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Fred Dibnah's engines to debut at Riverside Rally

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By: [Colin Tyson](#)

Both engines of the late Fred Dibnah are billed to attend the third Riverside Steam & Vintage Rally at Banks, Southport on 16-17 April.

Amazingly, the engines have never appeared at the same event before – indeed this will be the first time that Fred's Aveling & Porter 'Colonial' tractor has attended a formal rally.

Riverside Rally spokesman Alan Atkinson, who was responsible for storing and transporting the engines following Fred's death, told Old Glory: "It's now pay back time for my efforts over the past six years. If I couldn't get the engines to my rally there was no chance for anybody else. I needn't have worried however because the owners of both engines have been very co-operative in helping me achieve my aims."

Aveling roller Betsy is thankfully now in the ownership and very capable hands of Fred's sons, Jack and Roger. Alan's son, Edward, transported the roller to Jack and Roger's home in the Isle of Man last year in order that it could receive some repairs, including a retube, by the boys. It has now been returned to the mainland awaiting the rally.

The 'Colonial' tractor was purchased in July last year at Cheffins by Cheshire businessman Michael Oliver. As the engine was never named by Fred, Michael held a naming ceremony on 12 March at the Church Inn, Moberley. It is good to see that Jack and Roger have been fully involved by Michael and will help to rally the engine this year.

The Riverside event will be a family celebration by the Dibnah family and Fred's daughters are not going to be outdone. Lorna's husband Alastair will be displaying Fred's recently restored iconic Land Rover.

In addition to Fred's engines there will be around 23 full size engines at Riverside including some recent purchases. Mike Wilkinson will be displaying his newly acquired WWI Foden tipper No 6216 (OG 252).

Alan Atkinson and his fellow organisers are praying for the same good weather that has blessed their first two events. Alan said: "We've raised £62,000 in two years for local charities and we have a lot to live up to, the weather will play a big part."

The Riverside Steam & Vintage Vehicle Rally will take place on 16-17 April at Riverside Holiday Park, Banks, Southport PR9 8DF.
www.riversidesteamrally.co.uk



Fred's iconic Land Rover after restoration by Fred's daughter Lorna's husband Alastair.

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