

COLOUR SECTION

Issued as a supplement to Grassbox 65
Summer 2008



Owned by Dick Hardwick, this Archimedean has been to many Rallies, and is remarkable for the original paint, and the preservation of the decorative lines so typical yet so sadly missing or painted over on most American machines.



A curiously rare machine, the Green's Utility, a cheap sidewheeler from the late 30s. The handle mounting position prevents the mower tipping up when used with a grassbox, and therefore removes the need for the counterbalancing weight on the delivery plate that most other sidewheel machines have. The only disadvantage is that it gives a slightly less direct pushing force to the mower, yet this idea was hardly ever used except on this machine and the Green's Tyke of the same era.



Another American machine, this time a 6" sidewheel Coldwells Excelsior, owned and restored by Stan and Jonathon Hardwick.



This period card shows a Patent Gear Automaton with Windsor Castle in the background. There is however a major error in this card as the gears on the mower are on the wrong sides!



Although not a lawnmower, this machine used for harvesting Cranberries in the USA uses some similar technology. This is from a postcard sent in by Arthur Madeley.



At Andrew Hall and Michael Duck's open day in 2001, Malcolm Hemley and Dusty Miller found an early Dennis in a corner of the shed, which needed a thorough examination....



This is an American trade card, which most manufacturers in the USA produced. The details of models and sizes are printed on the back, while this is a very typical example of the pictures on the front. Several of these cards for various other makes were sold in the OLC auction this year.



An early 1920s motor mower in action. This is a 20" Shanks Jehu, with a slide out pony mower style grassbox, which Christopher Proudfoot is using to mow the lawn.



Another trade card, this time for an Excelsior lawnmower.



A Coldwell's Gem sidewheel mower. Widely advertised originally, but not so widely found today, this machine had a typically American colour scheme, as restored here by the Editor.



This was the OLC Rally in 1991, with Keith being the middle one of the 3 people visible. Notice also that familiar vehicle from mower related events all over the UK at the time - Andrew Hall's Amtrak van - in the background!



Christopher Proudfoot in action at the OLC Auction in 2008. He appears to be trying to sell something to Andrew Hall.



And here is the man himself at the 1991 Rally. Keith looks pleased with the Atco Standard he is demonstrating....



Keith Wootton's Shanks Standard Chain at Banbury in 2002. This machine is so far the only known Standard Chain to have been found by a collector, which is surprising as they were widely advertised and were the main rival to the Silens Messor and the Patent Chain Automaton.



Andrew MacMorland demonstrating his Mower Pusher and Patent Chain Automaton at Drusillas Zoo in Sussex several years ago. This event was organised by David Lumsden.