

## THE RAVENINGHAM THRESHING FAIR

The Threshing and craft fair at C-stell Farm, Raveningham in September seems to have been enjoyed by a great many people in spite of the cold North wind. There was a wide variety of locally made goods on sale which included woodwork, toys, pottery, patchwork, polished gemstones, prints and picture framing, herbs and handmade lace, bellows and bags, knitwear, kites and corn-dollies, nobbles, herbs, rushwork, silver, and innumerable lovely dolls, Whew! The list could have gone on and on. Many local groups had food stalls too. Aldeby School, Thurlton Playgroup, Haddiscoe J.I., Thurlton and Thorpe P.C.s Thurlton Church Room and Hales Hospital. There was even a stall selling bread in that breadless week on behalf of the Group itself. Profits seem to have varied between £30 and £90 for the different organisations, and many of the stall holders have asked to have thanks expressed to all the people who helped and gave and bought.

The display of machinery was formidable. To many the sight of Charlie Love on top of his own threshing drum must have brought back a wealth of memories., for he was once a familiar visitor every autumn to many farms in the district.

To all the enthusiasts who took the trouble to come and bring their equipment we owe a big Thank you. There was much knowledgeable comment on the ploughing by Mr. Edwards' team of horses, and silent admiration for the great traction engine.

There were lots of other attractions too, and individuals and groups who helped in one way or another. The Loddon Youth Band, always popular. The St. Bonet's Folk Dancers of Beccles. The Norwich Playbus, which kept many children happy for longer than their parents could believe possible. The Edwardian costumes on which many people had lavished so much care, the Burgh Cubs organising the car park, and St John's Ambulance ready to pick up and resuscitate anyone who was overcome by the whole thing. No account would be complete unless it mentioned a few people without whom it would all have been a non-starter. There were poster putters-up, site preparers, timber from Raveningham Estate, stall organisers, Stephen Farrow provided the site, and much else besides, and Brian Keeble and Dermot Hotherington each gave up a weeks holiday to prepare the site, assemble machinery and clear up afterwards.

How much was made? people keep asking. I don't know and never will, as we have no record of the profits of all the stallholders, but the Group fund benefited by around £200. Will it happen again? That remains to be decided when the group who organised it meet this month to chew it over and decide if they can face it!