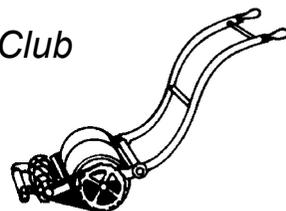


Grassbox

The magazine of The Old Lawnmower Club

Number 82

Autumn 2012





Seb Austin and Fred Pettit attended a rally in their native Cornwall at Truro in mid August, and sent this image of their display. Clearly visible are 10" New and 10" Chain Automaton, 16" Atco Standard, 16" SM Deluxe and an 8" Silens Messor. Seb reports that there was a lot of interest in the display, although the weather was very variable. Seb and Fred also had a similar display at the Great Dorset Steam Fair. Seb is one of the Club's younger members at 12 years old, but with help from Fred Pettit he has been busy restoring mowers, including a Brill Cutwell, Left.



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President: Keith Wootton, T: 07778 315966 E: keith.wootton@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Summer is over, and for many that means the end of the showing season, for others the end of the mowing season. Many people will still be in the shed restoring and repairing their mowers though, and I am sure I am not alone in looking forward to seeing their finished projects at the Annual Rally next year.

There are reports from a couple of regular rallies in this issue, I am sure many others have displayed at a variety of venues during the so called summer we have just endured. Well done to all who have attended rallies, and special congratulations for all those club members who have organised displays, cajoled other members to attend and generally helped out.

In the meantime, all there is left to say is lets get back to our sheds and prepare for summer!

Jim Ricci (left) receives the Charlie Jones award at the Annual Rally in May from Club Chairman, Peter Hampton.



ATCO CAR STILL IN USE

We have featured the Atco car before and longer standing members may remember Brian Radam bringing one to the Annual Rally many years ago. These machines were made in 1939 using a Villiers two stroke mower engine, and were advertised as being ideal for teaching young people the basics of driving.

Angela Wylam learnt to drive in an Atco Car bought for her by her father, a director of the Atco company. In August 2012, the Stratford Herald ran an article showing the Atco car still being used by Mrs. Wylam's 14 year old grandson to learn to drive.

Only 250 were made, before the war stopped production, and with the power of a 98cc mower engine they could just reach 10 miles and hour. Plenty fast enough for anyone's 10 or 12 year old to go at I would have thought! Never the less, teaching young people to drive, albeit off public roads, at a young age seems a good way to make better drivers when they do take their test.

Front Cover: A change from the usual advert this time, partly because I am running out of suitable shaped adverts! Clive Gravett gives the grass around Edwin Budding's grave a trim with his 8" Silens Messor. See the article about Clive's visit to the Lawnmower's birthplace in Stroud over the page.

IN SEARCH OF MY HERO

by Clive Gravett

We have to thank Edward Beard Budding for inventing the 'Grass Cutting Machine' in 1830. If it wasn't for him where would we be now, watching TV? Collecting stamps? Or worse being dragged out to the shops. What a fantastic chap Budding was for creating our hobby.

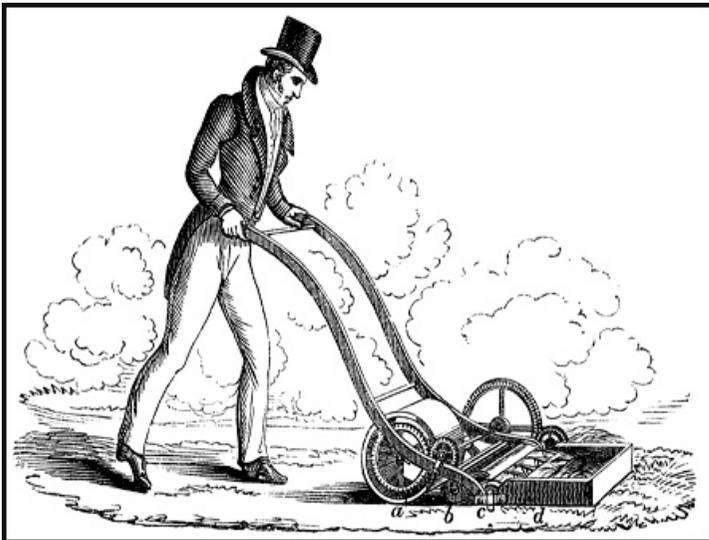
While I give talks on lawnmower history and know the Budding story I felt the need to get a bit closer to him. When my partner Mary suggested a trip to Cornwall I recommended a stopover in Stroud to break the journey as I was sure there must be an abundance of charity shops there for her to explore! When nearing Stroud we diverted to Dursley to seek out Budding's grave, after a lengthy search, removing brambles & nettles it was revealed the original inscription just visible.

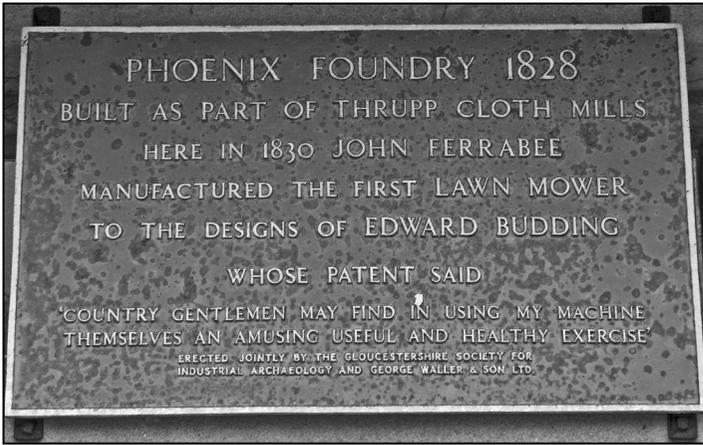
Here I was only six feet away from my hero, how could I pay tribute to him?

Fans of Elvis Presley visiting his tomb in Graceland would no doubt sit and strum an acoustic guitar while uttering the lyrics of blue suede shoes. What could I do?

I left Mary standing beside the grave rushed to my truck to bring out a Greens 8" Silens Messor (c1900) which although is said to be a 'Lady's' mower, man handling it on to a four ft high flint wall, and then running round the church & taking it off the other side was challenging. The effort was worth it as I was now able to pay tribute to Edward Beard Budding in my own special way by mowing the grass around his grave! While doing this I wondered what other mowers had passed by the grave since 1846, possibly earlier Greens, Ransomes Automaton, Follows & Bates or even one of his own, how many cemetery workers had passed by the grave mowing with their pride and joy not knowing that the creator of their treasured machine was watching over them - or should I say under them!

I am assuming that all OLMC members carry a small mower in the back of their vehicle when travelling, just in case they spot an untidy bit of grass at the motorway service area, the pub garden





with its spiral cutter that created the idea for his invention. We then went to the site of the Phoenix Iron works where the first mower was engineered, stopping to inspect the plaque (left) above the entrance of a modern industrial unit. Immediately opposite is the Stroud brew-

ery or when visiting a relative, am I wrong? We left EB in peace moving on to Stroud museum where they have a small display of Budding history including two mowers, neither of which is an original Budding as they have the wooden roller in front of the cutting cylinder, a modification that I understand was made in the 1850s. The display includes a crosscutting machine used in the woollen mills where Budding first conceived the idea of the spiral cutting cylinder.

Having exhausted the museum it was back to our hotel for a meal & a couple of pints of 'Budding Beer', more about that later.

The next day we left for Cornwall, on the way calling at Thrupp to visit Brinscombe Mill, where it is said that Budding had seen and worked on Lewis's horizontal napper (see image right)

ery who make 'Budding Pale Ale' their best selling beer, armed with a case of these we continued our journey to Cornwall.

Later that evening while enjoying my pint looking out over Fowey Harbour I reflected on the trip knowing that while I did not own the most desired mower, I did probably have the only one that has been within feet of its inventor and been taken to the place where his idea was born.



TIPS ON BUYING A SECOND HAND DENNIS LAWN MOWER

By Geoffrey Brooks

This article deals with proper Dennis mowers up to 1960. The Premier, in my opinion, is an improper Dennis, and should have been strangled at birth. Dennis Isis now fit modern engines to the Premier range and sell them worldwide.

My credentials are 35 years of a hobby then a full business restoring and repairing the beauties.

Broadly speaking, the Z type are 1946 - 60. The pre Z type, although that is not its official title, 1928 - 39. The earlier Blackburne engine machines are a different kettle of fish altogether.

As an overview, Dennis mowers are beautifully made and thoroughly over engineered. But, this does not mean that they are perfect. There are a few design faults that occur as on all mowers. Spares are still available thanks to my successor who advertises in Grassbox, so do not worry. The mowers come in three sizes, 24", 30" and 36".

1. Do not try to start the engine - that is the least of your worries and we will come to that last.

2. The grassbox. This is aluminium or steel with mahogany sides. These are generally rotten at the bottom where grass has been left in the box. It is designed to fit over the engine to protect it from the elements when not in use. Later Z types have all steel grassboxes with high sides and a cover over the engine.

3. Front Rollers. Very important on early mowers with flat sides as they stop the sides flexing. That means the quadrants must be tight on the shaft. A pinch bolt at the bottom does this. The outside rollers, curved on later models, are the more prone to wear. The shafts are best replaced if really bad, as the roller bushes wear less than the shaft.

4. Cutting cylinder. Quite often these are broken at the ends. This is not a to dire, but original 36" spirals are not available. Check the adjusters on the side plates, less than three threads showing at the back indicates terminal wear more often than not.

5. Bottom blade. This should be lipped but seldom is, watch your figures!! Again a new one could save a worn cylinder. In general though, worn blades can be made to cut well, when properly adjusted.

6. Rear rollers. Oil bath machines have a plug in the middle of the centre roller. They are generally no trouble. Early ones have three small screwdriver plugs in the middle roller. These are potential problems. Run the middle roller onto a plank and check for fore and aft rotation on each outside roller. Generally there is quite a lot due to lack of lubrication. Worn gears inside can last for ages until they lose their teeth and trouble occurs. Check up and down movement on outer rollers. In general

you can see if a mower has been well maintained.

7. Chains. Take off aluminium side cover and see what they look like. Usually the bottom shield, fixed to the mower, has holes in it due to slack and worn chain to the rear roller. Again, watch your fingers! While the cover is off, check the top sprocket that drives the rear rollers. This is usually very worn and hooked and will need replacing when you do the clutches.

8. Clutches. Potentially the worst part of a Dennis. The cone clutches go in with a bang and are always loose on the shaft, particularly on the early ones with three springs. The cutting cylinder clutch takes the most wear and they always cause trouble. The later ones with internal springs are better, unless you are fortunate to find one of my modern modifications with bonded brake linings by Ferodo. Always buy a mower with these as they will last for life. If the clutches are really loose on the shaft, then I would look elsewhere as new shafts, bushes and linings are difficult to fit and can be expensive. I know, I have seen dozens of mowers with this problem. You have been warned!

A spell of sucking ones teeth and murmuring, while having a cup of tea might get the price down, and you still have not looked at the engine! By this time the vendor will know you know your Dennis mowers and will be more forthcoming!

9. The engine. There is nothing like the sound of a Dennis engine ticking over with the correct carb and exhaust pipe. Once heard, never forgotten!. The correct carb is an Amal 49/002 for earlier

models, or Amal 47/022 for later machines. The correct exhaust pipe is one that has a down pipe and silencer at 90 degrees across the mower.

ALWAYS HAVE YOUR THUMB ON TOP OF THE STARTING HANDLE AND PULL UP. Never push down. I have seen broken thumbs, wrists and even an elbow, due to not having taken the previous advice.

If you are viewing it in the summer, I expect the mower will be running. Get the owner to start it for you and watch what he does and listen to what he says. If you are viewing in the winter ask when it was last running. If this is a cast off or a widow selling her late husband's machine then just check the ignition and see if there is any compression. Often the exhaust valve gets stuck open. Check by removing valve cover behind vertical tube of exhaust. If this is the case then try to get a lower price. It can easily be fixed at home.

Remove magneto cable from the plug and see if there is any spark. You will need to have bought a spare plug with you for this and it can be rested on the top of the engine with the mag lead attached. Make the earth better by holding the plug down with a screwdriver. No spark is not the end of the world and can easily be fixed at home. The magneto should be a Wipac or Lucas.

So now you have spent half an hour looking, it is all there and you like it, so buy it. The Dennis maker's plate is on the left of the machine on the side plate under the starting handle opening.

Next issue: How to repair and overhaul your Dennis.

RALLY REPORTS

Malvern Autumn Show 29 - 30th September.

Once again a select band of OLC members gathered at Malvern. As in previous years, the stand had a marquee and a 'playground' where mowers could be demonstrated actually cutting some grass.

There were some 40 machines dating from the earliest days with Keith Wootton's Ferrabee to the Harveys' 1970s Webb with trailer seat on display. Also present were the Williams family with their display of oil lamps, plus Shay, Rotoscythe and cable drive power tools and accessories. Michael Duck and Andrew Hall brought one of their big pony mowers and other early machines. Andy Grout brought an early Ransomes motor mower as well as push mowers, while Tony Edwards provided a cavalcade of Atcos from every decade back to the 1920s.

Something has caught Keith Wootton's and Andy Grout's eye outside the marquee at Malvern while Mike Duck sits next to his Shanks Horse Mower.



Also showing machines were Peter Barlow (all the way from Lancashire) and Dave and Brenda Stanford. Alec Hillier and Paul Channon displayed assorted hand mowers.

Malvern Show is unique, having a demonstration area which is flat enough for cylinder mowers, so Tony Hopwood hurtled round on the Anzani Lawnrider, and Mike and Paul Harvey demonstrated their three rotor Uni Horse ride on tractor mower and 1970s Webb (see

photo above). Ray Williams showed his Pre War rotoscythe, while Dave Stanford ran his unusual Honda powered American made machine last seen at the AGM. The weather was fine both days and a good time was had by all!

Tony Hopwood

Bedford Steam Fayre, Shuttleworth Park 14th - 16th September

Once again we had a wonderful meeting and once again we were blessed with good weather. I reported last year that we have been lucky over the years with weather, but given the typical rain and misery of the 2012 summer – we were even luckier this time. The Old Lawnmower Club display was similar to previous years – mostly the same members attending, mostly with the same machines, but ‘Joe Public’ didn’t seem to mind that in the least and there was a steady flow of (mostly) interested people past our



A future member at Bedford?

stands. Once again we had a great time, chatting mowers between ourselves, learning about different machines and learning about one another too, as well as taking turns to go off and see some of the rest of the Fayre. The rally theme this year was ‘steam wagons’ and there was a really wide range on show.

Unfortunately, Andy Grout’s attendance was very much restricted by a need to visit/support Mary while she was undergoing quite dramatic surgery on her neck. Andy told us that all seemed to go well, so I trust she is fully recovered by now. Other regulars were missing too, including the South coast team of Dusty

Miller, Richard Jones & Colin Stone. Their excuse was not as good as that of Stan Hardwick though, who was renewing a honeymoon visit to Jersey made 50 years ago - Congratulations to Stan and to ‘Mrs. Stan’ too. I bet that 50 years ago you never realised how you

would have the pleasure – really? of sharing your house with some 365 mowers, as well as with Stan! Getting back to mowers, Alec brought along an interesting hand mower that he recently restored; a Mence Smith according to the name cast into the wheels. (see *inside back cover for pictures*) The paint colour wasn’t much of a match to the original – the remains of an earlier JP restoration, apparently – but it attracted a lot of inter-

est. It’s strange what catches the eye.

So, if you want to have an interesting time with us next year contact me in the Spring to make arrangements, assuming, of course that our hosts, *The Bedfordshire Steam Engine Preservation Society*

(<http://www.bseps.org.uk/index.html>) invite us again. Since this was the 17th year that we have been present I’ll put money on where – God willing – I’ll be next September – Friday 13th to Sunday 15th 2013. See you there too?

Dick Hardwick

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

- Ransomes Ace Mk2, c/w box. C: Mrs P Church
T: 01582 527747 (Bedfordshire)#
Manuals: Qualcast, Allen Scythe etc. Peter Anderson T:07739 320924
E:lamniboy@yahoo.co.uk (Beds?)#
- Ransomes Mk14 1947 (authenticated with prov-
enance) Runs. No grassbox. Steve File
T: 01462 639410 (Beds)#
- Hayn hand mower, c/w box, FTGH. C: Toby
Sears T: 01590 644269 E:
themings@yahoo.co.uk (Lymington)
- Two 2-stroke mowers, ~12" with boxes, maybe
pre-war. C: Philip Browning T: 01234
376577 (Keysoe) #
- Two 24" Dennis mowers with grassboxes
~1930's, 1 in use, other sat for 40 years and
original C: David Bond T: 01763 852806
(Royston) #
- 20" Ransomes Marquis BSA engine, c/w grass-
box; 18" Ransomes Marquis, Briggs & Strat-
ton engine c/w box. C: Alan Carter. T: 01992
551221 (Hertford)
- Webb Witch, brand new with original box and
instruction card, never used, c/w box, Over
£99.00 C: Lorna Baker T: 07742 438495 E:
lorna.baker@live.co.uk (Romford)#
- 14" Suffolk Unknown, Suffolk Lawn Mowers Lim-
ited Stowmarket, type 75 G-14, c/w box, 45
Euro C: Gerard Boink T: 00 53 5726190 E:
gerardboink@hotmail.com (Enschede, Neth-
erlands)#
- 14" Atco Unknown, Offers C: Peter Legg T:
01977 708217 E: peterlegg50@aol.com
(Pontefract)#
- 12" Suffolk Super Colt, Suffolk, £10 C: Nigel
Spencer T: 07788 915609 E:
nigel@fsmr.org.uk (Oakham Rutland)#
- Lawn Boy, Eclipse, Excello and Jacobson C:
Glenn Bachert, E: gkatz@comcast.net
(Chicago, USA)#
- 20" Ransomes Certes, c/w box, Offers C: Gerard
Buckle T: 01472 591893 E:
g.buckle@ntlworld.com (Grimsby)#
- 16" Atco De Luxe, 1931, Villiers 2S, c/w box, £25
to charity C: David Thomson T: 07971
201087 E: thomsondat@aol.com
(Harpندن)#
- 12" Qualcast Panther, c/w box, FTGH C: Mark
Leighton T: 01403 753959 E:
mark@leighton6047.freeseve.co.uk
(Billingshurst)#
- 24" Dennis Z Type, 1947, Dennis/Blackburn no
335 E 140, c/w box, £25 to charity C: David
Thomson T: 07971 201087 E:
thomsondat@aol.com (Harpندن)#
- Webb Miniature for children C: Katherine Grif-
fiths T: 07787 004 886 E:
griffithsk1@btinternet.com (London)#
- 12" Webb Witch, c/w box C: Bob Weeks T: 0208
8419429 E: bob.weeks07@gmail.com
(Uxbridge)#
- 24 " Dennis , 1920s C: Vic Razzell T: 07895
097871 01403 864699 E:
vrazzell@btinternet.com (Horsham)#
- 17" Atco Kick start, 1950s, Villiers, FTGH C: Mal
Roberts, E: malrob@idnet.com (Newtown)#
- 20" Ransomes Auto Certes , Villiers, c/w box,
£100 C: Nikki Meek T: 07843 204023 E:
njmeek@hotmail.com (Birmingham) #
- 24" Atco Royale B24, c/w box, £75 C: Nikki
Meek T: 07843 204023 E:
njmeek@hotmail.com (Birmingham) #
- 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk3, c/w box, £25 C: David
James T: 07811 055111 E:
itsuz@hotmail.co.uk (Swansea)#
- 10"/12" Webb Witch, c/w box, £25.00 C: Kath
Rayfield, E: kath@ourfamily.f2s.com
(Sutton)#
- 18" Jacobsen Championship Greens Mower, c/w
box C: Derek Green T: 01467 625931 E:
derekgreen5@gmail.com (Aberdeen)#
- 30" Dennis Unknown, c1960, c/w box, FTGH C:
Richard Miles T: 07768 364117 E:
mcourtldodge@aol.com (London)#
- 14" Atco 1455/6, 1955, c/w box, FTGH C: Ray
Sefton T: 020 8521 7047 E:
ray.sefton@btinternet.com (London)#
- Suffolk, unknown Pony and a Colt and one with
a Villiers engine, Villiers, £75 C: Norman
Price T: 07986 201954 E:
muckelprice@hotmail.com (Cardiff)#
- 14", Atco Lightweight, 1960, c/w box, Offers C:
Jean-Francois Petit T: 33 6 85 41 13 25 E:
patouillets@hotmail.com (Fontainebleau,
France)#
- Pennsylvania C: Paul Westwood T: 07810
020097 E: lm@westwoodheritage.com
(Godalming)#
- 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk5, 1964, c/w box, £10
ono C: Tony Maskrey T: 01628 523704 E:
anthony.maskrey@talktalk.net
(Maidenhead)#

- 14" Atco Lightweight, Villiers 2S, c/w box, £350
C: Jean-Francois Petit T: 07860 414347 E:
thomas.petit@vericott.co.uk (Lewes)#
- 10" Suffolk Swift, c/w box C: Diana Pooley T:
0208 6925203 07957 940791 E:
dianapooley@googlemail.com (London)#
- 12" Atco , Villiers, c/w box C: Julie Davison, E:
julie.davison@tiscali.co.uk (Chester)#
- 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk3, c/w box C: julie Davi-
son, E: julie.davison@tiscali.co.uk
(Chester)#
- 10" Webb Whippet, c1955, c/w box, FTGH C:
Dennis Beale T: 0118 9428624 E:
denbeale@mail.com (Reading)#
- 12" Wolf Cadet, c1950-60', Mains electric, FTGH
C: Dennis Beale T: 0118 9428624 E:
denbeale@mail.com (Reading)#
- 10" Webb Whippet, c1955, c/w box, FTGH C:
Dennis Beale T: 0118 9428624 E:
denbeale@mail.com (Reading)#
- 17" Atco , 1921, Villiers, c/w box C: tom tucker T:
0118 9712180 E: tomntucker00@aol.com
(reading)#
- Suffolk Super Punch Dual Drive, c/w box, FTGH
C: Jonquil Lowe T: 01963 32549 E:
jonquil.lowe@gmail.com (Yeovil)#
- Allen Scythe, c1964, £200/Offers C: Chris Turner
T: 01621 878032 office hours E:
cjt68cjt@hotmail.co.uk (Braintree)#
- Folbate Model J2, c/w box, FTGH C: C G Camp-
bell T: 0131 5522159 E:
colincampbell@ednet.co.uk (Edinburgh)#
- Suffolk Viceroy II, c/w box, FTGH C: C G Camp-
bell T: 0131 5522159 E:
colincampbell@ednet.co.uk (Edinburgh)#
- Selection of motor mowers, mainly 1950s Atco
and similar. Seller would prefer to move as
batch. C: David Francis E: 01495 785369 E:
david.francis.monkswood@gmail.com
(South Wales)#
- 48" Allen Scythe, c1953, Villiers, Offers C: Alan
James Hall T: 01434 688233 07958 648238
E: alanhallgarden@aol.com (Hexham)#
- Ransomes Marquis C: K Boxall T: 01264 790745
E: keith@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk
(Andover)#
- 14" Atco 1460/1, 1960, c/w box C: Michael Eden
T: 01992 713824 E:
keith@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk (Waltham
Abbey)#
- Ransomes Ransomes mk5, c/w box, \$85.00
Canada C: Guy Chaput, E:
catplate1@gmail.com (Ottawa, Canada)#
- 14" Webb Battery, c/w box, £75 C: Frank Nixon
T: 07730 268289 E: frankc.nixon@sky.com
(Preston)#
- Collection of spares for mowers from 1970s and
80s, possibly earlier as well. C: Tom at WM
Plant T: 01228 536391 E:
spares@wmplant.co.uk (Cumbria)#
- 14" Webb Unknown, c/w box, £10 C: Janet
Rooke T: 01227 730625 E:
Jrooke1@btinternet.com (Canterbury)#
- Webb hand mower, complete but rusty. C: Colin
Roberts T: 01543 372848:
cr.roberts@o2.co.uk (Cannock)#
- Selection of motor mowers and other imple-
ments, mainly 1920s, including number of
Atco Standards, Atco Standard Oval Frame,
Shanks Rajah and others. Seller would ide-
ally prefer to sell as complete lot. C: Clive
Reeves E:
clive Reeveswork@googlemail.com
(Warwickshire)#
- Atco motor mower, 1960s. C: Terry Huxtable E:
terry.emailaddress@gmail.com
(Stevenage)#
- Ransomes Ajax Mk5, c/w box. C: Ken Gunary E:
RosKen@gunary.force9.co.uk (Crewe)#
- 14" Atco, kick start model, 1950s, c/w box. C:
Robert Hinton T: 07973 327601 E:
robert@hinton100.freemove.co.uk
(Staffordshire)#
- Atco kick start model, 1950s. C: Richard Rivett
E: richard.rivett41@btinternet.com (High Wy-
combe)#
- 12" Qualcast Super Panther, FTGH. C: Paul Ist-
ed E: paulandlynnisted@hotmail.com
(Unknown)#
- Rotosythe; Allen Scythe; Ransomes cylinder
mower. C: Nick Mullins T: 07738506264 E:
nick.mullins@pinaclsolutions.com
(Denbigh)#
- Ransomes Multimower Mk3 C: Shaud Liddiard
T: 07725 944610 (Hampshire)#
- Suffolk Super Punch, c/w box C: Justin Dn E:
justindn@hotmail.com (Canada)#
- 12" Ransomes Centenary Deluxe, 1932/3, c/w
box. C: Graham/Heather Fraser E:
holmehill@btinternet.com (Unknown)#
- Suffolk Punch; Suffolk Colt C: Geoff Hatton T:
07966 114199 E: geoff.hatton@gmail.com
(Wokingham)#

WANTED

- Draw bar for a 14-inch Chain Automaton. C: Bri-
an Hornsey. T: 01256 816188 (Basingstoke).
E: brianhornsey26@gmail.com
- 21" Mountfield Emperor. C: Alan Carter. T:
01992 551221 (Hertford)

Mower pusher – Rendle, MP, or both - and JP Super Power Mower, the one with the water-cooled Villiers sloper. Condition not important; Cash awaits. The machines will be kept and cherished in the UK, but I live in Dubai, so emails only please, unless you're feeling incredibly rich. C: Will Grime. T: 0097 1553003901, E: bigwill@btinternet.com. Jap Mk4 engine - for Howard Rotavator Any condition C: R Sewell T:01767 677209 (Cams)#

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.

Blind enthusiast seeks mowers to restore to original condition or refurbish. Any make and model as long as all parts are with the machine. C: Lewis Alexander T: 07936 877500 E: turningbytouch@gmail.com (Rhyl)#

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 £15 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 W: www.hdtrust.co.uk**

GARFITTS SPARES

Contact Richard Jones on 01243 575937 or by email at lawnmower.jones@hotmail.co.uk (**note**

new email address) 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

All membership renewals were sent out in July around the time of the previous Grassbox. We have had a good response and the majority of members have already renewed. The simplest way to check if you have renewed or not is to read the address label on the envelope containing this Grassbox. If it has "Until: 2012" in the bottom right hand corner that means you have not yet rejoined. This will be the last Grassbox you receive if you do not rejoin.

WEBSITE

Username: olcmember
Password 12"Sidewheel
Words must be spelled correctly with the right capital and lower case letters and symbols. Don't forget, this is a generic login so that all members can access all areas of the site. If you want to add your own comments to pages or contribute to the forums you'll need to set up your own specific username and password.

WEBSITE CONTENT

We have been adding more pages and content to the website over the past few months and would like to encourage more members to visit and use the site. A number of members have registered to use the site in the past but relatively

few of these have ever posted their own comments or participated in the forums. We are aware that a few members have been unable to log on from time to time but the majority have no problem. We'll do our best to help anyone that is having trouble logging on if you send an email (address below).

The initial registration on the site can appear daunting to some members. We have to use this type of process to prevent the site being invaded by spurious users who would then send spam and other potentially malicious emails and so on. Even with the system we have in place we get more false registrations than legitimate users. Each user is approved before they can log on to the site for the first time which helps keep out the people we don't want. After the initial registration, logging on is no more difficult that using any other website that requires a username and password. Anyone who is familiar with browser based email such as Hotmail, Yahoo or Gmail should be able to add their own comments or posts in the forums because it is all done on screen by typing in the appropriate boxes.

The forums are being used by a small but growing number of members. These are a good place to air your news and views or to ask with help with your preservation projects. There have been some lively discussions in the past few weeks.

The classified adverts section allows members to list machines for sale directly and to ask for specific "wanted" items. It is not intended to replace the adverts which appear in *Grassbox*, most of which come from people who are not members of the club. We also place "emergency" adverts on the website including mowers which must be

sold quickly, for example when the seller is moving house before the next *Grassbox*.

There is a growing selection of operating manuals, freely available and presented in PDF format for easy download or onscreen viewing. Each has been scanned from the original and cleaned up to create the best possible version.

A list of suppliers and sources of spares is sorted in various categories so that you can easily find the information. We will happily add relevant information if you let us know.

BINDERS FOR GRASSBOX

When our Editor introduced the A5 size of *Grassbox* at issue No. 73 a couple of years ago, it was only a matter of time until a suitable binder was needed. As from the A.G.M. in May A5 binders are available from Robbie's shop, either directly or via post.

Binders are covered in a simulated leather material that is very similar to 'Grassbox green,' with spring loaded plastic twine retaining strings. There are 13 strings to cover several years

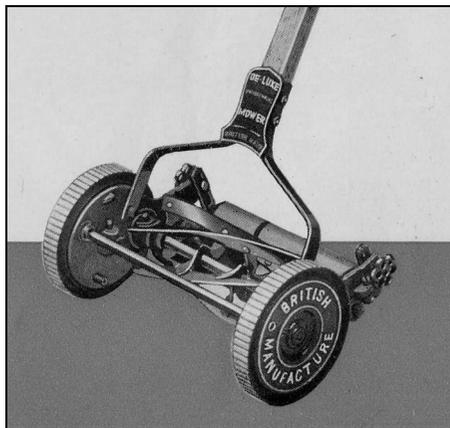
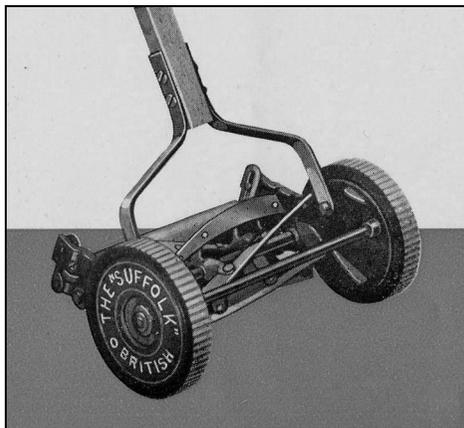
The Club logo and magazine name are embossed in gold on the spine.

Current price is £4.50 each plus £1.50 for p & p. Minor changes in both costs may be appropriate with future batches.

They proved quite popular at the A.G.M. but if you weren't there, or didn't get one then, you can do so now by sending £6.00 with your request, to Robbie. His contact details are shown elsewhere in *Grassbox*. After you have put all issues from No. 73 to date into your first one there will still be room for another year or so.

Dick Hardwick

Below left is a Suffolk catalogue image from 1938 showing the Suffolk Standard. Note that this has the Suffolk name on it, and just the word British. This machine came in 8, 10, 12 and 14 in sizes. **Below right** is a Suffolk De-luxe from the same catalogue, showing the badge. Note that there is no Suffolk name on the mower.



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John Cruise (Old Lawnmower Club Member)

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Next Edition: Winter 2013

Edition 82 - Autumn 2012. Edited by William Proudfoot



Above is Alec Hillier's 'Mence Smith' mower, the name being that of a hardware store in Northampton, though the company had other stores in towns elsewhere in the UK prior to World War II. The mower has several signs of being a Suffolk product, one being the stub axles for the wheels being held into the frames with a small square headed bolt. Note the similarity to the Suffolk Standard on the facing page. **Below** is a Suffolk Deluxe, displayed next to the Mence Smith at the Bedford Rally.

The obvious feature making this a Deluxe is the distinctive handwheel adjusters for the rear roller and the unusual shaped badge. Mechanically, this mower has ball bearings, whereas the Standard does not. This mower is entirely unbranded, the wheels just say "British Manufacture" on them, though they are exactly the same shape as those in the picture above. The Suffolk name very rarely appears on mowers from the pre-war period, though they made quite a lot of these cheap sidewheelers.





Bill Outram is always a keen advocate of having mowers working at the Annual Rally, indeed he even presents a bottle of Champaign to the best example each year. Therefore it seemed appropriate to include Peter Hampton's photo of his restored Godiva Motor Mower filling the air with a healthy dose of vintage engine fumes at this years rally.

A run of the mill machine yes, but Ray Hogben was asked to restore this Qualcast Panther for a friend, and has made a very smart job of it. The new transfer, available through the Club, really sets off this mower. The paint was matched at a B & Q store, and looks a good sort of bright green colour suitable for quite a few machines.

