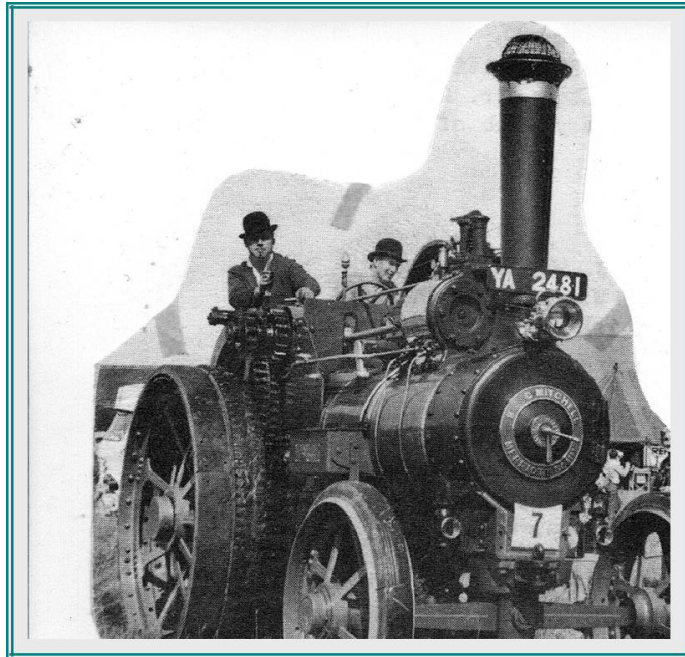


Arthur Mitchell's Traction Engine

Text: David Gibbs

Arthur Mitchell, of Newchester Cross Farm (next to the bowling green, now a small housing development) was one of two people in the village who operated steam traction engines. The other was William Clarke Mitchell, of Merriottsford Farm. These photographs are of Arthur Mitchell's engine, which still survives and is exhibited at local traction engine rallies.



The Mitchells provided a service to local farmers, particularly in the early autumn months when corn stacked in farmyards needed to be threshed. The engines, towing a threshing machine and straw binder, travelled from farm to farm. Arthur Mitchell continued to operate right up until the advent of combined harvesters and corn driers in the immediate post-war years.



The black and white photo of the engine was taken at its first rally soon after it was sold; the others at a more recent High Ham rally,