

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR SALE

- Pennsylvania hand mower (selling for friend). C: Keith Wootton T: 01327 830675 E: keith@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk (Towcester)
- Ransomes Sixteen, going order, c/w box (badly dented but all in one piece), Free. C: Charles Fee T: 02838335824 E: craftee@easynet.co.uk (Northern Ireland)
- 12" Qualcast Super Panther Ball Bearing, c/w box. C: Dennis Mitchell T: 01244 851362 (Chester)
- Warehouse clearance of NEW, shop-soiled Villiers, JAP and BSA engines available including the following models: Villiers Mk7/1, 10, 12, 12/1, C12, 15, 20, C25, C30, C45, F15, Villiers 2S Mk2 MID, 4G, 25C, 25A, 7F; JAP 2A, 2S, 3, 5, 6, 55, 600 SV; JAP 2S 34cc, 80cc; BSA 50cc, Mod 90 Std, Mod 90 reduction gear type, 120cc side-valve Amal, 120cc side-valve Zenith, 420cc; quantity of 50cc engines with missing camshaft, end cover, etc. Prices negotiable. Viewings by appointment please. Will ship anywhere, please ask for quote. Large stock of spares also available. C: Gordon B. Davenport T: 01743 462950 E: enquiries@davenport.gb.com (Shrewsbury)
- 22" Atco, c/w kick start; 16" Atco, poor condition. Plus Parts Lists only for: 20" Atco HD; 12"/14" Atco A10B19 4s; 17"20" Atco 4S; 14"/17"/20" Atco B13D7F12 4S; JP Maxees Mk3; 26" Hayter; 14" Webb De Luxe Electric; JP Sports Green hand mower; Hayter Scythe; Tarpen Trimmer; Suffolk Super Punch. C: JW Parkin T: 01279 850382 (Saffron Walden)#
- Atco kick start, 1950s, no box. C: William Jackson. T: 0118 970 0521 E: wrdj@69pelican.freemove.co.uk (Reading)#
- Ransomes Ajax Mk5. C: Stephen Talbot T: 07762 883047 E: steve.c.talbot@btinternet.com #
- Rotoscythe, 1940s/50s. C: Phil Davies T: 0115 9562746 E: philip.davies48@ntlworld.com (Nottingham)#
- Qualcast 16. C: Paul Bodiam. T: 01252 819180 E: paul.bodiam@tesco.net (Fleet)#
- 12" Webb mains electric, 1950s, c/w box and parts of another. C: Michael Godwin T: 01403- 273411 E: mfh.godwin@talk21.com (Horsham)#
- 20" Atco HD, 1973, Free. C: John Pragnell E: jcp.pgp@tiscali.co.uk (Henley)#
- 20" Hayter Ambassador, £150. C: Graham Robertson T: 01905 345627 M: Mobile 07860 731470 (Droitwich)#
- 16" JP motor mower, c/w ML magneto. C: Neil Bathgate T: 077687 43648 (Dartford)#
- 24" Dennis, c/w box. C: Brian Umney T: 01908 211568 (Milton Keynes)#
- Farmfitters Kingfisher rotary mower, c1952, c/w JAP Model 80 2S, Free. C: David Page T: 01206 735467 E: kingfisher@thepages.plus.com (Colchester)#
- Atco battery electric; 12" Arundel Coulthard Presto Rollmo, no box. C: Janet Cross T: 01548 580412 (Dartmouth)#
- 24" Dennis, no 5677, c/w roller seat, c1926. C: Brian Hunt T: 01823 251705 E: briary@brianmary.wanadoo.co.uk (Taunton)#
- 16" Atco kick start, 1950s, no box. C: JH Turner T: 01905 772414 (Droitwich)#
- 18" JP Simplex, c/w box, c1920s. C: Anthony Addams T: 01327 879123 (Daventry)#
- 14" Atco kick start, 1930s, c/w box. C: Brian Lear T: 01743 344012 (Shrewsbury)#
- Allen Scythe, no 80705. C: Chris Berens T: 01285 653924 (Cirencester)#
- Dennis, c/w seat. C: Michael Edwards T: 01780 754104 (Stamford)#
- Atco kick start, 1950s, c/w box. C: Alison Kendrick T: 01732 453471 E: alison.kendrick@tiscali.co.uk (Sevenoaks)#
- JP Super, no box; Foreign sidewheel. C: Barrie Portas T: 01472 824839 E: b.portas@ntlworld.com (Grimsby)#
- Allen Scythe. C: Alistair Baird T: 01436 676043 E: bairda@supanet.com (Paisley)#
- 16" JP Simplex, no D16TH119X, c/w box. C: Lee Beresford T: 01283 730190 E: Lee.Beresford@eon-uk.com (Derby)#
- Suffolk Punch, 1970s, needs attention. C: Bill Croydon T: 078 005 23171 E: bill.croydon2@ukonline.co.uk (Romsey)#
- 36" Dennis Premier Mk1, no PC1021. C: Jon Capes. M: 07766335779 E: capesfarm@clara.co.uk (Andover)#
- Atco motor mower, c1939. C: Catherine Brown T: 07866 843962 E: Catherine@awdrys.co.uk (Calne)#
- Dennis mower. C: Phillip Burton T: 01245 360318 (Great Waltham Cricket Club)#
- 24" Green Zephyr Standard. C: Neil Beckett T: 01635 868225 M: 07800 702 013 E: chris@cbeckett0.freemove.co.uk (Thatcham)#
- Landmaster 14, model SPMV, no 979, c/w box. C: Colin Love T: 01949 842 671 E: colindlove@hotmail.com (Bottesford)#
- JP Super, 1920s, all there but in pieces. C: Colin Snowden T: 01473 614294 E: colin.snowden1@btinternet.com (Shrewsbury)#
- Kingfisher rotary mower, c1952. C: David Page E: us@thepages.plus.com (Colchester)#
- 24" Dennis Z, c/w box, 1954. C: David Warren E: david.warren1979@ntlworld.com (Newcastle)#
- Greens motor mower, 1930s, c/w box in pieces. C: Derek Smith T: 01827 899899 M: 07814 655299 E: dereksmith10b@btinternet.com (Derbyshire)#
- Pair of Allen Scythes in need of restoration. C: Elwyn Baker T: 01580 850319 E: elwyn@gatys.flyer.co.uk (Cranbrook)#
- 17" Atco, c/w box, 1962. C: Eric Brown T: 01246 237110 E: frasmeg212@aol.com (Chesterfield)#
- 24" Dennis Z, c/w box. C: Geoff Tester T: 01622 739471 E: gtester@landway.freemove.co.uk (Maidstone)#
- Shay Rotoscythe. C: George Jones T: 01444 241846 E: geo@15newcomen.fsnet.co.uk (Mid Sussex)#
- 40" Dennis, no 11035, working order, 50-60 yrs old, c/w box. C: Henry Rickett E: henry@promise-of-portugal.com (Sussex)#
- Four Dennis mowers and some spares. C: Nigel Pool T: 01252 620444 (Day) or 01252 625754 (Eve) M: 07836 355603 E: herbert.pool@tiscali.co.uk (Fleet)#
- 18" Atco four stroke, 1957, c/w box; 12"/15" JP hand mower, c1954, c/w box. C: John Wiltshire T: 01865 761577 E: john.tinnypark@btinternet.com (Oxford)
- 14" Ransomes Mk3, c/w box, 1930s. C: Judy Faulkner T: 01983 761326 M: 07968 553882 E: judy.f2@ukonline.co.uk (Isle of Wight)#
- JAP Series 5 engine. C: Kaj Adams T: 07834 338 943 E: KajAdams@powerconnections.co.uk (Hinckley)#
- 14" Atco kick start, 1955. C: Keith Eyles T: 01453 872729 E: keith_eyles@hotmail.com (Gloucester)#
- Atco motor mower, 1950s/60s. C: Lisa Coombes T: 02380 293142 M: 07919 597069 E: lisa@lisacoombes69.wanadoo.co.uk (Southampton)#
- Suffolk Colt; Suffolk Punch; Allen Scythe. C: Mrs CA Mansfield T: 01453 890276 E: greenlynch@btinternet.com (Gloucestershire)#
- Webb Witch, c/w box. C: Graham Springett T: 01480 393548 E: marion.spires@ntlworld.com (Cambridgeshire)#
- Qualcast hand mower. C: Mark Ralph T: 0191 5523566 M: 07770533508 E: mark.ralph@ntlworld.com (Sunderland)#
- Bushwacka; Ransomes Ajax Mk5, c/w box. C: Peter Saunders T: 01235 850245 E: peter.saunders@ukonline.co.uk (Didcot)#
- Greens Centenary, c/w box; Rotogardener. Offers in excess of £50. C: Phil Crabbe T: 01494 433154 E: pcrabbe@toucansurf.com (High Wycombe)#
- Suffolk Colt lawn mower; Atco motor mower, 1950s, c/w roller seat. C: Phil Pegg T: 0114 2471547 M: 07860 382618 (Sheffield)#
- Atco motor mower, 1950s. C: R Edmans T: 01280 812271 M: 07866 872 404 E: richard_edmans@tiscali.co.uk (Buckingham)#
- 24" Webb 24" ride-on, c/w Briggs and Stratton engine. C: Richard Sugden T: 01934 713170 E: richandkath.sugden@tesco.net (Somerset)#
- Ransomes 24 Mk2a, c/w Kawasaki engine (fitted to replace original Villiers). C: Roger Kimberley T: 01425 652554 E: RomagK@aol.com (Fordingbridge)#
- 14" Ransomes Certes Mk7 hand mower, c/w box. C: Sheila Howe E: user@puddle300.wanadoo.co.uk (Weymouth)#
- 20" Atco battery electric, c1963. C: John Snipe E: Snipejsnipe@aol.com (Doncaster)#
- Two Suffolk Punches. C: Stephen Conroy T: 01782 623028 E: conroy_s@hotmail.com (Newcastle-under-Lyme)#
- Hayter petrol mower. C: Steven Dales T: 0114 2655444 E: thebear843@hotmail.com (Sheffield)#
- 14" Atco motor mower, 1960, c/w box. C: Valerie Lymer T: 01597 829245 E: valerie@quickerquilting.freemove.co.uk (Llandrindod Wells)#
- JP Maxees Mk3; Allen Leaf Sweeper. C: Victor Lakins T: 01202 468480 E: vic.lakins@ntlworld.com (Poole)#
- 12" JP Minimower, c/w box; Webb hand mower. C: Bob Weeks T: 020 8841 9429 E: Bob.Weeks@tube.tfl.gov.uk (Ruislip)#
- 20" Atco motor mower, c/w box, 1960s. C: Yvonne Anthony T: 01823 - 698548 E: yvonne.anthony@btinternet.com (Somerset)#
- 10" Alexanderwerk sidewheel. C: Alan Hinds T: 01480 392168 (St Neots)#
- JP Maxees, c/w box, £40ono. C: Tony Dowdon T: 01386 442266 (Evesham)#

STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS- STOP PRESS

Heythrop Park, near Chipping Norton, Family Fun Day, Sunday 30 July. Lawn mowers welcome! C: Debbie Hood T: 01608 673393 E: Dhood@heythropark.co.uk (Chipping Norton)

WANTED

Grass box for 18" Ransomes Auto Certes Mk8, c1971; Ransomes Certes hand push. mowers, any models. C: David Bolland T: 0161 427 5669 (Manchester)

Replacement roller and chain guard for Qualcast 16. C: David Knightbridge T: Tel 01604 239716 F: 01604 239719 M: 07850 165112 E: david@funke.powernet.co.uk (Northampton)

Monrotiller Rotovator Mk2 or Mk3; pair of 12x3 wheels and tyres to fit Monrotiller Mk2. C: AJ Carter T: 01992 551221 (Hertford)

24" Dennis motor mower. C: Phil Palmer T: 01672 514291 E: philippalmer06@hotmail.co.uk (Marlborough)

14" or 18" Atco battery electric, 1960s design, to use; cutting cylinder for 14" Atco battery electric. C: Robert Bushell T: 01392874117 E: mm4117@tiscali.co.uk (Exeter)

To add to my collection: Drummond Willing Worker motor mower; 1920s JP water cooled motor mower; Shanks Jehu; 1920s Greens motor mower; John Shaw Governor water cooled motor mower. Can exchange for 1920's square tank Dennises and others. C: Dusty Miller T: 023 92632620 E: dusty@pmiller7.fsnet.co.uk (Portsmouth)

Pre 1940 lawn mowers. Anything considered except Atco including individual machines and whole collections. Write to Michael Duck, 1 Belmont Terrace, Shepton Beauchamp, Somerset TA19 0JX.

Allen Scythe accessories, manuals, tools etc, especially spraying attachment. Will take complete machine if necessary; grass box for 14" Atco Standard in good condition. Will take complete machine if good, original example. C: Mark Baigent T: 01425 475452 E: m_baigent@hotmail.com E: mark.baigent@nhs.net (Ringwood)

Hand mower to use. C: Liz Luck T: 01208 265223 F: 01208 77887 E: Liz.Luck@nationaltrust.org.uk (National Trust, Lanhydrock)#

Front roller bracket for Ransome Ajax Mk 3 C: Malcolm Farrow T: 01730 261 350 M: 07946 569 707 E: malcolm.farrow1@ntlworld.com (Petersfield)#

12"/14" Husqvarna hand mower. C: Christine Brann E: christinebrann2002@yahoo.co.uk (London)#

Important Note: C = Name; T = Telephone; M = Mobile; E = Email; F = Fax; # = Non-Member

When submitting adverts for Grassbox please use the following format: size and name of machine, supporting details inc presence of grass box, contact name, telephone number, email address, location. Thanks.

THE MOWER CENTRE

For all sorts of spare parts

Atco - Suffolk - Dennis - Villiers - JAP - Briggs & Stratton - Kohler
Gaskets - Piston Rings - Ignition Coils - Silencers - Cables
Petrol Taps - Oilers - Points - Condensers

Atco Kick Start Springs

Call Us For Our Mail Order Price List

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John Cruse

Old Lawnmower Club Member

HALL & DUCK INFORMATION SERVICE

The Hall & Duck Trust can provide information on almost any make and model of lawn mower. For just £6 per machine they will search their extensive information archive and provide copies of documents found, dates of manufacture and more. Special rates for multiple queries. Please make cheques payable to "The Hall & Duck Trust". Send queries with cheques to: Andrew Hall, Archivist, The Hall & Duck Trust, 16 Malcolm Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AS
T: 0208 946 8036/E: archivist@hdtrust.co.uk/W: www.hdtrust.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewal reminders have now been sent out to every member who needs to rejoin this year. You will not have received a reminder if you joined the club after 1 January 2006 as your membership will run until 31 May 2007. Membership runs from 1 June to 31 May each year and lapses for those who do not rejoin by the end of July. Your Third Party Public Liability Insurance will not be valid after 31 July if you do not rejoin for 2006/7.

Issued as a supplement to Grassbox 57
Summer 2006 – June 2006

SOUVENIRS

CLOTHING & INSIGNIA

Fleece	£20.00
Sweat Shirt	£15.00
Polo Shirt or Pilot Shirt	£14.00
(available small, medium, large, extra large)	
Baseball Cap	£6.00
Sew on Badge	£5.00
Pin Badge	£2.00
Key Fob	£1.00
Car Sticker (round)	£1.00
2005 Tool Rolls	£5.00
2006 Tape Measures	£5.00
Exhibit Log Sheet	£0.10
Loan of Banner (must be booked)	Free

PUBLICATIONS

Calendar 2006 (A4)	£3.50
Directory of Lawnmower Models	£6.00
& Manufacturers (can be supplied on 3.5in PC disk on request)	
Set of seven old black and white photographs	£10.00

TRANSFERS

Atco Standard Transfers (set of 4)	£10.00
Atco Standard Transfers (set of 6)	£15.00
Atco Standard Transfers (individual)	£3.00
(these are 1920s Atco Standards, set of four for mowers without grass box, set of six for mowers with grass box)	
Atco "Cutter Release"	£2.00
(76x23mm, for use on some Atco Standard rear roller chain sprockets)	
Atco "Normal" (c162x41mm)	£4.00
Atco "Normal" (c133x34mm)	£4.00
Atco "Normal" (c75x19mm)	£4.00
(The later ATCO transfers on mowers from the late 1920s onwards)	
Atco "George VI Crest" (111x170mm)	£10.00
Automower (149x97mm, gold, black, red)	£6.00
Folbate	£3.00
(163x27mm, red lettering, black edges, gold background)	
JP "Super Lawnmowers"	£3.00
(75x123mm, oval with wording around edge)	
JP "Normal"	£3.00
(52x103mm, oval, green, gold, black, no surrounding lettering)	
JP "Minimower V1"	£3.00
(73x44mm, oval for some Minimowers, straight lettering)	
JP "Minimower V2"	£3.00
(80x45mm, oval for some Minimowers, italic lettering)	
JP "Maxees Oval V1"	£3.00
(115x55mm, oval, Maxees larger than JP)	
JP "Maxees Oval V2"	£3.00
(110x63mm, oval, JP larger than Maxees)	
JP "Maxees Scraper" (122x41mm)	£3.00
JP "Maxees Sideplate" (123x60mm)	£3.00
Pull Fast-Return Slow	£1.50
(49x19mm, red/yellow for 1960s models)	
Qualcast: Panther Chain Cover (254x126mm)	£7.00
Qualcast: Panther "Panther On Logo"	£5.00
(129x108mm, for Panther/Super Panther)	
Ransomes "Scroll" (130mm)	£2.00
Ransomes "Scroll" (200mm)	£3.00
Ransomes "Grey Crest"	£4.00
(70x90mm, rectangular for some later models)	
Ransomes "Oil Levels" (Assorted ovals, gold/black)	£3.00
Royal Enfield (190x126mm, rectangular for boxes)	£8.00
Suffolk Super Punch 17" Dual Drive	£10.00
(202x190mm, for grass box)	
Suffolk Punch Dual Drive Mk7	£10.00
(228x223mm, for grass box)	
Suffolk "14 Super Punch Mod"	£6.00
(35x170mm, red/gold/yellow/black modern design)	
Suffolk "Super Colt Modern"	£6.00
(135x170mm, red/gold/yellow/black modern design)	
Suffolk "Punch Modern"	£3.00
(86x95mm, gold with black edge to lettering)	
Webb "Wizard" (197x62mm)	£3.00

Members can view colour versions of transfer on the Club website at: www.oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk/transfers/transfer.htm
If you have original transfers that the Club could borrow to copy for the benefit of other members contact Keith at usual address.

JOIN THE SMARTGROUP

If you're on email, don't forget our online Smartgroup service where you can share news and views with other members. See <http://www.smartgroups.com/group/group.cfm?GID=57122> or contact Keith (keith.wootton@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk) for more details.

ORDERING ITEMS

Send orders to Keith Wootton, Old Lawnmower Club, 7 Church Lane, Cold Higham, Towcester, Northamptonshire NN12 8LS. Allow 28 days for delivery. **Cheques payable to: 'The Old Lawnmower Club'.** **PayPal and Nochex accepted (send email for details).**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2006

This report was presented at the Club's Annual General Meeting in May.

Still Growing: The past 12 months have been really good and our membership is now the highest it's ever been. I am pleased that so many people have been able to join in with the Annual Rally and AGM to celebrate another successful year. The growth in membership does present a few challenges in terms of time and resources to run the Club but these can all be addressed with help from the membership.

Grassbox: We have produced four editions of Grassbox in the past year and even more Members have contributed. We repeated the colour supplement, with Grassbox 54, and have also produced two editions with four-page inserts. Costs have risen this year because of the increased membership and because we have had to change printers.

Leaflets: The Directory of Members was published as usual. We have produced electronic versions of the other three "regular" booklets so that members can download them from the Club's website. Print copies are available for Members not online. We are also looking at ways of improving the content of these booklets. Any assistance from Members will be very welcome.

Rallies: The Club attended a number of rallies and participation was generally high. Individual Members also represented the Club at their own events. It would be good to see even more people participating at events and we are looking at how we can achieve this. Some of the responsibility must be taken by the local organiser to invite and encourage wider participation. Do not forget to ask for one of the Club's banners free of charge to use at your event. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the past year.

Annual Rally: Once again we have produced a special themed souvenir of the Annual Rally. Please be sure to take one with you at the end of the meeting. Ideas for future events are welcome.

Money: We have continued to spend carefully on items for the benefit of the maximum number of Members with a little extra on events such as the Annual Rally as a thank you to those who attend. Souvenirs and other items are passed on virtually 'at cost' with little profit to the Club. The accounts will show a small surplus for the past year. This is mainly due to the rise in membership and income from items such as transfers bought during the preceding year. Printing (of Grassbox and other items) and postage remain the biggest costs. The Club still has a healthy bank balance which can be spent on projects for the benefit of all Members. We do not foresee the need to increase subscriptions.

Transfers: These have sold well in the past year. It is good to see some of them on mowers this weekend. We would like to add new designs but will only be able to do this if we can find good quality originals to copy. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can help in this respect.

Insurance: The Third Party Public Liability Insurance has been continued for the current year. The increased overall cost is simply a reflection of our increased membership as the "unit price" remains the same. The scheme remains good value for money and I hope it will help us encourage participation at events.

Website & Email: As well as adding to existing pages we have created more content specially for existing members including a section containing downloadable copies of Grassbox and the Club's booklets. The online 'Smartgroup' has been less successful this year. The system has suffered technical problems recently and we are assessing whether it would be better to change services. This will not be worth doing unless more members choose to participate.

How You Can Help The Club: I wrote in the latest Grassbox about collaboration and supporting others. There are two ways to help the club fulfil its aims. First, participate in what we do and help other members if they seek advice or assistance. Second, help us develop the Club by suggesting new ideas and working with us to make them happen. As we have continued to grow most of the work has by choice been undertaken by a relatively small number of members. We are now at the stage where new services and products can really only be introduced effectively by increasing the "team" of people who provide them. Support and resources are available for the right sorts of project.

Thanks: I should like to thank everyone who has contributed this past year. Thanks to the committee for giving up additional time for behind the scenes arrangements for the Annual Rally and other activities. Special thanks to Robbie who continues to work hard and spend much time in his role of Secretary. **Keith Wootton, 21 May 2006**

Note: copies of the club accounts can be obtained from Keith at the usual address.



CLUB COMMITTEE 2006/7

The following were elected to the Club's committee at the Annual General Meeting in May:

Keith Wootton, Chair
Bernard "Robbie" Robinson, Secretary
Martin Stephenson, Treasurer
Andrew Grout
Alec Hillyar
Tim Durant
John Barnard
Richard Jones
David Sullivan

Contact details for the committee members can be found in the Annual Directory of Members.

Atco advertisement from 1956

NEW CLUB EMAIL ADDRESSES

Would you like a special Old Lawnmower Club email address? We can provide you with a free address in a standard format of `firstname.lastname@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk` so that every message sent to that address will come direct to your own email program. This works using a simple "email forwarding" facility that is part of our website and email systems. All you need to do is provide your main email address and we will set the rest up for you. Emails sent to your club address are sent automatically to your own address. No one in the club apart from you will see your messages so it's completely private. And it doesn't affect your existing emails either.

There are three main advantages of using a club email address. First, it you can use it with club members, collectors, buyers, sellers and friends to promote the fact that you collect mowers. Second, if you change your main email address you don't need to worry about telling everyone. All you need to do is tell the club your new address and we will make sure your club emails get sent to the new one. Last, and best of all, we can offer this for FREE. To find out more contact Keith at `keith.wootton@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk`

SHANKS'S

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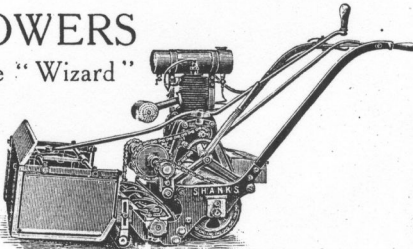
MOTOR MOWERS

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Specially made for close cutting
Sizes 16in., 20in., and 24in.

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and RELIABLE



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Shanks advertisement from 1926

ANNUAL DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

We will be compiling the Club's Annual Directory of Members over the next couple of months ready to send it out with the next Grassbox. Members consider this to be one of the best things we produce but it is only as good as the information in it. We only include members who have positively agreed to be included. This means that if you did not tick the correct box on your original application form (paper or website) you won't be in. If you were not in last time (or cannot remember if you ticked the box when you joined) check with Keith or Robbie. If you have any changes to the existing entry please let Keith know by email or in writing (no calls please) and we will be happy to update the records. This is particularly important if you have changed email address or telephone number in the past year as these are included when we have them. The directory is produced direct from our main membership database so any changes we make will be used for all the other things we do as well.

GARFITTS SPARES

If you need a bottom blade for a mower why not order it through the Club? We have a special trade account with Garfitt's of Sheffield which means we can buy spare parts, especially bottom blades, from their extensive catalogue at very reasonable prices. Garfitt's claim to be able to supply bottom blades to fit almost any mower and so far we haven't caught them out! Club members have already bought blades for 9" Ransomes Lion, 10" and 12" Ransomes Patent Chain Automaton, 8" Greens Silens Messor, 12" Shanks Ivanhoe, and 28" Shanks Pony Mower. Prices are extremely reasonable, broadly £1 to £1.50 an inch for a blank blade which you would need to drill and fit yourself. The company can also supply ready-to-fit bottom blades and cutting cylinders for more recent machines from main manufacturers. We can also supply screws in a variety of sizes. To take advantage of these special terms you must order items through the Club. To find out more contact Richard Jones by telephone on 023 92598601 on email at `richard.jones@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk` or. Richard will also be able to offer general advice on removal and replacement of the blades.

CLUB CHANGES

In the main Grassbox I hinted at some changes ahead for the way we run the Club. Over the next few months the committee will be looking at ways of sharing the workload between themselves and to bring more members in to the day-to-day running of our activities. This is important because as the club has continued to grow it has been impossible for Keith and Robbie, in particular, to manage most of the main tasks and develop new ideas. So, for example, we might ask more people to become involved with preparing Grassbox, managing the website, looking after souvenir sales, processing new memberships, dealing with specific types of enquiry and so on.

There is a view that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and this is true of course. But I think it's important that we continue to evolve and develop as a club in order to provide the types of activities and services that members want and expect. One area I would like to spend more time on personally is in developing some ideas for additional publications and online facilities but this isn't possible at present.

Our first attempt at this has been to ask one of our members (who volunteered to do it) to help distribute this edition of Grassbox. The Grassbox was written and printed in the usual way but instead of being sent out from "club central" it was instead sent in a big box to the member who put the labels and stamps on the envelopes and posted everything in one go. I am sure that this process will work very well and we can probably use it as a model for future mailings. But it would be unfair at this stage to mention the member who is helping in case something I do makes it all go wrong! He know he has my thanks and I will be sure to let everyone know in the next edition.

WHY USE OLD MOWERS?

It's a fair question, says Tony Hopwood. The grass has to be cut whatever you use. I've used vintage mowers for over 30 years as a practical method of keeping large areas of lawn under control so it makes sense to justify what seems to be an aberration in a world of strimmers, garden tractors and Flymos.

Experience shows that heavy cylinder mowers automatically make a better lawn than rotary mowers and tractors. Two years ago I took on a neighbours half acre of lawn which had only been cut with a small rotary. The lawn was spongy and full of thatch and moss. The first few cuts with a 36in Dennis on a high cut were traumatic, as a huge pile of cuttings as the thatch and the moss came off the lawn. Over the summer the improvement was dramatic and the following spring I fed the grass with "New 52" agricultural grassland mix (under £10 for 50kg) applied using a spinner. The lawn is now firm and green and lush and is cut once a week in 40mins in the season compared with hours with the rotary which did not even collect. A major and surprising plus is that a decent motor cylinder mower with a sensible grass box emptying system is about 30 per cent quicker than a garden tractor!

So your vintage mower can do a better and quicker job - what other advantages are there?

Cost. With new mowers and tractors costing thousands of pounds, a vintage machine for £100 or less is a very good buy if you don't mind putting it back into order. Consumable spares for major makes are still available and scrap machines can be found at sales or from fellow OLC members for replacement or missing bits. Whether you return a machine to showroom condition or simply get it cutting the grass again, a vintage mower can give years of pleasure with the end product a fine lawn with optional stripes to impress the neighbours!

Disadvantages. Old machines need looking after if they are to do real work. They do need greasing and oiling, adjusting and cleaning during the cutting season. The virtual cost in time which should be compared with the real bills you get if you send a modern machine to a service agent over the winter. Watch out that you don't become a lawn yawn or fescue fetishist once you've tasted the delights of vintage grass cutting.