

GRASSBOX

COLOUR SUPPLEMENT: WINTER 2005

The annual colour supplement presents a chance to highlight some of the more colourful aspects of collecting old lawn mowers.



Lots of members send and receive special Christmas cards with a lawn mower theme. Here's one that Richard Jones sent to some of his friends last year.



Craig Hipperson and Richard Jones were spotted discussing some hand mowers at the Annual Rally in May. It turned out that Craig was asking Richard to supply a bottom blade for one of his Ransomes Patent Gear Automotons through the Club's new Garfitts service. The blade cost just over a tenner when it arrived a few weeks later.



Part of the display at this year's Banbury Steam Rally where the theme was "catalogue" machines - models made by one company for sale by others under different names. These three are all the same, but different.



This small Automower from the 1920s was seen at the Annual Rally in May. It's one of the smaller designs made by the company and has a JAP two stroke engine rather than the four stroke model seen on larger Automowers.



The colour sections provides an opportunity to feature some of the colourful mower advertising that can be found. This image of an American "Charter Oak" mower can be found on trade cards.



This is Christopher Proudfoot's Clipper mower which won the Andrew Grout Plate at this year's Annual Rally.



Mike Duck and Andrew Hall of the Hall & Duck Trust pose with their large Ransomes ride-on mower (which can currently be seen at the Old Kiln Museum) at Dorset Steam Fair in 2003.



Richard Durrant and Steve Smith are seen here with Steve's 1920s Greens Light Motor Mower and Atco "Standard Oval Frame" Motor Mower. The Annual Rally and other events present the ideal chance to see each others' machines and compare notes.



Members were in abundance at the Annual Rally in May. It's a good place to meet up with old friends and make new ones while doing a deal or checking some details for that next preservation project.



This Shanks Jehu was brought to the Annual Rally by Stan & Jonathan Hardwick. The Jehu was unusual in being available with two types of grass box. The one here has the square version that could be fitted in conjunction with a paddle-and-lever mechanism (missing on this particular machine). This allowed the operator to empty the box without leaving the driving position by moving the lever to the left or right. The lever was pivoted on a bolt next to the engine (a 269cc Villiers MKV) mount so the paddle on the other end (inside the box) went in the opposite direction and pushed the grass out. Other Jehu mowers had a removable bucket boxes and no paddle device.



Stewart Baillie found this 12" JP electric mower in Leicestershire and was able to complete its restoration with help from fellow Club members. The mower was made in August 1953 and is numbered E/2BH 1.



These JP Minors, slightly different designs, are part of Henry Ellis's collection. The one on the left was introduced in 1930 and was replaced by the one on the right in 1936. Henry, one of our JP aficionados, has recently confirmed that post WW2 JPs were painted with colour close to BS381 C223 Medium Bronze Green and from 1961 with colour close to BS381 C222 Light Bronze Green.



Chris Stoneman has recently completed the restoration of this monster Ransomes motor mower. He's hoping to bring it to the Annual Rally in 2006 if he can find a big enough trailer.



This 28" Atco dates from about 1948 and has recently been restored by Jonathan Tapster. The mower has one of the JAP four stroke engines with cowling fan cooling.



Alan and Dick Hardwick showed this unusual Pennsylvania edger at Banbury Steam Rally. The large disc is for trimming the edge of the lawn.



Christopher Proudfoot found this unusual Philadelphia edger at one of the Cheffins auctions in 2005. These are much less common than the similar machines made by Pennsylvania or Lloyds of Letchworth.



Here's the same edger from the other side showing the layout of the blade and jockey wheel. Next to it is an Atco edger from the 1920s or 30s.



More collectors and Club Members are becoming interested in mowers made in the late 1950s and early 1960s. This Atco, beautifully restored by Darren Pidgen, was one of the company's first models to use the small four stroke engine.



At first glance this monster might look like an Atco, because of the shape of the tank, but it's actually a Shanks from the 1920s. Owner "Dusty" Miller has built up quite a collection of motor mowers from this period over the past few years



Normally he's behind a Dennis but at this year's Malvern Autumn Show, Tony Hopwood preferred to show off his 1960s British Anzani Lawnrider. And yes it is as unstable as it looks!



This is the first time we had a Morrison in Grassbox. This one, a 16" Model D from c1950, belongs to Caleb Scott from New Zealand where the mower was made.



This Greens advertising card dates from the early years of the last century and shows a Silens Messor and a large ride-on in front of Wentworth Golf Clubhouse.