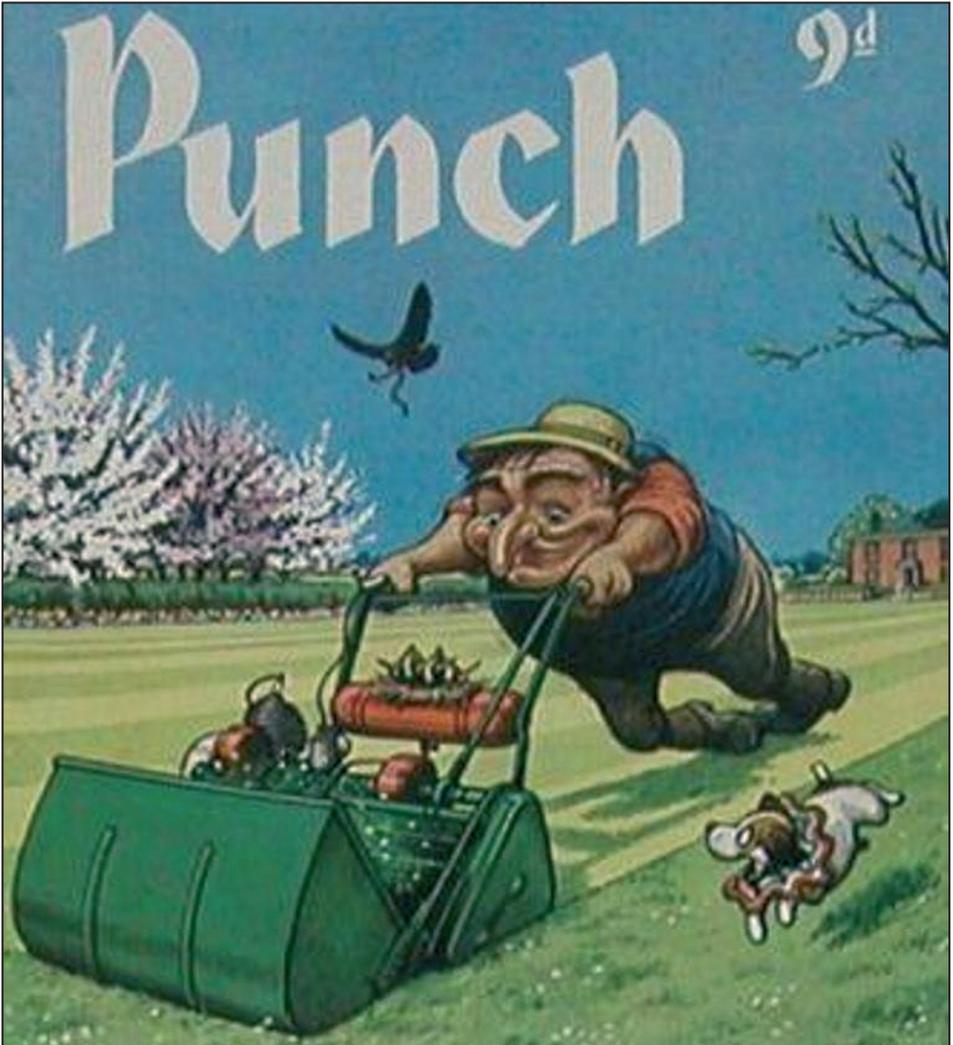
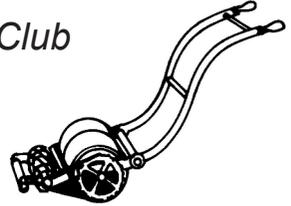


# Grassbox

*The magazine of The Old Lawnmower Club*

Number 76



*This 1930s 12" Greens Greenson came straight from its original owner, complete with its instruction manual. He had used it to mow his own lawn for the last time a day or two before we got it! What makes this mower interesting is that in the late 1950s it was returned to Greens for overhaul, and they repainted it, and they even ap-*



*plied a diagonal red and gold 1950s Greens transfer to the grass box. In addition there are other remnants of its working life left - the rollers taper to one end, presumably because the owner always mowed his lawn the same way round!*



**Alan Mattingly**, a club member from New Zealand claims to have found a Moa (a large extinct flightless bird) quietly sitting on some eggs in his garden. In reality, this not so extinct mower was made by Dillie & McGuire MFG Co., Richmond, USA.

## **CONTACTING THE CLUB**

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**Souvenirs/Regalia:** Bernard "Robbie" Robinson, 10 Burchester Avenue, Headington, Oxford OX3 9NA T: 01865 450899 E: bernard.robinson@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk

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## EDITORIAL

Those members not on online will be unaware that we put out a request for more material and information for Grassbox to all members on email prior to starting this edition. I have had a great response to this, proving as I always suspected that there are a great many of you out there who have something to contribute to the club's main publication.

As a result of this, I have introduced several new aspects to this issue, especially on help and advice for your restorations. One or two people asked questions, others have very kindly produced unprompted answers to other questions that I am sure have been asked by many of you over the years. I would like to develop this aspect in coming issues, so if you have a handy tip or a not so handy problem, please let me know.

Members also like to tell others about their recent acquisitions and restoration projects that they have ongoing, so I have put together some short sections from various individuals about their current projects, and I hope these will prove informative.

A perfect opportunity for you to share your views with me about what you would like to see in Grassbox is coming up on the 15th May, when I shall be joining many other members at the club's AGM at Milton Keynes. I hope very much indeed that I will see as many of you as possible there. As you know, this is the main event of the year for the club, and it usually attracts a good level of support so I hope very much that you will be able to attend. Details are all on the last few pages of this issue.

## ARTHUR BOOTH

Members will be saddened to hear of the sudden and untimely death of fellow collector Arthur Booth at the end of January. He died following complications that arose from routine surgery for a minor ailment. Arthur was a member of the Club for many years, at least since 2001, and throughout this time lived in Nottingham. Along with his friend and fellow member Robert Hanson he attended the annual rally every year since he joined, always on the Saturday afternoon which allowed plenty of time to chat with other collectors and share news and views. Arthur was very knowledgeable about all things mechanical and I believe that he also had vintage cars and motorcycles in his collection, as well as the mowers of course. A few years ago he produced a reprint of a Ransomes motor mower manual that I know many members found extremely useful. He also contributed articles and pictures for Grassbox. He will be sadly missed and I am sure all members of the club will want to pass on their condolences to his friends and family.

## Keith Wootton

**Bill Outram** sent it this small snapshot of himself a a boy making use of a Pennsylvania. Bill was obviously keen on working mowers from a young age!





This superb photograph from Clive Gravett appears to be of a fairly common make of mower, namely a Ransomes New Automaton. But look more closely - that handles have the name "Sutton & Sons Reading" on them. This is the same same Sutton better known as seed merchants, and the mower is in fact an example of badge engineering from Ransomes, a company not normally associated with such practices, for they have applied the Sutton name to an other wise perfectly ordinary New Automaton, a machine made from 1885 to 1897. A handful of these mowers have survived today, all chain models, and oddly all those I have seen are missing their nameplate. The 22" example in the collection at the Milton Keynes Museum is probably known to most of you, however, other examples include some later features from the Pat-

ent Automaton, and it may well be that Ransomes used up old parts post 1897 so that later Sutton machines were never quite the same as a Patent Automaton. It was advertised as being available in 8" - 22" sizes; the one illustrated appears to be the 16" model, being used by the proverbial man and a boy described in all contemporary adverts for such machines. In 1898, only a chain version was advertised, suggesting that the gear model shown in this picture could have been discontinued or was a specific order not generally sold by Sutton. It is also worth recording that the nameplate which is barely visible in this photo is shown in the photo with advertisements to say "The Sutton Lawn Mower" on it, with no use of the name Automaton.



## IPSWICH TRANSPORT MUSEUM MOWER DISPLAY

This photograph from Ken Austin shows part of the large and wide ranging mower collection now housed at the Ipswich Transport museum. Ken says that the museum started off a display for Ransomes machines, then ended up with other items from the public, before many Atco and Qualcast machines turned up following a bit of a clear out at Stowmarket. Some of the Atco models had originally been kept at that company's old works in Birmingham. And what is that lurking among the crowded collection of machines? Yes, it's a Follows and Bate Climax, a mower from a rather different era to the rest of the display!

Also visible to the right of the picture is an Atco Car, a lethal contraption which Brian Radam demonstrated an example of some years ago at an annual rally.

It is often a problem for museums to know what to do for the best, as they can easily get flooded with far more material than they can display in the space available, and well meaning members of the public will often donate more items than the museum has room for. Ken reckons there are over 80 items in the mower display here.

The museum's website address is: [www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk) or they can be contacted on 01473 715666. They are open every Sunday until November, plus other days as listed on the website.

# RESTORATION NOTES AND QUERIES

## **Siezed exhaust manifold bolts**

**Bill Frost** asks about this common problem: From time to time, when I'm cleaning up a petrol mower, one of the potential stumbling blocks is that the exhaust mounting bolts or studs are often in a poor state, due to time, heat and corrosion, giving a serious risk of snapping them off in the cylinder block if attempts are made to remove them. What are Members' tried and tested solutions to overcome this?! Any answers or advice on this to the usual address for Grassbox please...

## **Dirty and corroded petrol tanks**

**Bill Outram** has found a solution to the problem of years of dirt getting into the carburettor from the petrol tank: Last year I had problems with my Z type Dennis, it kept on coughing and spluttering despite having put in fresh fuel in the machine prior to firing up .

One kind member of the club put me onto Frosts of Rochdale (Contact details [www.frost.co.uk](http://www.frost.co.uk) Telephone 01706 860 338)

These people offer all sorts of goodies for people intent on restoring cars etc . On page 98 of their Catalogue they illustrate a Motorcycle Fuel Tank Repair Kit at £35.74. I bought one of these kits and proceeded to operate on five tanks, including the Dennis. By following the instructions very carefully, I now have five beautifully clean tanks and to date I have had no more problems with the internal rust that used to accumulate inside the tank. Well worth a try ---- all you need is patience and plenty of disposable rubber gloves.

## **Left handed threads on Anglo Paris wheel screws**

**Brian Hornsey** has been dismantling an Anglo Paris, and he wondered about the screws holding the wheels on, unlike later side wheelers with their split pins. The answer is that they are not left handed threads on either side, these would not be needed as the screw holds in place a cast iron washer with a flat inside it that engages with a flat on the stub axle so it cannot turn. Out of interest though, the screws have a very fine thread, probably a fine American thread similar to UNF, and are certainly not BSF, so it's probably better to be careful not to damage them if they are siezed as replacing them could involve a screw cutting lathe!

## **Ransomes Green paint**

**Dave Bolland** reminds members that the Ransomes green colour is still available from Witham Oil and Paint Ltd, [www.withamgroup.com](http://www.withamgroup.com). This colour is basically the same that has been used since 1930, and is available either from the manufacturers or from some horticultural and agricultural suppliers, such as Ernest Doe. It can be applied with a brush or thinned for spraying. Members should be aware that this shade is too dark to be used accurately on pre 1930 machines. Colours vary quite a bit but the lighter John Deere green produced by the same company and usually available alongside Ransomes green in such machinery stockists is a better (though not perfect) match.

## MEMBER'S MACHINES

**Ricky Gowen** acquired this 20" Greens motor mower recently. Ricky writes: She was seized solid in every way possible so it was shoved onto a sack barrow to move around the garden to its new shed. A week or so after purchase I got the tools out to see what we could do. First up was freeing off the remaining cast iron rollers at the front end! Sorted. With the chains removed intact, I then moved



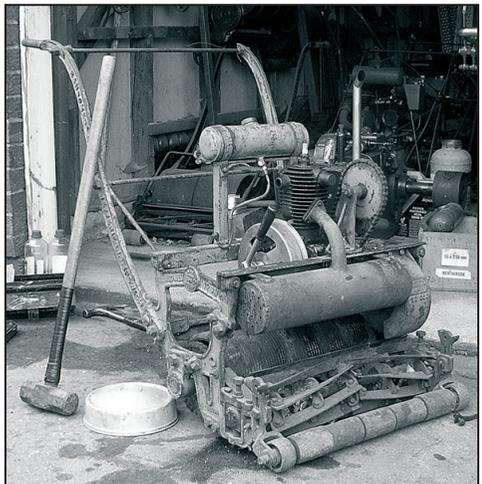
onto the rear roller and a bit of gentle back and forth had her moving as easy as a F\*\*MO (well sort of!)

Next up to go was the very home brewed starter system which was made of of a piece of 1/8" flat bar, a bicycle chain and crank.

Sitting beside the engine was more flat bar bracketry which I think had a battery mounted on it in place of the magneto. It also had some kind of expanding foam all over the carburettor too so that was roughly cleaned off for now. This machine is of earlier construction as it has Green's own engine on it, and they are a lovely piece of engineering in my eyes, with separate mag and "proper" style flywheel. Not a huge amount has been done yet as this will have a full restoration. I have got a fuel tank for it but its to be shortened before the final build.

This machine appears to be of a different design to most other such machines, with the engine being almost a bolt on extra on top of the basic Silens Messor frame rather than having a single frame casting.

Meanwhile in New Zealand, **Alan Mattingly** has been working on his Ransomes Mk 2 motor mower. Alan says that it was seized solid when he acquired it, but that with the aid of the sledge hammer and spanner seen below has freed it off and hopes to have it running again soon. Several parts are missing, including the carburettor and one of the chains, so with luck replacements can be found...



# TO RESTORE OR NOT TO RESTORE?

By Joe Roulstone

A recent survey on the Club's website provided an interesting insight into the preferences of enthusiasts when it comes to the sometimes contentious issue of the restoration of mowers. 36% of respondents claimed that they preferred unrestored mowers whilst 25% said that they were in favour of restoring machines. A couple of recent buying expeditions have also led me to ponder the pros and cons of mower restoration. So, what are the issues involved?

Whether or not mowers are shown could be a major influencing factor. Certainly, when I have shown locally, it has been my restored mowers (a Drummond Bros Willing Worker and an 8" Silens Messor) that have gained the most attention over my unrestored mowers including a Patent Chain Automaton. For the public at large, the sight of a shiny mower, resplendent in green and red (or silver in the case of the Drummond) is a much more attractive sight than something dull and rusty with cracked handles. A completely unrestored machine, unless it is in remarkable condition or a unique specimen, is not likely to claim a rosette.

There is also a great degree of satisfaction to be gained from bringing a rusting hulk back to life. There is vision and skill, patience and perseverance. Ultimately, a restored machine is more likely to survive as a working example where unrestored mowers may simply be thrown away or cannibalised for parts. As many members of the Club

have said, keeping this often overlooked part of our industrial and social heritage in preservation is an important part of the hobby.

Lastly and, perhaps, most importantly, is the type of mower. The imperative to restore a push mower can be considerably less than with petrol driven machines. To put this into context, the blades on my unrestored Paten Chain Automaton rotate freely as the mower is pushed along, doing pretty much what it has done for the last century or so. Certainly the cylinder could do with a sharpen, but other than that it is in working order. Could the same be said of a beast with an infernal combustion engine? Time spent standing unused and neglected in barns and the backs of sheds plays havoc with these devices in a way that the simpler push mower evades. And a mower that cannot mow is, perhaps, no mower at all.

In my collection there are a couple of candidates for restoration: Lurking in the back of my garage, hidden away, is a 1920s Green's Supreme. It could be a lovely mower and I have not seen another example in the few years I have been collecting. It is rusted to the point of having little original paintwork, partially seized and the roller has a crack. This mower needs some TLC! The second example is a Lloyd's Pennsylvania roller mower recently acquired from another OLC member. This mower is the rarer model with twin handles rather than the more common single wooden handle type more often seen

on side wheel mowers. Unfortunately it lacks any handles at all, so it is my intention to fabricate replacement handles for the mower. Both of these examples will be made more than they currently are by restoration, and the Lloyds, in particular, is a relatively scarce machine.

All of this said, there are many who will baulk at the thought of restoration. An original mower, even in relatively poor shape, could be argued to be of greater historical interest than a refurbished example. Restoration can mean the loss of original paintwork, transfers etc. Original nuts and bolts can be lost in the process of dismantling a mower, and

with the best of intentions, damage can be done to irreplaceable parts rendering machines little more than scrap. But should we really leave mowers in non-functioning condition for the sake of originality?

My own feeling is that machines should, as much as possible, be left in original condition as long as they can still be said to be fit for purpose. An original, if battle scarred mower can tell us more than one that has been sanded back and lavished with new paint work and reproduction transfers. And this leads me to begin to ponder where the line between servicing/ repair, and restoration could be drawn. Any takers

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# ADVERTISEMENTS

## FOR SALE

- 16" Ransomes Horseshoe Tank, Blackburn engine, for restoration £80 ono; 16" Ransomes 1930s 2 stroke for restoration, no box; 16" Qualcast, no box, free. C: Mike Neale. T: 01580 754028 (Hawkhurst, Kent)
- British Anzani Lawnrider, without cutter, c/w Villiers engine, no box, C: Poul, T: 0455 6502427, E: traktorservice@larsen.tdcadsl.dk, (Copenhagen, Denmark)
- 24" Dennis, c/w box, FTGH, C: Alan Ponsford, T: 01722 716 722, E: alanp@capoco.co.uk, (Salisbury)
- 17" Suffolk Punch, 1950/1960, c/w Suffolk engine, c/w box, £35, C: Gregory king, T: 01332 841929, E: Philipdking@hotmail.co.uk, (Derby)
- Allen Scythe, Offers, C: Judith, T: , E: Judithking93@yahoo.co.uk, (Wisbech)#
- Anzani, Easimow, 1950s, no box, Offers, C: Andrea Lancaster, T: 07748 622299, E: andrea.lancaster@sky.com, (Sheffield)#
- 18" Atco, Not known, 1950s?, c/w box, £1.00, C: Damon hammond, T: 07709 507903, E: dah8@aber.ac.uk, (Aberystwyth)#
- 14" Atco, 2 stroke, 1957, c/w Villiers engine, c/w box, Offers, C: Jim Begg, T: 01357 522169,

- E: jamesbegg@btinternet.com, (East Kilbride)#
- 15" Atco, B15, c/w box, £100, C: Gaynor Collier, T: 01268 413420, E: gaynorcollier@hotmail.co.uk, (Basildon)#
- 17" Atco, Kick start, 1947/48, c/w Villiers no32577 D28 79cc engine, Offers, C: B. Butterfield, T: 01756 700283, E: bbutterfield28@yahoo.co.uk, (Skipton)#
- 22" Atco, Standard, 1920s, c/w box, £99, C: Keith Rowley, T: 01782 760063, E: Keith.Rowley@ntlworld.com, (Stoke-on-Trent)#
- Atco, C: Steve McCarthy, T: , E: stevenmccarthy1@hotmail.com, (Bexley)#
- 14" Atco, Standard, 1924/5, c/w Villiers engine, no box, Offers, C: John Callin, T: 01223 870211, E: John.Callin@email.com, (Cambridge)#
- 18" Atco, not known, 1923, c/w Villiers engine, c/w box, £1,000, C: Simon Norman, T: 07940 029156, E: archsparks@hotmail.co.uk, (Liverpool)#
- 14" Atco, 1459/60, 1959, c/w Villiers engine, no box, Offers, C: Darren Collinge, T: 07826 339345, E: dc4551@gmail.com, (Rochdale)#

- 14" Atco, dont no, 1950, c/w Suffolk engine, £50, C: riess booth, T: 07873 356712, E: riesslewis16@googlemail.com, (Birstall, Leicester)#
- 28" Atco, groundsman, 1975, c/w Atco engine, c/w box, £250, C: kenneth dakin, T: 01691 622544, E: kennethdakin@yahoo.co.uk, (Pwllheli)#
- 14" Atco, battery, c/w 12v motor engine, no box, FTGH, C: richard westwood, T: 01473 410890, E: mashtun@ntlworld.com, (Ipswich)#
- 17" Atco, Kickstart , 1948, c/w Villiers engine, c/w box, Offers, C: Mr jim Mason, T: 07788414166 Devon, E: jhmason@hotmail.co.uk, (Newton Abbot)#
- 14" Atco (2 for disposal), not known, 1950s?, c/w box, FTGH, C: Martin Collins, T: 01444 484592, E: collins@martincollins43.orangehome.co.uk, (Haywards Heath)#
- Atco, Maybe midget ( i'm no expert ), c/w Villiers engine, £5, C: Clive Ettritch, T: 01608 661448, E: clive.ettritch@eu.magna.com, (Stratford upon Avon)#
- 24" Buntton, c/w B&S engine, no box, £700, C: tom emmett, T: 00 330 659 9700, E: tom.emmett@emmettequipment.com, (Cleveland, USA)#
- 30" Dennis, broken roller, FTGH, C: Tom Schupbach, T: 07710 464 320, E: tschupbach@edgegrove.com, (Watford)#
- 36" Dennis, Motor Mower with roller seat, 1955, No 156Z30, c/w Blackburn 600cc single number 3301E140 engine, c/w box, £100, C: Colin Smith, T: 01256 861731, E: smithellens@btopenworld.com, (Basingstoke)#
- 30" Dennis, No.11445, 1930s?, c/w Dennis engine, c/w box, Offers, C: Gary Langridge, T: 01455 554654, E: gary.langridge1@btinternet.com, (Lutterworth)#
- 30" Dennis, Z Type, 1958, c/w Blackburn engine, c/w box, £300.00, C: JOHN PREEDY, T: 01332 841329 OR 07774 600008, E: jr.preedy@btinternet.com, (Deby)#
- 24" Dennis, Dennis Motor Mower, 1962, c/w box, £250, C: Neil Willis, T: 07818 401664, E: neil.willis@intecsea.com, (Dorking, Surrey)#
- Dennis, C: jonathan bellis, T: , E: jonathan.bellis@btinternet.com #
- 27" General Mower Corp, Buffalo, NY, Gemco Model No VS1100-1151, c/w Clinton engine, no box, £2,500, C: james comer, T: , E: jamjcdcom@aol.com, (Okeechobee, USA)#
- Greens, no box, FTGH, C: Jo Northover , T: 07984 032934, E: tastycheddar@yahoo.com, (Kingston Upon Thames)#
- 14" Greens, SM De-Luxe SDL5, no box, £150, Greens S.M. De-Luxe SDL5 A is available but has no handle, Greens, SM De-Luxe SDL5A, no box, £50, C: Mr Andrew Dejardin, T: 01780 460480, E: andrew.dejardin@tiscali.co.uk, (Stamford)#
- 12" JP, Maxees, 1961, c/w box, Offers, C: Gordon D Scott, T: 01463 239655, E: gordondscott@btinternet.com, (Inverness)#
- Allen, Scythe, No 120286, no box, 10, C: whicher, T: 01483 473397, E: rosie.whiche@virgin.net, (Woking)#
- 14" JP, Simplex, c/w box, £550no, C: B. Champion, T: 01737 832530, E: monkswell@btinternet.com, (Reigate)#
- 12" JP, Monarch, No. HZB 240, c/w box, Offers, C: JC Pennycook, T: 07905 854 852, E: pennycooks@redstairs.freemove.co.uk, (Weybridge)#
- 8" Lawn Boy, 1965 and 1976, c/w B&S engine, no box, \$100, C: Mike Vanderpair, T: 001 920 339 2770, E: arlydawn1@aol.com, (Green Bay)#
- 14" Qualcast, Commodore, 1967?, c/w Qualcast engine, c/w box, FTGH, C: ADRIAN PITTS, T: 01892 837967, E: adrian.pitts@sky.com, (Tonbridge)#
- 12" Qualcast, Super Panther, c/w box, £100ono, C: Darren Tonge, T: 01793 703797 Mob 07941434506, E: info@birdwatchingtours.co.uk, (Swindon)#
- 20" Ransomes, Antelope Mk6, c/w B&S engine, no box, C: mr alan mccann, T: 07715 782520, E: amccann8@hotmail.co.uk, (Maidstone)#
- 24" Ransomes, Matador, c/w JAP engine, c/w box, £50 or sensible offer, C: George Clark, T: 01692-631519, E: gwclark@btopenworld.com, (Norwich)#
- 15" Ransomes, Unknown, c/w Villiers engine, c/w box, Offers, C: Mr J T Fuller, T: 01494 863158, E: jack-fuller@talktalk.net, (Amersham)#
- 24" Ransomes, Twenty Four Mk 2A Reg No ED2781, c/w Villiers engine, c/w box, C: Bob Illman, T: 01420 89868, E: bob.illman@btinternet.com, (Alton)#
- 72" Ransomes, Motor Triple Mk4, 1975, c/w Diesel engine, no box, £750, C: Mark Jones, T: 01379 668885, E: mark.f.h.jones@virgin.net, (Ipswich)#

- 14" Ransomes, 1945?, c/w BSA engine, c/w box, £5, C: richard westwood, T: 01473 410890, E: mashtun@ntlworld.com, (ipswich)#
- 24" Ransomes, Tow along seat, 1970?, c/w box, £100, C: richard dibley, T: 01892 822884, E: richard@pureasphalt.co.uk, (Tunbridge Wells)#
- 20" Ransomes, Marquis Mk 5, No EJ03570, 1970?, c/w B&S engine, c/w box, Offers over £50, C: Huw Edwards, T: 01491 578417, E: huw@edwards-uk.net, (Henley on Thames)#
- 10" Presto, Rollmo 5/15, c/w box, £15, C: Reg Lambert, T: 01785 69643, E: reglam@talktalk.net, (Rugby)#
- 22" Savage Arms - Power Chief, 75 UR, c/w B&S engine, C: Dave , T: , E: davey6231@gmail.com, (Jacksonville, Florida)#
- 14" Greens, Silens Messor, Bought in 1922, no box, C: Jonathan Barrett, T: 07817 911209, E: barrettfamily2005@btinternet.com, (Skipton)#
- 10" Smiths, Aberdeen, Smith's Express Mower Aberdeen, no box, Offers, C: Angus Barnett, T: 07730 679216, E: angusbarnett@mypostoffice.co.uk, (Dundee)#
- 17" Suffolk, Super Punch, c/w Suffolk engine, c/w box, Offers, C: Nigel Weeks, T: 01752 216715, E: nw018b8074@blueyonder.co.uk, (Plymouth)#
- 14" Suffolk, Super punch, 1954?, c/w box, Offers, C: JC Pennycook, T: 07905 854 852, E: pennycooks@redstairs.freestore.co.uk, (Weybridge)#
- 13" Suffolk, Punch 35s, 1985?, c/w box, £50ono , C: Richard pierce , T: 07793 563034, E: Rap-mca@btconnect.com, (Wakefield )#
- 12" Suffolk, Punch, 1970, c/w Suffolk engine, c/w box, £35, C: riess booth, T: 07873 356712, E: riesslewis16@googlemail.com, (Birstall, Leicester)#
- 12" Suffolk, Colt, 1970, c/w Suffolk engine, c/w box, £35, C: riess booth, T: 07873 356712, E: riesslewis16@googlemail.com, (Birstall, Leicester)#
- 22" Toro, 1950s, c/w B&S engine, no box, Offers, C: Jon omalley, T: 001 773 763 9957, E: jonom911@aol.com, (Chicago)#
- Spares, C: Pip, T: 07759 533662, E: philip.clarke62@gmail.com, (Newport, loW)#
- 18" Victa, Victa 80 series, 1980, no box, £50, C: Michael J.Gent, T: 01295 251302, E: michaelirene@btinternet.com, (Banbury)#
- Webb, Witch, FTGH, C: David S, T: , E: casens@ymail.com, (Guildford)#
- Webb, MP041, c/w box, £5.00, C: Sawako Fujio Hunter, T: , E: sawako@sky.com, (London )#
- 12" Webb, Witch, c/w box, FTGH, C: Peter Hutchinson, T: 01923 460466, E: misc10@petehutch.net, (Watford)#
- 14" Atco, 1455, 1950s, c/w box, £50, C: md johnson, T: 01622 872933, E: meljohnson4@hotmail.co.uk, (Tonbridge)#
- 24" dennis, FT610, 2004, c/w Kubota engine, no box, £950 EACH, C: JOHN SHARPLES, T: 01772 628644, E: john.sharples@ic24.net, (Preston)#
- 16" JP, Super, c/w box, C: mr dereck beverley, T: 07881 811639, E: dereck\_beverley@hotmail.com, (Coventry)#
- Allen Scythe Model TS, currently in France, Offers, C: John Northover, T: 07941 511710, E: wandjnorthover@aol.com, (Dorking)#
- Ransomes, Unknown, £50, C: Tom Schupbach, T: 07710 464 320, E: tschupbach@edgegrove.com, (Watford)#
- 10" Ransomes Leo Ball Bearing, £30; 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk5, £20.00, C: Jim Butler, T: 01582 664929, E: jbutlerqq@virginmedia.com, (Dunstable)#
- 14" Ransomes, Minor Mk 7, c/w Villiers engine, c/w box, \$A100, C: Colin Slater, T: 07337 63071, E: csl57834@bigpond.net.au, (Brisbane, Australia)#
- 14" Suffolk, Punch Dual Drive , 1950/60s, c/w box, £50, C: John Smallwood, T: 01673 861043, E: jcsmallwood37@btinternet.com, (Lincoln)#
- 10" Webb, Whippet, 1960s, c/w box, Offers, C: Andrew T Wilson, T: 01325 384519, E: ajof.wilson@ntlworld.com, (Darlington)#
- 17" JP Super Mk5 motor mower, No U17/5/2 N40, c/w Villiers engine, c/w box and handbook; Atco B20 deluxe motor mower, c/w box; Landmaster 3.5hp self propelled, No 29773; Landmaster Stoic Mk 2, c/w 5hp B&S but does not turn over, good spares for above machine. £160ono for all four. C: Ian Swain E: ian@theluddite.com#
- Atco Standard, in pieces but generally complete. C: Robin Barnard T: 01297 553615 (H) or 01297 553815 (W) E: robinwbarnard@gmail.com (Devon)#
- Two Atco motor mowers, models unknown. C: John Heathfield E: john@chocolatetanks.com #

## WANTED

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.

- Scraper plate for 12" Ransomes Patent Chain Automaton; Chain sprocket and retaining nut for Greens Silens Messor cutting cylinder; starting handle for Ransomes Minor Mk6 motor mower C: Clive Gravett T: 07833 306619 E: [clive@adurgardening.com](mailto:clive@adurgardening.com)
- Grass box for 18" Ransomes Antelope, 1960s, c/w BSA engine C: Nigel Ball T: E: [nigelb@adroit-europe.com](mailto:nigelb@adroit-europe.com) (Crewe)
- 16" Ransomes Certes Mk12 push mower C: David Bolland T: 0161 427 5669 E: [dbolland@talktalk.net](mailto:dbolland@talktalk.net) (Stockport)
- 16" cutter blade or assembly wanted for JP Simples. C: B Champion T: 01737 832530 E: [monkswell@btinternet.com](mailto:monkswell@btinternet.com) (Reigate)#
- 12" Atco Standard grassbox. C: David Meredith. T: 01332 862304 (Derby) E: [greswoodhighstreet@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:greswoodhighstreet@yahoo.co.uk)

**Adverts are best submitted through the Club website as this gets them into the standard format for the magazine. However, all adverts are welcome by post or phone and are free of charge. Non members are denoted by a '#'**.

## 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, 1 Belmont Terrace, Shepton Beauchamp, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 0JX. T: 01460 241374 /E: [archivist@hdtrust.co.uk](mailto:archivist@hdtrust.co.uk) W: [www.hdtrust.co.uk](http://www.hdtrust.co.uk)**

## GARFITTS SPARES

Contact Richard Jones on 01243 575937 or by email at [richard.jones@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk](mailto:richard.jones@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk) to order bottom blades, cutting cylinders and fixing screws from Garfitt's of Sheffield. Items ordered through Richard are subject to special terms and you only need to pay the club after the order is received. Richard

will also be able to offer general advice on removal and replacement of the blades.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As always you can check your subscription status on the label on the envelope containing this edition. Your own subscription runs until May of the year shown next to the "Until" in the bottom right hand corner of the label. We will send renewal notices for 2011 out to all members after this year's annual rally in May.

## WEBSITE PASSWORD

We've been listening to comments from members and decided to simplify the Website logon. From now on the details for general "members only" access will change once a year after the end of the membership cycle (so probably in August). That means that the existing login details can still be used:

Username: olcmember  
Password Sprocket#6

## ANNUAL RALLY

The Annual Rally at Milton Keynes Museum is on the weekend of 14/15 May. It's the best chance of the year to meet and chat with other members.

## Accommodation

As always you can camp at the Museum on the Friday and Saturday nights. Tents, caravans and motor homes are all OK but contact Keith if you have any queries. If you come on the Friday please aim to arrive between 7.00pm and 9.00pm. There are also plenty of local hotels and B&Bs.

## Auction

Don't forget to send in your entries for this year's auction before the annual rally. The form for this is included again with this Grassbox. Please submit auction lots in advance and do not try and enter items on the day. We've already had some good mowers listed and we will post details on the website a week or so before the event (assuming we remember/have time!).

## Theme

We've decided that this year's theme for the rally will be mowers with an animal or bird in their name. It's not compulsory to bring a mower that fits in with the theme although we hope as many members as possible will join in. It's only a bit of fun but it does add to the interest over the weekend. As always we've tried to pick a general theme that encourages rather than dissuades participation. Given that Ransomes (eg Lion), Shanks (eg Hawk), Suffolk (eg Pony) and many others all made mowers that would qualify there should be plenty of scope. But please, don't claim that the Atco Standard is the name of some obscure Mongolian field mouse!

## Night At The Museum

Don't worry, we're not expecting Robin Williams, Ben Stiller or Dick van Dyke but the museum will be opening late on the Saturday evening as part of the national Museums At Night weekend. There will be some special activities going on around the museum and as our small contribution we are arranging a display of floodlit vintage lawn mowing (could this be another World first for the club?). Feel free to join in.

## Souvenirs

We will produce a souvenir as usual. Any club member who attends the rally at any time of the weekend is entitled to one. So if you're only coming on the Saturday (or arrive later on the Sunday) please ask for one.

## Food and Catering

The Museum's tea room will be open Saturday and Sunday for sandwiches and cakes so there's no need to bring your own picnic or packed lunch (although you can if you want). We hope the tea room will also be open on the Saturday and Sunday mornings for breakfast.

## Cars & Parking

Lots of people come to the rally and it can get very busy with cars. Please take care when driving on the site and keep your speed to 5mph. This year there will be

restricted access to the main site between 12 noon and 4 pm on each day. Please check at the Museum entrance or with one of the Club's committee members if you need to drive on the site during these periods. We always try to keep the display areas clear of vehicles so only park where you are asked, not where you would like. Keep gates closed on site at all times.

## Working Area

We will have a special working area. Bill Outram has, once again, generously offered to sponsor the "champagne moment" for the best working mower over the weekend. There is just one rule - you must be using your mower to cut grass (or at least give a good impression of doing so). Anyone can enter and the prize is well worth winning.

**For more details or queries contact Keith Wootton. T: 01327 830675 E: [keith.wootton@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk](mailto:keith.wootton@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk)**

## How to find the Museum

Museum is on McConnell Drive (off Millers Way, MK gridroad H2) in Wolverton at north west of city. From A5/A422 junction and locally follow brown signs for "Milton Keynes Museum". Postcode is MK12 5EL if using satnav.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGM</b> <b>of</b> <b>The Old Lawnmower Club</b> <i>Milton Keynes Museum,</i> <i>Wolverton, Milton Keynes</i> <b>Sunday 15 May 2011</b> <b>11.30am</b></p> <p>Formal Business will include: selection of Committee &amp; Officers for coming year; ratification of Accounts for 2010/2011; consideration of motions. All Members are entitled to attend the AGM. Exhibiting at the Rally is optional. Members attending the AGM are requested to bring their Membership Cards for free Museum entry</p>
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## RALLY DATES

**Annual Rally & AGM, Milton Keynes Museum: Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 May.** See previous pages for more information. For details, contact Keith Wootton. T: 01327 830675 E: keith.wootton@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk

**Lords Farm vintage event, Petersfield: Sunday 29 May.** The organisers hope for a good OLC presence. For details contact John Lovell, T: 01730 263508

**Oxford Castle Flower and Gardening Festival: Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 June.** Not a club event but they are

keen to attract a few mowers. Looks like a good setting and likely to attract a different set of visitors. Details from Rebecca Dawes, Festival Coordinator. M: 07792 467730 E: oxfordcastlefestivals@gmail.com

**Banbury Steam Rally: Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 June.** A club regular for many years, second only to our annual rally. Details as usual from Robbie (see "souvenirs" in the contacts list)

**Bedford Steam Rally, Old Warden Park: Friday 16, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September.** This is a three day event this year! C: Dick Hardwick T: 01462 816018 E: hadw2@aol.com. W: www.bseps.org.uk

### THE OLD LAWNMOWER COMPANY

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T: 07930 314187 Ivor Gregory (Old Lawnmower Club Member)

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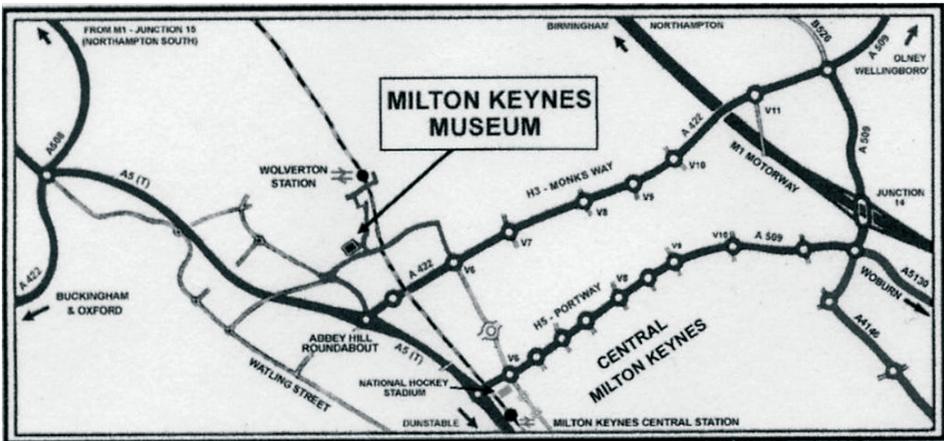
Call Us For Our Mail Order Price List T: 01323 842477

**John Cruse** (Old Lawnmower Club Member)

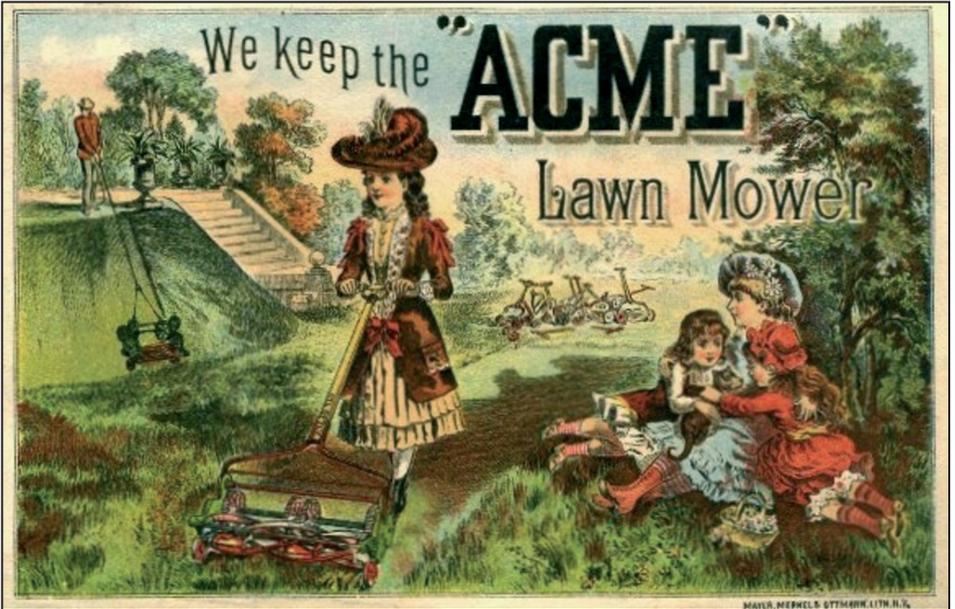
[themowercentrehailsham.com](http://themowercentrehailsham.com)



*Brian Latham is seen here with his father's 1930s 14" Greens Motor Mower in 1965. His father had bought it new, though sadly it was disposed of in the 1970s. Brian was sad to see it go, and eventually made up for the loss by acquiring a second hand post war Greens 14" Master. As that wore out in the end, Brian now has to "make do" with a Webb.*



Next Edition: Summer 2011  
Edition 76 - Spring 2011. Edited by William Proudfoot



Another American trade card, this example of is from Peter Hampton. Not the bank cutter version of the same machine being used in the background.



An finally for this issue, a photo from last years annual rally. Henry Ellis, centre, explains the finer points of his immaculately restored JP K14 power mower to appreciative members.

The mower in the foreground is a JP Matchless, the company's side-wheel model. Let's hope for more weather like this year too!