

GRASSBOX

COLOUR SUPPLEMENT: AUTUMN 2004

This is our second colour supplement and is produced to commemorate the 50th edition of Grassbox. Some of the images have appeared before in black and white. Others are new.



One of our trips in the past was to look around the Atco Qualcast factory in Stowmarket. Left to right these are Tony Edwards, Steve Smith, Roger Tombs (of Atco) and Robbie. They didn't let us keep the crests which I believe had originally been above the door of the company's old factories in Birmingham and Derby.



Henry Ellis, Robin Campbell and Charlie Crouchman inspect a JP Super at the Annual Rally in 2003. Henry was probably looking for numbers to add to his list.



The winner of this year's Andrew Grout Plate at the Annual Rally was John Barnard for his 1930s Lloyd's Moto Mower. John is shown on the right receiving the plate and tankard from Andrew.



Automowers are always interesting and this 1920s model belonging to Geoff Christopher is no exception. The 18" cut machine has a JAP four stroke engine.



This image has appeared in Grassbox before and is a personal favourite of mine. It was taken at the 1992 Annual Rally and shows Andrew Hall and Mike Duck "inspecting" the Museum's "Budding" mower with other members of the club looking on.



David Lumsden has exhibited mowers at events throughout the south of England for a number of years. Here he is with a Greens "S Handled" Silens Messor and a Ransomes Patent Gear Automaton at West Dean in 2002.



Our 100th Member was Peter Liggett of New Zealand, shown here with his 24" Dennis.



This advertisement for the Atco Motor Mower dates from the 1920s. At the time this was the name of the mower although later it became more generally known as the "Atco Standard".



We don't normally have a lot of time to sit around at the events we go to! But after a heavy night in the beer tent is often a good time to sit down. This is a typical "everyday" scene at the Bedford Steam Rally in 2004. Front to back the team is Alec Hillyar, Richard Jones, Joyce Hardwick, Andrew Grout, Kevin Phillips, Dick Hardwick and Richard Durrant.



Over the years we've been to quite a few different venues. Here are some members at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre (known as Quainton) in 1996. Left to right, Tim Durant, Martin Stephenson, Mike Tomkins, Alan Hardwick, Robbie, Andrew Grout.



A number of American manufacturers produced advertisement or "trade" cards to promote their products in the Victorian era. They are always colourful. Here's one for Graham's Philadelphia sidewheel. It's surprising how often women feature in these cards and in general adverts.



The Archimedean lawn mower was designed by Amariah Millar Hills, an American who had a factory in Connecticut. He was the first American to be granted a patent for a lawn mower, in 1868. The mower was later manufactured for the UK market by Williams and Company of London. This example was displayed at the Annual Rally in 2004 by the Hall & Duck Trust.



Jim Ricci (left) from the USA has visited many club members around the world. Here he is with Anthony Conroy in Australia and a Shanks horse mower.



We don't often have time to do any restoration at an event but Dick Hardwick took a bit of time out at this year's Banbury Rally to clean up a Farmfitters Sexton (complete with "Vincent" engine).



Michael Duck driving a big Ransomes motor mower dating from c1910 at the Malvern Autumn Show in 2003. The Hall & Duck Trust has a number of very early motor mowers in its collection.



The DB Swallow was a popular hand mower in the 1930s. It was manufactured by Dronsfield Brothers (from where the DB comes from) of Oldham, Lancashire. The mower was only available in 12in cutting width. In 1936 it cost 69s 6d and by 1939 the price had risen to 77s 6d. It's also one of very few blue mowers!



Most people in the media still think old lawn mowers are a bit of a laugh although we have been featured on a number of programmes over the years. Here's Chris Thompson explaining why there's such a long pole on his Ransomes mower to the BBC.



The Ransomes Overgreen was for use on golf greens and similar fine turf surfaces and was basically a pedestrian operated gang mower. This example is Andrew MacMorland's.



Pretty much everyone who collects motor mowers has an Atco at the back of the shed. As seemingly recent designs recede into the increasing distance these too will become more interesting to collectors. This one, for example, is a nice 14" model dating from the early to mid 1960s.



This Follows & Bate gear roller mower from the 1880s was found at a car boot sale for a few quid by a new member. It just shows if you keep your eyes open...



I've tried to include pictures of lots of club members in this special colour section and this shot is jam packed with them. It was taken at the Annual Rally in 2001.