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Magazine

# THE TOYS GET BIGGER

By Jeremy Curzon  
Cheffins Vintage Motorcycles

“Boys don’t grow up, their toys just get bigger.” That’s a truism that *Cheffins* can testify to.

In these days of the ‘elf and safety culture, the stranglehold of “Nanny State” seems to grow ever tighter. Soon we may have to don safety gear just to prepare the evening meal – assuming that the main ingredients haven’t been declared injurious in the *Daily Mail* that morning.

Many folk make their escape from the 21st century in the glory of machinery from a less stringent age, in which mechanical things were the province of hairy chested men and could be fixed with spanners, with no need to call up the technology SWAT team to plug in the diagnostics system.



Cheffins Vintage Sales offer many 'toys for the boys' (and, of course, those like minded ladies) - ranging from scale steam models to the truly mighty Showman's traction engines; mopeds through to TT race machines; classic commercial vehicles to thoroughbred cars; and, of course, the humble stationary engine through to classic tractors.

### Old Fashioned Speed

The need for speed once had a different meaning to the chemically enhanced night out of today. Speed is a thing that thrills at any age but to be in charge of it is something else again.

Just hark back to your youth when your first moped gave you your initial taste of freedom and the ability to relate improbable tales of unlikely speed. Eventually your need progressed and your first motorbike was attained. At the time that seemed fast enough but familiarity, and all that, requires the purchase of the next bigger bike - surely no need to go faster?



Blokes having fun yesterday.

Then, of course, it seems that you can settle for nothing less than warp speed capability. At this point (for some) key brain cells kick in and a slow reversal of the speed trend takes over. Decades later, a healthy nostalgia for those earlier slower days takes a grip.

The same sort of emotions can take hold of the tractor brigade as well, starting out with the humble "Grey Fergie" and the pleasant rural idyll that such vehicles invoke. Then the need for power is deemed unsatisfied until onlookers have to crick their necks to see you sat atop something the size of a block of flats.

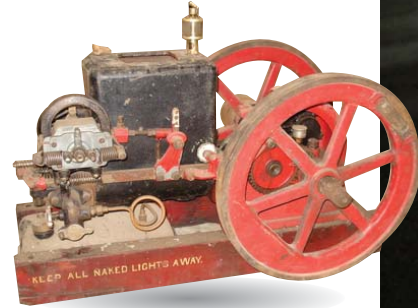
1920 Aveling & Porter Ltd Class KND 4hp compound steam tractor. £130,000 - £160,000



Field Marshall Series II.  
£7,000 - £9,000

### Thrashing Metal, Brutish Power

Early vehicles of all types have that certain brutishness of power delivery, with the driver exposed to the elements and the delight of thrashing metal - lacking in today's sanitised safety conscious society.



Jumbo Line stationary engine.  
£1,000 - £1,500

Those earlier machines, with a myriad of whizzing and whirling parts that attract small boys' fingers, hold many of us in thrall. To experience the thrill of ownership is, in reality, an affordable and attainable dream, although the top end of any field of interest will invoke prices equal to those of a modest family home.

Cheffins Vintage Sales is where these iron beauties are on offer and it is a real meeting place for like minded folk who have a yen to possess or sell one of these treasured machines. Or if you are hunting for that elusive part, where better to discover it than among the 3,000 lots on offer every April, July and October at our Sutton Saleground near Ely in Cambridgeshire.

Cheffins are acknowledged as leaders in the field and hold many auction records. In 2007, eight out of the top ten priced classic tractors in the UK were sold by Cheffins. The highest auction price for a BSA Goldstar Clubman's motorcycle, £14,600 + 8% premium, is a Cheffins record - and there have been significant prices for early stationary engines - including the staggering £62,000 paid for a rare Otto Crossley engine.

Our Vintage Sales are a real day out and all are welcome. There are stalls aplenty and catering facilities to occupy you while waiting for that dream machine to come under the hammer. If your imagination is fired by the briefest of descriptions - "Pulls like a train, sounds like a Stuka" - then you are one of us!

**Cheffins**

[cheffins.co.uk](http://cheffins.co.uk)

For further information about this world of nostalgia and power please contact **Jeremy Curzon, William King or Oliver Godfrey** on 01223 213777.