths on behalf of their respective units. As both had lost friends during the conflict they also managed to arrange a visit into the 'blue zone' to pay their respects in Waynes Keep War Cemetery, Nicosia. Also a well deserved recognition has at last been acknowledged by the presentation of a Badge and certificate to one of our members Kath Aldis, recognising her contribution at Station X – Bletchley Park during WWII.



Late November saw our traditional annual Christmas gathering at the Oakland's Hotel in Norwich organised yet again by Rodney and Marina Reynolds. With a good attendance from the local membership plus friends from other areas as far afield as Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Sussex and Kent a great evening was had by all.

Although attempting to get an indication of member's projects over the winter period all are keeping rather secretive although I am aware of Mike Pollard pressing on with the restoration of his Jeep. 2010 already promises to be yet again a bumper locally filled calendar plus some have also signed up for the Guernsey Liberation Tour and possibly a limited number of genuine period vehicles returning to Dunkirk in late May to coincide with the 70th Anniversary commemorations.

Ian McCallum