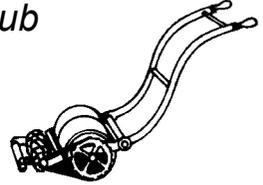


# Grassbox

*The magazine of The Old Lawnmower Club*

Number 85

Summer 2013



**Inside this issue:**

Annual rally report

Backlapping tips

Lawn mower endurance tests

A vintage advertisement for Green's Lawn Mowers. The top part features the text "GREEN'S Lawn Mowers AND" in a stylized font. Below this is an illustration of a lawn mower on a lawn with a house in the background. A red banner across the middle reads "GARDEN REQUISITES". At the bottom, it says "HUNDREDS of THOUSANDS IN USE". The bottom section contains the text: "THOMAS GREEN & SON Limited, Ironfounders, Engineers, and Machinists, SOLE PATENTEES AND MANUFACTURERS OF The 'Silens Messor' Lawn Mower, &c., SMITHFIELD IRONWORKS, LEEDS; AND New Surrey Works, Southwark St., London, S.E."

**GREEN'S**  
Lawn Mowers  
AND  
**GARDEN REQUISITES**  
HUNDREDS of THOUSANDS IN USE  
THOMAS GREEN & SON Limited,  
Ironfounders, Engineers, and Machinists,  
SOLE PATENTEES AND MANUFACTURERS OF  
The "Silens Messor" Lawn Mower, &c.,  
SMITHFIELD IRONWORKS, LEEDS; AND  
New Surrey Works, Southwark St., London, S.E.

A vintage advertisement for Green's Silens Messor Lawn Mowers. The top part features the text "Green's" in a large, red, stylized font. Below this is the text "SILENS MESSOR" in a smaller font. A small crest with a lion and a unicorn is visible, with the text "BY SPECIAL ROYAL WARRANT REFERRED TO HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE KING". Below this is an illustration of a lawn mower on a lawn with a house in the background. A red banner across the bottom reads "LAWN MOWERS".

**Green's**  
"SILENS MESSOR"  
BY SPECIAL ROYAL WARRANT  
REFERRED TO HIS MOST  
GRACIOUS MAJESTY  
THE KING  
**LAWN MOWERS**



Above: A group shot of club members at the Annual Rally on Sunday 19th May.

Right: Roger Wilkinson put his immaculate Dennis to good use this year, and cut the letters OLC in the grass before too many others got their mowers going and mowed over it!

Front cover: Green's 1904 catalogue back and front covers.



## CONTACTING THE CLUB

Please note new Chairman.

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## EDITORIAL

Now it seems that for the first time in several years we have been treated to a summer. However, while this means we get some good weather and it isn't raining every other day, the down side is of course that the grass doesn't grow and our mowers stand idle in the shed. This is not a problem if you dislike mowing as the great British public are all supposed to, and weeks without rain probably won't help the grassless lawn promoted at this years Chelsea Flower show very much either.

This odd idea is that a lawn should be a mass of low growing flowers rather than grass, though I doubt this would stand up to use by a family and their pets very well. I can't help thinking that lawns and the mowers that cut them will will outlast such ideas by many years.

Enjoy the summer!

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## CROSSWORD

With ideas and help from Margaret & Geoff Christopher and Linda Child, Dick Hardwick has put together a crossword to challenge your 'little grey cells' for an hour or so. It's orientated towards mowers and engineering but in desperation if he found a word that fitted, he used it! If you don't want to write in your copy of Grassbox, you can photocopy the blank and fill that in. Answers are in the next issue. If you find it interesting and perhaps would like more of the same in future issues drop Dick an email (treasurer@oldlawnmowerclub.co.uk) or phone him (01462 816018). In particular he would like your views on how difficult it was. **The crossword is on page 14 of this issue.**



*Above: New club Chairman, right, Robbie Robinson won this years guess the part competition, organised as usual by Richard Jones, seen on the left. Richard also runs the club shop.*

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Brenda Stanford picked up on this model of an Atco Mower van, which was recently sold by at auction by Lawrence's of Crewkerne in Dorset. Apparently this is rare design for the model, and it fetched £380, although having its original box would have increased the price somewhat too no doubt.



# ANNUAL RALLY REPORT

By Keith Wootton

Our annual rally and AGM weekend at Milton Keynes Museum on 18/19 May was another great success. Numbers were down slightly on recent years but I think we can probably attribute this to a combination of the poor weather (and forecast for the weekend) in the days running up to the event, some notable absentees this year and the continuing high price of fuel which can make it expensive for people travelling a long way. Nevertheless the turnout was respectable (probably 80 or so members over the weekend) and included some regulars (meaning they have been coming since our first rally in 1989) and many new faces. As it turned out the weather was not too bad which certainly helped ensure we managed to get through the packed programme more or less on time.

Our chosen theme of “catalogue and badged mowers” attracted a good selection of machines, including some fine

examples of Victorian Follows & Bate mowers in various guises as well numerous sidewheel mowers with a variety of names. It was interesting to compare them side by side to see the similarities and differences. Someone counted five near identical sidewheel mowers, all with different names on show on the Sunday afternoon. There were plenty of other examples.

By chance a number of members also chose to bring interesting and occasionally rare identical mowers to the event, again presenting members with a chance to see these machines first hand. Mowers falling into this category included a couple of Follows & Bate Climax sidewheels and a pair of Ransomes Reversibles. In a similar vein, Brian Radam turned up with some replica Budding mowers made using the original patent drawings and with similar techniques as displayed by him on Channel 4's “How Britain Worked” last year. These replicas have all been bought by club members

(Including Stan Hardwick, seen *left* with Brian) and will surely be seen at various shows around the country soon. It was interesting to compare them with the Budding style mowers on display in the Museum's own collection and the



one owned by my good self. The first thing that struck me was how much bigger they were than the existing period machines.

Another sub-theme I noticed was a number of people brought along otherwise identical mowers in different sizes and there was also a large array of different Multum in Parvo machines on show, courtesy of Messrs Proudfoot.

The auction was held on the Sunday morning and there were fewer lots than in previous years. Nevertheless there was a decent selection of machines and the consensus afterwards was that they attracted slightly higher bids. Star lots on the day were probably the Atco Standard "Oval Frame" that sold for £130 and the Ransomes Patent Chain Automaton that sold for £50. There is a full list on the website.

The AGM was held in the afternoon to conduct the formal business of the weekend. Peter Hampton was unable to attend so I deputised as chairman for the day. I reported that the membership numbers had increased slightly in the past year and the committee had continued to manage the club and its activities very well. Our treasurer Dick Hardwick reported that we had recovered the finances this year to record a small surplus and there would be no need to increase the membership fees. Peter had previously indicated that he would like to stand down as chairman but remain on the committee. Michael Duck our club secretary and Andrew Hall had also indicated that they wished to stand down from the committee. All three have worked hard for the club during their years in office and I offered my personal thanks and on behalf of the rest of the committee to them for their contribution.

We therefore needed a new chairman and secretary as well as new committee members. Robbie Robinson offered to stand as chairman and was elected. For those who don't know, Robbie has been a committee member ever since we've had a committee and most recently looked after the club shop. Dick Hardwick was re-elected as treasurer and Alec Hillyar was elected as secretary. Christopher Proudfoot, Richard Jones, Henry Ellis and John Barnard were re-elected to the committee while Colin Stone, Joe Roulstone and Clive Gravett were elected to join the committee.

The meeting was rounded off by a presentation to Brenda Stanford to thank her for her continuing work to process new memberships. The Charlie Jones Award for the member who has made a contribution to the aims of the club was awarded to Brian Radam in recognition of his support for the club since we started back in 1990.

Throughout the Sunday members competed, sometimes without realising, for the prize for the best working machine. This year's winner was Alan Cullen with his 1950s Ransomes Conquest. As far as I can recall this is not only the newest machine that's won the prize but only the second hand mower. It was beautifully restored as well, an excellent example of a machine from an often neglected era. Another regular competition is "Spot the Parts" which this year was won by Robbie Robinson who correctly identified all of the components. The annual prize for the Andrew Grout Plate was won by my Ferrabee Improved mower which was a touch embarrassing, not least because it had won the same prize a few years ago. I'll make sure that doesn't happen again! See you next year for our 25th rally.

# TO BOLDLY MOW....

By Joe Roulstone

The lawnmower might seem an odd choice as a symbol of adventure but, like in all things, there are those who will try to push things to the limits and, sometimes, beyond. The following paragraphs are a testament to endurance, imagination and stubbornness. We salute you!

Most familiar to those outside of the lawn mowing cognoscenti is probably "The Straight Story". Filmed by David Lynch and released in 1999, this chronicles the real life 240 mile journey across Iowa and Wisconsin taken by Alvin Straight aboard an aging John Deere 110 lawn tractor. Straight, a 73 year old Second World War Veteran took the journey to visit his ill estranged brother. He travelled by mower having had his driving licence revoked due to his own ill health. The journey took six weeks. Lynch's film is beautifully shot, if somewhat sentimental, and, in purely lawn mowing terms, demonstrates the beating that these small machines can take. Indeed, in terms of the longevity of surviving, functional internal combustion engines, I wonder if any other application can currently beat the lawn mower.

If Alvin Straight's journey was born out of necessity, the epic Operation Matador trip of 1959 was more a case of student high jinks. Five students from Hatfield Technical College, Tom Hudson, Mike Smith, Mike Savage, Hugh Tansley and John Wilson, wanted to test the reliability of a small petrol en-

gine under sustained use. The bet, for the typically English stake of a half pint of beer each, was that they could drive a lawnmower from Edinburgh to London in four days. With the help of Ransomes engineer Mark Grimwade the team prepared a Matador mower for the arduous trip. The modifications were slight. A larger sump, lights, a horn and wheels on the trailing seat in place of the roller and off they went, bearing a haggis as gift for the Keeper of the Royal Parks in London. The convoy of mower, Austin A40 pickup truck and Bedford Dormobile left Edinburgh Castle at noon on Saturday and duly arrived in Hyde Park at 3.00pm the following Wednesday, the machine having covered 375 miles nonstop.

A 12 minute documentary film of the trip can be found at:

<http://www.eafa.org.uk/catalogue/2149>

Operation Matador took place at Easter and in July of the same year Mark Grimwade and his team were at it again. The Royal Aero Club, with sponsorship from the Daily Mail, was marking the fiftieth anniversary of Bleriot's first cross-Channel flight by staging a race from Marble Arch to the Arc de Triomphe. With two Matador mowers geared up to reach a terrifying 15mph, the race was on. The first leg to Croydon was completed by mower where Mr Grimwade switched to a hired Tiger Moth which flew him to an air field outside Paris. The second Matador was ready and waiting. The French cobbles,

however, were not friendly and the fuel tank soon fell off. It was fixed back in place with elastic while the team took lunch and the course was finished in a time of 10 hours and 48 minutes. The winning team managed the race in just less than 41 minutes. The air race certificate is reprinted in Brian Bell's book "Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies: Agricultural Engineers", the only source I have found to detail Ransomes' involvement in the race.

A very recent lawn mower odyssey was the Bold and Gracious Tour of 2011. Organised by Kohler and Alpina, this publicity stunt took three female drivers on a 2000 km, 30 day trek through Europe aboard a lawn tractor. Beginning in Oxford on July 1st, passing through France, Germany and Austria, the mower arrived in Reggio Emilia on July 30th. While this is not an "old lawn-mower" story, it will, of course, become one eventually.

A very comprehensive website on the Bold and Gracious Tour can be found at:

<http://www.bgtour.it/>

And now we turn from endurance to speed. I am going to avoid discussion on lawn mower racing since the rules stipulate that, in the interests of safety, the machines must not be equipped to cut grass. I turn, instead, to the lawn mower land speed record the rules of which specify that the machine MUST be able to cut grass (on the same day that the record is set) in order to qualify. Most readers will be aware of Project Runningblade, the British team that set a Guinness land speed record at Pend-

ine Sands on May 22nd – 23rd 2010. The driver Don Wales managed a speed of 87.883 mph, breaking the 81.972mph record set by American Bobby Cleveland at Bonneville Salt Flats on July 4th 2006. Cleveland returned the favour on September 25th 2010 by achieving 96.529mph on his machine "104+". This is, as far as I am aware, the record at the time of writing. The machines which reached these incredible speeds can be seen at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ypni0RUjig&feature=relmfu>  
<http://www.fastestlawnmower.com/>

As a footnote, Bobby Cleveland has a long and illustrious career in taking lawn mowers beyond the pale. His CV includes 85mph on a mower at Atlanta Motor Speedway in 1995, numerous mower racing championships the creation of the world's first "monster mower" and the world record for monster mower jumping!

It is, perhaps, not so strange after all that such familiar machines would be pushed to such extremes from motives as diverse as commercialism, competition, necessity or the sheer joy of going one step beyond. Whatever the reason and whatever the challenge it is always good to know that there are men willing to boldly mow.....

*The Ransomes road run we mentioned in Grassbox 70, and it is good to know a little more about the event. The film on the web is worth watching as it is quite a nice period piece of filming with an equally 'period' commentary to match. Editor.*

# BACKLAPPING

By Richard Jones

Backlapping is a sharpening process used by a lot of golf and cricket clubs and other professional and domestic cylinder mower users. It can be done on just about any cylinder mower, be it a greenkeeper's mower with lots of blades, or a domestic hand, motor or electric mower. It is a simple and easy way of restoring your cut, but if your cylinder and bottom blade is very chipped, bent or broken a regrind is the only option.

So, the first thing to do is get a pot of backlapping paste. This comes in fine, medium or coarse grit, and is a water-based product, I would suggest a medium or coarse grit, and can be bought at most mower shops or we can get it through Garfitts.

Next, it is time to remove your chain or gear cover (on sidewheel mowers one wheel needs to come off). The cylinder needs to be turned backwards, years ago would have been done with a brace, if the drive is disconnected, or on hand mowers by reversing the ratchets in the rollers or wheels and pulling it backwards. Some manufacturers put a threaded hole in a drive gear or sprocket into which a pin (or one of the wooden handgrips) could be screwed to turn it backwards by hand. Nowadays it is much easier to use a drill with a slow speed option. To drive the cylinder, most have a nut or screw holding the gear or sprocket on the end of the cylinder, and you will need to make sure this is tight before starting. If there is enough thread, a second nut acting as a lock nut can be useful here. You will need a socket to fit, and an adaptor to

go in your drill, you can buy these adaptors at tool or most hardware shops and come in 1/4 , 3/8 or 1/2 drive or can be made yourself. On sidewheel mowers, a socket that fits over the shaft and has a slot that engages with the pawl can be made up.

I find it is always better to remove the chain or one of the gears, so when turning the cylinder you are not turning the roller as well, and this saves propping the machine up and is easier on the drill.

Time to set the cylinder, set it so it's just touching the bottom blade, (known as on cut) you should have your backlapping paste at the ready, and an old paint brush to apply the paste to a spinning cylinder. Set your drill so you can turn the cylinder backwards, and at a slow speed, too fast and you will throw the paste off the cylinder!

I would say it's safer and better to do it with 2 people, one on the drill and other on the paste. Start applying the paste when you are ready and will soon hear a grinding sound, and will need to keep feeding the cylinder and when the grinding sound goes, time for more paste!

You will also need to stop from time to time to set the cylinder down again (again light contact) The time it takes will vary, it could be 5 mins or a lot longer depending on how bad it is. Wipe the paste off, or wash it and what you are looking for on the blades is a nice even surface with a slight sharp edge on the front of each blade.

Once finished remember to clean any paste off the bottom blade as well, and will probably need to set the cylinder

down again, if it is not touching (again light contact)

Now the paper test!

Dry paper is what is needed, ideally the cylinder should cut the paper all the way along, and on every blade. If its not possible to achieve this, it should at the very least fold the paper all the way

along. After setting, refit your chain/sprockets and cover, and last thing is to check your roller (front on roller mowers, rear on side wheelers) so that it's even, and re-check your height of cut. Now you are ready to make a nice job of cutting some grass!

## HOW GREEN IS YOUR MOWER?

By Tony Hopwood

Not just how much grass is stuck to it, but how efficient is it at cutting grass? Mowers need power to cut. Obviously, the most efficient is a hand mower worked by someone else, such as your wife or partner! Motor mowers need fuel, so it's a question of stripes per pint. The idea for this came when I was given a Westwood Gazelle tractor mower. It had not done a lot of work although it was about 25 years old, so I didn't look at this gift horse's teeth too closely. It goes well, so I tried it out on my paddock. Previously, I had used modified 36" Dennises. Firstly a 1947 Z6, then a a987 Premier with a 12 HP Kohler engine, a fearsome device which I didn't dare run at full throttle because the moles make the going too rough.

The paddock (about an acre) gets mown once a month and the only machine that can cope with the molehills and two foot nettles, docks and cow parsley wet or dry is my '50s Allen Scythe with a trailer seat.

The Kohler Dennis is speedy, taking 45 minutes if you don't mind risking life and limb. The Allen is slow, taking over two hours. The Allen handbook says a man can

mow an acre an hour - all lies! The Westwood set me thinking. It would be nice to mow the paddock in comfort with its padded seat and rubber tyres. Even with its 6 HP Tecumseh engine, it goes even slower than the Allen in first gear, and the grass had to be dry too. So the Dennis can clobber the paddock with 12 HP, the Westwood can just about cope with 6 HP, but the Allen can cope easily with its little Villiers two stroke of about 1.5 HP! Speed isn't everything.

Clearly, the much derided Allen Scythe is a more fuel efficient paddock cutting machine than the others.



# ADVERTISEMENTS

## FOR SALE

40" Ransomes Ride on with grassbox (1950s/60s) C: Michael Dakic. T: 01243 542621 (Chichester).

Shay Rotorscythe Windsor, c/w instruction book, £20; Mayfield Motor Scythe c/w trailer and balance beam £50; Atco 17" 1950s, no box. £20; 6 assorted grassboxes, 20"/22" £10 each, £50 the lot. All money to Macmillan Nurses. C: Michael Stephenson. T: 07976 160417 (Hazel Grove, Cheshire).

14" Greens Flyweight c/w grassbox; 18" Webb Wolseley c/w grassbox. C: Alan Carter. T: 01992 551221 (Hertford)

16" Atco Standard, c1927, restored, ex-show machine, c/w box; 22" Atco Standard, c1930, c/w 247cc Villiers engine with pulley to drive ancillary machinery, brass tank; Qualcast Powered Panther, c1954, 34cc JAP engine, c/w box; 14" Ransomes Marquis Mk3, c1929, chevron blades; 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk2, restored 1999, no box; 12" Gamages roller mower, c1947 (made by Qualcast), good logos; 14" Greens Silens Messor, No 296069; Pulvo garden cultivator, strange push-along object with spiked blades. No reasonable offer refused. C: Chris Thompson T: 01376 32059 E: ceejaythom@yahoo.co.uk (Braintree)

Would you like to start your own Lawn Mower Museum? Well, now is your chance. 100 plus mowers for sale ranging from approx 1900 to 1960. Push, motor and electric. Vast range. £500 the lot BUT, and a big but, take one – you take them all. C: Howard Annett T: 01403 790530 or 07860 370307 E: howardannett@btinternet.com (Horsham)

12" Suffolk Colt, c1970, £10 C: T Jones T: 01291 671379 E: tombeg@tiscali.co.uk (Monmouth)

16" Ransomes, Sturmeay Archer, c/w box, Offers C: John Baines T: 01209 862700 E: johnbaines48@live.co.uk (Truro)

16" Suffolk Punch 13A c1965, c/w Type 75G14, c/w box, Offers in region of £50 C: Philippa Standley T: 01892 782959 E: p.j.standley@talk21.com (Tunbridge Wells)#

14" Atco De Luxe, 1971, c/w box, FTGH C: Barrie Radford T: 01283 564308 E: pam.radford@hotmail.co.uk (Burton on Trent)#

12" Qualcast Punch, 1989, c/w box, FTGH C: Barrie Radford T: E: pam.radford@hotmail.co.uk (Burton on Trent)#

16" JP, 1930s, Offers C: David Newstead T: 01322 554923 E: Newsteadpam@aol.com (Dartford)#

12" Ransomes Ajax Ball Bearing MK2, 1930s, c/w box, £20 C: Arthur Davies T: 01784 259750 E: arthurdavies@sky.com (Staines)#

12" Webb Webb De Lux "Two Gears", 1950s, c/w box, Offers C: Wilf Preece T: 01246 558442 or 07788 411769 E: wilf.preece@tiscali.co.uk (Chesterfield)#

12" Greens SM Junior SE73, c/w box, C: John Atherton T: 07752 244044 E: john.atherton.74@gmail.com (Wirral)#

24" Atco, c1927, Villiers, c/w box, £30 C: John Sawyer T: 01647 252592 E: tandjsawyer@btinternet.com (Exeter)#

20" Ransomes Antelope, 1968, BSA, £25 C: John Sawyer T: 01647 252592 E: tandjsawyer@btinternet.com (Exeter)#

14" Qualcast Super Panther, 1950s, Electric, c/w box, C: Peter J Wooster T: 07860 911690 E: wooster.peter@gmail.com (Tunbridge Wells)#

17" JP Super Mk IV (2 off), c1958, Villiers, c/w box, Donation C: Robert Ludlow T: 01227 832039 E: bob@swanningabout.co.uk (Canterbury)#

20" Ransomes Meteor Four Mk2, JAP 3/26, c/w box, £265 C: Bryan Jackson T: 07757 117934 E: bgj1@hotmail.co.uk (Stoke on Trent)#

16" Ransomes M1255 /Mk9, 1930s, Villiers, c/w box, Offers C: Simon Austin T: 01342 323 226 or 07765 856 459 E: srgs.austin@btinternet.com (East Grinstead)#

12" Ransomes Ajax Mk5, c/w box, Offers C: Brian Arrowsmith T: 01745 852770 E: arrowsmith7eh@talktalk.net (Prestatyn)#

20" Autosickle Allcut, Offers C: Robert Pudvar T: 001 802 823 7908 E: robertowhill@yahoo.com (Bennington, Vt.)#

17" Atco, 1974, c/w box, £200 C: Andre Jadevicus T: 07746 379159 E: jadevicus@yahoo.co.uk (Northampton)#

Webb Childs/Miniature, c/w box, £30 C: Angela Adderley T: 020 8542 4847 E: angela@adderley.net (Wimbledon)#

- 14" Suffolk Punch, 1960s/70s, c/w box, C: Stuart Pinnell T: E: scpinnell@yahoo.co.uk (Ipswich)#
- 19" Suffolk Corporation Mark 2, 1960s/70s, Suffolk Type 98 G.14, OIRO £300 C: Peter Condon T: E: pcls18192@blueyonder.co.uk (Croydon)#
- 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk5, c/w box, £50 C: Linda Warne T: 07938 886940 E: lindaivor163@yahoo.co.uk (Milton Keynes)#
- 18" British Anzani Ride-on, 1952, Villiers, No, £150 C: David Lee T: 07892 404284 E: trabant.lee@gmail.com (Sheffield)#
- Qualcast Panther, c/w box, Offers C: Leo Peers T: 0161 3519528 E: leopeers63@yahoo.co.uk (Stockport)#
- 18" Flymo Professional 5, 1970s, Tecumseh, C: Jonathan Newall T: 07799 883379 E: jonathan@thenewalls.co.uk (Exeter)#
- 12" Greens, 1958, c/w box, Donation C: Valerie Smith T: 0121 422 2500 E: vberesford@hotmail.co.uk (Birmingham)#
- 12" Qualcast, £10 C: Jim Borthwick T: 01527 893040 E: jimandpat@fsmail.net (Redditch)#
- 14" Follows & Bate A2, C: Randy T: E: rdf@ns.sympatico.ca ()#
- 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk3, c/w box, Offers C: Joseph Whearty T: 07535 329661 E: joseph.whearty@sky.com (Croydon)#
- 12" Webb Electric, Ser No L1257, webb, c/w box, Offers C: David Evans T: 01242 583225 E: david.evans67@o2.co.uk (Cheltenham)#
- 20" Atco, Villiers, £15 C: Stephen Harris T: 07921 807119 E: sharris220@gmail.com (Wolverhampton)#
- 17" Greens 17/ 4/502, Villiers, c/w box, C: John Jordan T: 01279 771 790 E: john.jordan2@gmail.com (Bishop's Stortford)#
- 20" Ransomes Antelope Mk1, Villiers, c/w box, £50 C: M J Cross T: 01460 75638 E: su.cross@btinternet.com (Yeovil)#
- Roberton KE-25, £40 C: Betty T: 001 208 347 4220 E: iminidaho@frontiernet.net (Boise, Id)#
- 14" Qulacast Suffolk Punch 35s, 1980, B&S, c/w box, £95 C: Sue Willett T: 07706 665215 E: sjwills1@hotmail.co.uk (Milton Keynes)#
- 54" Simplicity 1691964, 1986, B&S, \$500 C: Charles Godfrey T: 001 410 329 6083 E: spoon1095@comcast.net (Baltimore)#
- Atterton & Ellis cylinder grinder, pre-1940, re-stored 1970, £30 ono. C: T Chapman T: 01424 775906 E: tgchapman@btinternet.com (East Sussex)#
- Two Suffolk Colt motor mowers. C: David Devlin T: 01292 677910 E: davnnance@talktalk.net (Ayr)#
- Suffolk Colt, c/w box C: Peter Haughton T: 01964 532911 E: pennyandpeter@btinternet.com (Hornsea)#
- 24" Ransomes Matador Mk2, No DK3416, c/w box. Small donation requested for St Marys Church, Goldington C: John Holt T: 01234 266004 E: johnholt84b@btinternet.com (Bedford)#
- Ransomes Minor Mk6, original condition, c/w box. C: Sarah Proctor T: 079886 177622 E: sarv\_proctor@yahoo.co.uk (Yorkshire)#
- 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk5, c/w box C: Paul Gardner T: 0191 236 8190 E: paul.gardner26@btinternet.com (Newcastle)#

## WANTED

- Spares for Atco Wolseley Clearway C: John Wickens T: 01959 523793 E: wickens.j@hotmail.co.uk (Westerham)
- Ransomes New Automaton 10" scraper plate C: Clive Gravett. E:clive@adurgardening.com T:07833 306619
- 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.

**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**

**OJX. T: 01460 241374**  
**archivist@hdtrust.co.uk**  
**www.hdtrust.co.uk**

**/E:** and have already responded, your address label probably has the old "To" date on it because they were printed before we processed your renewal.  
**W:**

## **GARFITTS SPARES**

Contact Richard Jones on 01243 575937 or by email at [lawnmower.jones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lawnmower.jones@hotmail.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.

## **WEBSITE**

Access to the majority of the club website is open to everyone. To access certain "members only" content (back copies of Grassbox, to see available transfers etc) you can use the following:

Username: olcmember  
Password: £1000Atco

Words must be spelled correctly with the right capital and lower case letters and symbols. If you want to contribute to forums, post comments and submit classified ads etc you must register separately with your own username and password.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

This years renewals have been sent out by the time you receive this Grassbox. We only send a letter if we don't have an email address. Remember, it's easier for us (and for you) if you renew online using the details in your letter or email. If your Grassbox address label has "To: 2013" or later on it you don't need to renew and won't receive a reminder. If you received a renewal notice

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

*What a difference a year makes....* to slightly change the title of the song. Annual turnover for the Club in 2012 was about £6500 and at the AGM last year I showed that we had overspent by £1647 – double the overspend in the previous year – with a balance to carry forward of (only) £2247.

In consequence you agreed to increase annual subscriptions to £12 (£15 for Overseas members unless they accessed Grassbox online rather than have printed copies – about 40% are using online access). We cancelled the Club P.O. Box with Royal Mail (it was hardly used, anyway) and we knew we wouldn't need to buy much stock, because we bought in quite a lot in 2012. So, I've been watching the numbers ever since that 2012 A.G.M and wondering how the year would turn out.

And – back to my song title – it did make a difference, as you can see in the summary below:

<b>2011/12</b>		<b>2012/13</b>
£6075	<i>income</i>	£6862
£7722	<i>expenditure</i>	£4966
(1646)	<i>profit/(loss)</i>	1896

£2247\*      *balance to c/f*    £4178  
\*+£35 cheque not presented in the year.

That's a much better financial position to be in, so I'm a 'happy bunny'.

Looking forward to the end of this year in May 2014, letter postage has stabilised, though probably only to April 2014, stock in hand is still OK at £1815, and other 'incidentals' are roughly con-

stant. The biggest risk, therefore, is that printing costs, currently unchanged from 2012 go up. We could stand an increase of 10% say (about £230) and I doubt an increase bigger than that in a single year is likely.

So, sit tight and enjoy the ride, get restoring or whatever floats your boat!

Dick Hardwick, Honorary Treasurer

## **RALLY DATES**

**Bedfordshire Steam & Country Fayre  
Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September inclusive.**

Held in Shuttleworth Park, about 10 miles south of Bedford, between the M1 and A1. As well as visiting the adjacent Old Warden aerodrome with its unique collection of flyable vintage light aircraft, there is plenty to see in the display

rings, club & trade stands, or when wandering around the large site. Take a look at the host club website for more information <http://www.bseps.org.uk>.

Why not bring a mower, or three to display and join us regulars in the OLC marquee? Besides mowers you can bring a caravan, tent or just a sleeping bag and stay for three days, or only for one if that's all you can manage.

Contact Dick Hardwick for more information and about being part of the OLC team. (Tel: 01462 816018, Email [hadw2@aol.com](mailto:hadw2@aol.com))

**Malvern Autumn Show  
Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September.**

Further details from Tony Hopwood.  
Tel: 01684 592134 (Upton on Severn)

## **THE OLD LAWNMOWER COMPANY**

**Specialists in post-war Lawnmowers & Scythes (Atco, Dennis, Ransomes, Suffolk, Webb, Allen)**

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**See website for details: [www.oldlawnmowers.co.uk](http://www.oldlawnmowers.co.uk)**

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

## **DENNIS Z TYPE SPARES**

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**Christopher Saunders-Davies (Old Lawnmower Club Member)**

## **THE MOWER CENTRE**

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

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

# CROSSWORD

By Dick Hardwick

## ACROSS:

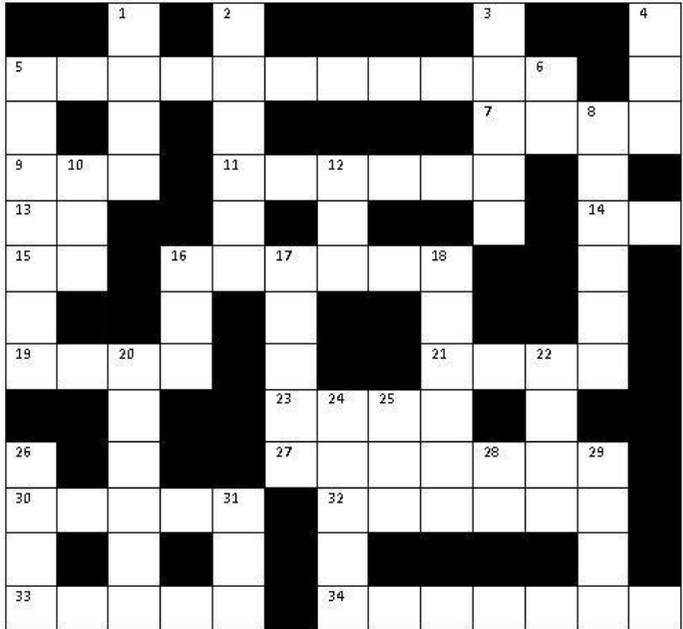
5. Usually runs with others in a race. (4, 7)  
 7. Nuts, smiths and gates go after this. (4)  
 9. It would be an honour, to experience this. (3)  
 11. A two door car built by Ford. (5)  
 13. One of these, despite being abbreviated, might make you better. (2)  
 14. It's a small word, so why not use it? (2)  
 15. Fully contained. (2)  
 16. This mower could easily have been a bus, or a fire engine. (6)  
 19. The sportier you are the more of these you participate in. (4)  
 21. This mower sounds like equipment to lift up a car. (4)

23. Baldrick had a cunning one. (4)  
 27. Stan Hardwick admits to being one, but living in Filey he's quite likely to be. (7)  
 30. It used to be said that "never the ..... shall meet" (5)  
 32. Past years or even just a day ago. (6)  
 33. It's harvested by a machine that still looks vaguely like a mower. (5)  
 34. Ransome used aluminium in 1930 to make this female lighter than the male. (7)

## DOWN

1. Caveman's most useful weapon, perhaps? (4)  
 2. You do this when using emery cloth, grinding paste or any abrasive. (6)  
 3. Used to permanently decorate surfaces of furniture, such as occasional tables. (5)  
 4. A town in New Zealand where these seabirds may come from, perhaps? (3)

5. Most club members would like to have one, invented by this chap in 1830. (7)  
 6. It's what happens when we get started. (2)  
 8. Follows & Bate made one, perhaps when at the peak of their success? (6)  
 10. You can get into hot water over this. (3)  
 12. One type of this can be used to lubricate your nipples! (3)  
 16. It's nearly always associated with a tap. (3)  
 17. Speedy and nimble, made by Austin. (5)  
 18. They came from Arbroath, but in the early days you often provided the engine. (6)  
 20. Turns 16 across into a comic character. (6)  
 22. The impolite end of something, perhaps? (4)  
 24. If you experienced 9 across you would probably be this already. (5)  
 25. Two, or more exist as this. (3)  
 26. Put away – in the Cotswolds especially. (4)  
 28. See 14 across (2)  
 29. The British & Irish Lions got some of these. (4)  
 31. is this person crazy? (3)





Above: Jonathon and Stan Hardwick with part of their display at Milton Keynes this year. Stan has an Army and Navy stores Victoria (I reality a Follows and Bate Chain Tennis re-badged) while to the right is an American made sidewheel mower badged for Gamages. Jonathon is holding an 8" Ransomes Reversible, seen (left) with their 6" model as well. This machine can be turned upside down and the sole plate bolted to the other side of the cylinder so that the trailing edge of the cylinder becomes the leading edge without reversing the cylinder itself. This avoided infringing the Greens Patent for a reversible cylinder. The Handle also had to be changed over when reversing as well.



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Left: This Qualcast B1 has acquired a fine new floral colour scheme by Kath Kidson for her display at the Chelsea Flower Show. The mower's usefulness is only impaired by the cutting cylinder being back to front!

Below Right: One of the club's youngest members, Seb Austin shows off his Follows and Bate Manchester alongside John Barnard and his example of the same machine.

Below Left: Alan Cullen has made a grand job of restoring this Ransomes Conquest, and even has the wire and striped canvas grass collector for it. Alan won the prize for the best working mower at the annual rally.

