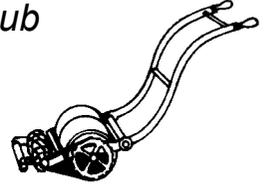


Grassbox

The magazine of The Old Lawnmower Club

Number 86

Autumn 2013





Ken Austin sent in this photo and writes: Seeing the mention of the Ransomes mower used on the Edinburgh to London run, members may be interested to know that it is alive and well. Housed in the Ipswich Transport Museum along with over 80 other Ransomes and ATCO mowers in their display. It was also driven from Ipswich to Felixstowe in this year's road run. I attach a picture taken outside the museum during the recent Engineering Day event - sorry about the poor background.

Front Cover: Keith Wootton's 50th Birthday cake.

CONTACTING THE CLUB

Please note new Chairman.

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EDITORIAL

The Rally season is over, and by the nature of the material submitted to this magazine Club members have been busy this year, and displays are seem to be recognised increasingly at a good number of events. Once again we have had a presence at the Dorset Steam Fair, the king of all rallies, while articles elsewhere in this issue report on the larger displays that have been organised at regional events.

I should also pass on Birthday wishes to both Keith and Robbie, stalwarts of the club from its founding, who have both celebrated significant birthdays this year. Happy birthday to you both!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

The Crossword we published in the last issue has I gather created some favourable comments, so here at last are the answers.

ACROSS

5. ball bearing
7. Lock
9. dub
11. Anglia
13. Dr
14. it
15. in
16. Dennis
19. game
21. Ajax
23. plan
27. Yorkist
30. twain
32. Yester
33. Wheat
34. Lioness.

DOWN

1. club
2. Abrade
3. inlay
4. auk
5. Budding
6. go
8. Climax
10. urn
12. gun
16. die
17. Nippy
18. Shanks
20. menace
22. arse
24. Loyal
26. stow
28. it
29. trys
31. nut

LADIES SILENS MESSOR

Clive Gravett's seemingly inexhaustible supply of period photographs has produced this gem of a keen young thing posing with a 12" Silens Messor. The smallest sizes, the 6" and 8" models were advertised as being suitable for a lady, but we are not quite sure that this is what Greens had in mind!

The mower is a pre 1905 model without the nameplate introduced then. Note also that the mower has no cast iron side runners, these familiar Greens features also appearing in about 1905.



RALLY REPORTS

Bedford Steam Rally

This popular event with club members was extended to three days again this year and a good number of exhibitors were able to attend on the Friday, including our current chairman Robbie Robinson. He'd officially retired "again" at the beginning of the month, having finally reached 65. I'm sure all members will join me in wishing Robbie and Wilma the very best for their new life of leisure.

As in previous years our display was inside a large marquee shared with some model makers and a wood-turner. Exhibits were arranged around one end of half the tent with an additional area outside for larger machines. In total we had more than 70 mowers on show which we think was a record for Bedford. It may have looked a little cramped but nobody could say we didn't put on a show.

Everyone had taken the time to include some suitable labels for their mowers and this greatly helped explain what each machine was to members of the public. Making a little effort like this really does make a big difference to any display. It also, incidentally, allows us to show some of the ephemera such as brochures, posters and photographs associated with the machines and which

show them working in their original context.

Overall the display included machines dating from the 1850s through to the 1970s, giving visitors an excellent potted history of the mower through the ages. This is one of the many strengths of the Bedford event and the interest from visitors in all of the mowers shows that it's not always (or just) about the very oldest or rarest machines, even if these are what attract the ardent collector. The exhibitors had, nevertheless, brought along a number of recent acquisitions and restoration projects to show to other collectors.

In total there were at least 16 members of the club exhibiting and one or two more popped their heads in during the weekend to say hello. This was despite the absence of rally regulars Roger Wilkinson and Charlie Crouchman who each had one-off commitments elsewhere. New exhibitors included Barrie Sowerby and Clive Gravett. It was good



that so many of the attendees were accompanied by their wives or girlfriends (not always the case at our other events). I won't include a list of everyone but there's a photo of the group alongside this piece which shows most of those who were there.

All in all it was another great success. A big thanks, as always, to Dick and Joyce Hardwick for all the behind-the-scenes work and liaison with the rally organisers. Thanks too for the nice surprise of the birthday cake presented to Robbie (65) and me (50) on the Saturday evening.

Keith Wootton

Malvern Autumn Show

The last weekend in September saw us at the Malvern Showground for the Three Counties Autumn Show. Our display is part of a larger section containing horticultural and agricultural machines, stationary engines and classic vehicles which has all grown significantly since we first showed there in the late 1990s. It is nevertheless only a

small part of this extensive end-of-season garden show.

This year Tony Hopwood had arranged with the show organisers for our marquee to be set back from the showground roadway. This allowed us to have a decent sized working area to the front where it could be readily seen by visitors to the show as they passed by. This was much more convenient than having it hidden away behind or to the side as in previous years and allowed us to present a much more co-ordinated display with more frequent "action". Everyone who was present made an extra effort to show off some of the machines present.

Tony had one of his Dennis mowers and a British Anzani Lawnrider which normally give reliable service at the show. But this year both managed to throw a mechanical wobbly on the Saturday morning which meant running repairs were required later in the day and overnight. The work on the mowers became part of the display for a while.

(See photo)

Paul Harvey ran his superbly restored

Uni Horse (one of the first self-contained ride-on rotary mowers) regularly throughout the weekend and it attracted a lot of attention. Andrew Grout had brought along a Qualcast Sixteen which ran well, and we reflected that it's unusual to see examples of this mower on display and running at our events. Ray Williams demonstrated a Shay County rotary mower (another unusu-



al exhibit), while other members present including Dave Stanford and Keith Wootton were running a selection of hand mowers (which cut the grass rather well).

We also had a static display of mainly hand mowers in the marquee which included some very early Ransomes and Greens machines as well as examples of typical mowers from the 1880s to the 1960s. Among Peter Barlow's exhibits was his excellent Webb Children's mower, fully restored and with new decals.

As part of our extended display area Janet and Ray Williams, together with friends and family, had an excellent display of Shay and Rotoscythe mowers with numerous bygones presented as awning displays.

Andy and Mike from the Hall & Duck Trust presented in a separate section a selection of Victorian hand mowers including one of the modern Budding replicas and a number of Samuelson models.

Yet again the weather was rather good for the whole weekend which is always surprising at this time of year. It really does make a difference, especially when it's getting dark so early in the evening. The only disappointment was the absence of a few regulars, including Alec Hillyar who had come down with flu the week before.

Personally, I thought the new layout for the display worked rather well and

would serve as a model for the other events we attend. It certainly helped to make the display more dynamic and allowed us to spend more time with visitors to answer their questions.

Finally, in addition to thanking all the club members who contributed to the display area, I should like to give particular thanks to Tony for all his hard work before and during the event. As some members may already know, Tony has not been in the best of health this year and I am sure everyone in the Club will join me in wishing him all the very best over the coming months.

More images and video can be found on the Club's website.

Keith Wootton

Cornish steam and country fair

Fred Petit and I recently attended this show which took place on the 16th, 17th and 18th of August. (*see photo below*) We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and it was very similar to last year and although it rained all through the Saturday, the Friday and Sunday were both



excellent, and the display created a good amount of interest.

On the Friday, BBC radio Cornwall was presented from the show and they came and examined the lawnmowers, which must have been well received as Laurence Reed (the presenter) came back on Sunday for another look.

On the Sunday we met Geoff and Margaret Christopher who were on holiday and they came and had a look at the rest of my collection. The mowers on display at the show were:

Ransomes Horseshoe tank mk4

Atco standard

12" Silens Messor

12" Shanks Caledonia

Brill Cutwell

10" Ransomes Patent Chain Automaton

Follows & Bates Manchester

Shanks Britisher.

The Silens Messor is interesting as I have persuaded my father to buy and restore his first lawnmower and this is it, the restoration having been completed just before the show.

Seb Austin

The Alresford Crew, Lynne Cullen, Dusty Miller, Colin Stone and Richard Jones.



Alresford Agricultural Show

Since becoming involved in Old Lawnmowers during the past twenty years or so, the words "Oh, my Dad had one of those" have often echoed as a regular saying. During that twenty years I have earned my living through lawn and garden machinery, latterly owning a business in East Grinstead. Interesting machinery often comes my way, both stationary engines and lawnmowers have taken place in the workshop. A good opportunity to show them is needed, and since meeting some of the other regulars at shows we have realised what a friendly bunch they are. So I asked whether my wife and I could display some of our recent restoration projects at the Alresford Show.

We took a couple of the Ransomes machines that we displayed at Milton Keynes earlier in the year. Richard Jones and Colin Stone started unloading and setting up, and Richard mowed some of the grass then my wife took over from him. Soon we were ready for the public, and Dusty arrived to greet

them. What a wonderful day we all had, the rosettes kept coming and in his usual style Dusty persuaded people to look at all the honours on the clubs stand. You could not have found a friendlier bunch of guys than those involved with the mowers.

This all made for a grand day out and a chance to learn from other knowledgeable men. Must do it all again soon!

Alan Cullen

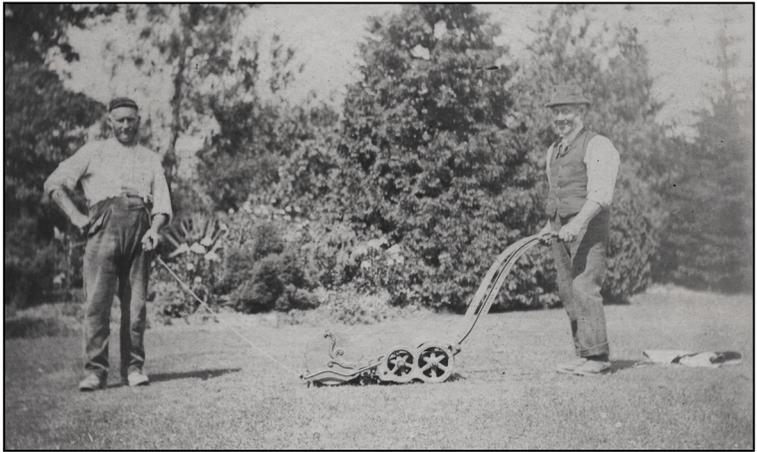
A FORGOTTEN 19th CENTURY LAWNMOWER MANUFACTURER



Clive Gravett sent in this photograph of a proud looking pair with their two man mower. The machine is an Invincible, manufactured by John Crowley & Co of Sheffield to Samuel Edwards Patent. Like so many makers of the period, this machine had a special feature that gave it an advantage over its rivals, and this one is rather interesting as it harks back to a key boast of Budding's original machine from 1830. It was possible to take off the front roller and reposition them behind the cutting cylinder, so that

it could cut long grass without the roller pushing it flat first. The 1883 catalogue states that a way had been found of dealing with the problem this posed of the blades scalping the ground without support in front, so side runners were provided that could go outside the frames on the normal front roller brackets. What the catalogue fails to point out is that if you have these side runners then there would have been little point in putting the rest of the roller behind the blades. Also, it means that the ma-

chine must have come with another set of brackets, if both were to be used at the same time. Production seems to have begun in the early 1870s and the machine was still being advertised, apparently virtually



unchanged into the 20th century. The image above shows another identical machine in use at Upperfold House,

near Fernhurst in West Sussex, the gardeners being Chandler (*left*) and Venes (*right*). Note also that the drawbar does not support the

LATEST CONTEST.
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW,
 SOUTH KENSINGTON GARDENS, LONDON,
 May 23, 24, and 25, 1882.

FIRST PRIZE "Banksian" SILVER MEDAL
 (For Horse Power.)

FIRST PRIZE "Banksian" SILVER MEDAL
 (For Hand Power.)

"INVINCIBLE" LAWN MOWER
 (SAMUEL EDWARDS' PATENT.)

The above First Awards were given after a very exhaustive Trial in competition with the leading makers, both English and American, in long and short, wet and dry grass. In every case the "Invincible" maintained its title as the Best Lawn Mower of the day.



FIRST PRIZE:
"Banksian"
SILVER MEDAL
 AT THE
GREAT CONTEST,
 LONDON,
 MAY 22, 1882.

	PRICE.
10 INCH.—A very nice Lawn Mower for Amateur Gardeners, and can be worked by a Lady	£3 10 0
12 INCH.—Suitable for general Garden purposes, being easy to work	£4 10 0
14 INCH.—This Machine will be found a very good and serviceable Machine for general Mowing	£5 10 0
16 INCH.—This Machine is suitable for a man and boy to work	£6 10 0
18 INCH.—A stronger Machine than the above	£7 10 0
20 INCH.—This is a splendid Machine for general Mowing. It has three driving rollers, which makes it easy to turn, without injuring the turf. It can be worked on a level lawn by two men; or, if worked with a pony, it will cut grass from four to six inches long, on any sort of ground	£8 10 0
24 INCH.—A larger Machine than the above, and very easy to work, similar in principle	£9 10 0

A stronger draw-bar for a pony can be supplied with 20-in. and 24-in. Mowers—10/6 each extra.

grassbox and on this mower drops almost to the ground when not under tension.

Sadly, although these two photos show that some were sold, there seem to be no surviving Invincibles yet discovered. Indeed there were other models too, as the colour advert on the front cover of Grassbox 81 shows, the Side wheel machine being called the Victor. In 1883, they also produced an edge cutter, pony mowers, rollers and a smaller machine, seen in the advert on the next page that was unbelievably made in 6, 7, 8 and 9 inch sizes. As the larger machines started at 10" you have to wonder whether there was really a market for five models in one inch stages. Unusually, even the edge cutter came in two sizes, though what parts of

them were different isn't made clear in the catalogue. Now though we come to the puzzle. We have had the mower in the photo below for many years, and it may be that illusive Crowley survivor. It is a 6" model, and in general appears to have some Crowley like features. The gears in particular and the gear case look very familiar, and while the intermediate gear has round holes rather than spokes it may be a replacement or a variation on the smaller size machines. However, the gears are on the other side from all other



NEW SERIES
OF THE

"Invincible" Lawn Mower.

(SAMUEL EDWARDS' PATENT.)

RECENT CONTEST.
Grand International Horticultural Show,
BOTANICAL GARDENS, MANCHESTER,
August 24, 25, 26, and 27, 1881.
At this Show the **FIRST PRIZE** (Society's Medal)
was awarded to the

"INVINCIBLE" LAWN MOWER
(SAMUEL EDWARDS' PATENT.)



FIRST PRIZE:
GOLD MEDAL
AT THE
NATIONAL
LAWN MOWER
CONTEST,
BIRMINGHAM,
JULY, 1874.

The above illustration represents the 6-in., 7-in., and 8-in. sizes of our New Improved Series of the "INVINCIBLE" for small Lawns.

We also make 9-in. with the single handle, as we consider it is very much preferable for small Machines, but we put two handles on the 10-in. and upwards. The 9-in. has a ratchet inside the driving rollers, which is almost noiseless.

Real value has been our first consideration, irrespective of cost; and we can with confidence recommend these small Machines as equal in every respect, as regards utility, to the larger sizes, being really first-class Mowers at a Moderate Price. The Cutters run in separate steps, and are regulated with set-screws at the top and bottom of the sliding bearings, thus avoiding all knocking or straining of the Cutters whilst being adjusted to the sole blade. These small Mowers have the same arrangement of wood rollers for regulating the height of cut which the larger Machines possess, together with equal facilities for scattering or collecting the cut grass. The single handle, made of the best ash, can be adjusted according to the height of the person working the Machine.

6-in. Width of Cut.....£1 10 0	8-in. Width of Cut.....£2 10 0
7-in. " £2 0 0	9-in. " £3 0 0

Crowley illustrations and photos. Frustratingly, there is no lettering cast into the mower, and the handles are wrought iron, very unusual in an age when mowers invariably had cast iron or wooden handles. Could this machine be a very early Crowley, predating those others illustrated in this article? Certainly it has a very crude bearing arrangement, with a simple casting sliding up and down with a single clamping bolt and a plain hole for the spindle, rather than the more normal later design on Invincibles. The lack of lettering cast into the mower may be due to it being made for another store to be sold under their name. Alternatively, maybe it isn't a Crowley at all, and is merely a vague copy made by another long forgotten manufacturing company. Perhaps you have a Crowley? Perhaps you have something similar to this mower? Any ideas are welcome!

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

- Bottom blades for Webb, Qualcast, Suffolk, Dennis, Ransomes, Hayter etc, 1950s-80s machines. Contact me with your requirement. C: Angus Shapland E: shapland.angus@gmail.com (Ashford, Kent)
- Four 14" Suffolk Punch mowers, one running, three not. All have been de-coked, carbs dismantled & cleaned and various parts replaced and all have good compression but three refuse to start, even though they are producing a good 'kick'. The usual description for the three non-runners would be 'for spares or repair', £20. C: D Hewison E: dsh7knoll@yahoo.co.uk (Dartford)
- 6" Greens Silens Messor, 1870, Offers. C: Mike T: 07976 737684 E: oldvic1@ntlworld.com (Leeds)#
- 12" Follows & Bate Folbate J1., C: Aileen Meinke T: 07973 309898 E: aileenmeinke@gmail.com (Woking)#
- 10" Suffolk Popular, c/w box, FTGH. C: Tony Butcher E: butchers3@hotmail.com (Norwich)#
- 12" Webb, 1953, c/w box, £100. C: Jacqueline Swaffer T: 07773 454628 E: jjswaff@talktalk.net (Maidstone)#
- 22" Atco Oval frame (c/w tools and old wall chart/ manual), 1921, Villiers engine, c/w box, £600. C: Graeme Dorward T: 01661 872055 E: livinggreenland@aol.com (Newcastle)#
- 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk5, 1930, c/w box, FTGH. C: Paul Gardner T: 0191 2368190 E: paul.gardner26@btinternet.com (Newcastle)#
- Allen Scythe, 1940, Villiers engine, £285. C: Rachel Roberts T: 01989 730838 E: newtonfarm@live.co.uk (Hereford)#
- 20" Greens Zephyr, c1975?, Villiers engine., C: Joanna Adams T: 07703 181161 E: jo.adams@tfiw.de (Gloucester)#
- 36" Allen Scythe (partially renovated), Villiers engine, £150. C: Iain Douglas-Jones T: 01844 351 569 E: methell@btinternet.com (High Wycombe)#
- 24" Ransomes Pathfinder, 1960, JAP 4/3 engine, c/w box. C: Ben T: 07824 395483 E: bbenh@hotmail.co.uk (Keswick)#
- 12" Greens Monitor, c/w box. C: Dr Malcolm Bailey T: 01923 854659 E: DrMalcolmBailey@aol.com (Watford, Herts)#
- Roof Rider Serial No 12473, B&S engine., C: Jake Paschall T: 001 815 501 1646 E: jakepaschall3788@gmail.com (Ottawa, IL)#
- 8" Green Silens Messor., C: Peter Collings T: 01491 638568 E: peter.collings@btopenworld.com (Henley on Thames)#
- 12" Shanks Scot, 1930s, c/w box, £10 ono. C: Nick littlebury T: 0207 6908275 E: nlhigh@hotmail.com (Watford, Herts)#
- 12" Webb Witch, c/w box, Offers. C: Keith Waller T: 01527 875521 E: leaseholdhousevaluations@hotmail.com (Bromsgrove Worcestershire)#
- 24" Dennis Machine No. 58 / Z7. Engine No. 806E / 40 1949, Dennis engine, c/w box., C: Robert Hall T: 01691 828257 E: rrhall570@btinternet.com (Oswestry)#
- 14" Suffolk Super Punch, 1950s/60s, c/w box, Offers. C: Mrs J Plumb T: 0118 9744735 E: chris.a.plumb@gmail.com (Reading)#
- 12" Suffolk Colt 24A, 75G14 engine, c/w box, £40. C: Spud Hughes T: 01526 342540 E: spud1hughes@hotmail.com (Boston Lincolnshire)#
- 12" Suffork Super Swift, Offers. C: Les Oliver T: 07798 900 344 E: qualitythermal@gmail.com (Southport uk)#
- 12" Ransomes Ajax Mk4, c/w box, £30. C: Rob Spencer E: robert@spencer6010.fsnet.co.uk (Devizes)#
- 24" Ransomes 24, c/w box, £35. C: Simon T: 07703 186144 E: simon@jamesons.net (Colchester)#
- 12" Ransomes Minor 1952, Villiers engine, c/w box, £20. C: David Stimpson T: 01438 880394 E: dave@davestimpson.com (Stevenage)#
- 30" Dennis Z Type (enclosed engine model), 1947 (current owner > 50yrs, Dennis engine, c/w box, Offers. C: John Baynes T: 01483 898120 E: annbaynes@mac.com (Guildford)#
- 24" Ransomes Matador Mk2 1963, JAP engine, c/w box, Offers. C: Anthony Facey T: 07845 821661 E: anthonyfacey@gmail.com (Chelmsford)#
- Atco 1.5 hp engine only, Villiers engine, £30. C: John Jordan T: 01384 872961 E: jjordan@talktalk.net (Dudley)#

Webb Miniature, FTGH. C: Jan Adamson T: 07956 693789 E:

Janadamson@hotmail.com(London)#

12" Greens hand mower. C: Ian Waddington E: Ian.Waddington@dennisuk.com T: 01332 824777 (Derby)#

Collection of Dennis mowers, in various states of repair, including two 36" models. C: Mark Kennedy T: 01892 852286 E: mark.kennedy@kennedybros.co.uk (Tonbridge)#

Two Atco motor mowers, both 1950s, one 14". C: Mark Parkman E: parkmanmjgs@blueyonder.co.uk (Plymouth)#

Royal Enfield Motor Mower, gear drive model. C: Alan Jarrett E: karen.alanj@btinternet.com (Bristol)#

Collection of mowers including some which were restored some years ago. Mowers available include Qualcast Sixteen, Atco kickstart, JAP powered mower, Ransomes Certes (x3), Ransomes Ajax (x2), Qualcast B1 and others, plus Allis Chalmers Simplicity ride-on. Would prefer to sell as job lot. C: Edd Weeks E: edd_weeks@hotmail.com (Unknown)#

Atco mower. FTGH. C: Roy Webb T: 01722 504587 E: harry_roy_webb@yahoo.com (Salisbury)#

Ransomes Ajax Mk3, no box; Ransomes Ajax Mk3, no box; 16" Atco Standard, no box; 20" Atco kick start, 1950s, c/w box; 16" Atco motor mower, 1930s, possibly DeLuxe, c/w JAP engine and box; 14" Atco motor mower, 1959/60, c/w box; 16" JP Super; Flymo 4hp, c/w B&S engine; Ransomes Edger; 12" Suffolk Colt, c/w box. C: Frank Smith E: lindachild05@gmail.com (Northants)#

WANTED

Headlights for Gutbrod Motostandard tractor mower, made by Hella, 4" diameter, 1960s/70s; Headlights, same as Gutbrod 1032 Tractor Mower, 4" Hella flush mounted headlamps, 1970, must have good lens and chrome bezel; Large cast aluminium 5.5" radius throttle lever for "classic" Uni-horse ride-on mower, 1970. All required for restoration projects. Willing to travel to collect items. Please call 4.30-10pm. C: Paul Harvey T: 07979 301283 E: paul_m_harvey@btinternet.com (Tewkesbury)

Spares wanted for Atco/Wolseley Clearway. C: John Wickens T: 01959 523793 E: wickens.j@hotmail.co.uk

Spares wanted for Ransomes Junior Triple Gang, 1972, Villiers 45 engine. C: Gary Greig 7891967800 E: GGreig@slb.com (Aberdeen)#

Working Allen Scythe for work in newly planted orchard. C: John Butler E: johnbutler@phonecoop.coop (Pwllheli)#

Ransomes New Automaton 10" scraper plate; Full cutting cylinder assembly for 16" Easi-mow, including side supports, bottom blade etc. C: Clive Gravett. E:clive@adurgardening.com T:07833 306619 (Brighton)

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 0JX. T: 01460 241374 /E: archivist@hptrust.co.uk W: www.hptrust.co.uk**

GARFITTS SPARES

Contact Richard Jones on 01243 575937 or by email at lawnmower.jones@hotmail.co.uk to order bottom blades, cutting cylinders and fixing screws from Garfitt's of Sheffield. Items ordered through Rich-

ard 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.

RENEWALS

This is the last Grassbox you will receive if you do not renew your membership for 2013/14. You can tell if you have not yet renewed by looking at the address label on the envelope that contained this edition. If it says "Until: 2013" you have not yet renewed. We will send one final reminder before Christmas to those who have not rejoined.

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.

CLUB SHOP

As most of you know of the club carries a good range of replacement decals/transfers for most old lawnmowers.

These can be viewed on our website, with prices to members. I have just had to put in a large order (to replace out of, and low stock) but unfortunately our buying costs have gone up quite a bit.

So unfortunately we will be increasing the prices on the new stock, but existing stock will stay the same price for now.

New stock is mainly all the JPs , Qualcasts , webbs , suffolk , Royal Enfield and Willing Worker. Existing stock is mainly Ransomes, Atco, Presto, and a few others.

Richard Jones.

DENNIS Z TYPE SPARES

(former stock of Geoffrey Brooks)

Engine Parts - Piston Rings - Connecting Rods - Oil Pump Drive Gears

Cutting cylinders for 24" and 30" (not 36") and bottom blades

Transmission Parts, second hand cylinders and rear rollers

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Christopher Saunders-Davies (Old Lawnmower Club Member)

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For all sorts of spare parts

Atco - Suffolk - Dennis - Villiers - JAP - Briggs & Stratton - Kohler

Gaskets - Piston Rings - Ignition Coils - Silencers - Cables - Petrol Taps - Oilers

Points - Condensers - Atco Kick Start Springs

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

John Cruse (Old Lawnmower Club Member)

themowercentrehailsham.com

ATCO TRAINER WITH A RACING PEDIGREE

By Keith Rowe

The name of Jack Sears will be very familiar to anyone with an interest in the history of motor sport. Jack was most active as a driver in the 1950's and 1960's and he excelled in rallying as well as circuit racing. This was the period when the likes of Moss, Hill, Parkes, Clark, Stewart, Salvadori, and Archie Scott-Brown were the ones to beat.

The very first vehicle in Jack's life was a pedal car and this was followed by an Atco Trainer, a gift from his grandmother. The car is, and after 75 years, still in the Sears family. Succeeding generations have used it, including Jack's son David, who likewise became a successful racing driver (and racing team owner). Naturally, time and use took their toll and at one point the Atco Trainer passed to Jack's brother for a while. Upon his death it was retrieved and David Sears's Super-Nova racing team completed a complete strip and rebuild. Today it is in "as new" condition. Next in line to benefit by learning from this wonderful little car will be Jack's grandson, Rory.

I visited Jack Sears recently, to have him sign my copy of his book



The proud young Jack Sears poses in the brand new Atco Trainer bought for him by his grandmother. Today, the Trainer has been rebuilt for Jack's youngest grandson, Rory. (Jack Sears Archive)

"Gentleman Jack". He showed me his Atco trainer when it was interesting to see how very much valued was this possession from childhood. There are few of them left and probably no other in such pristine condition.

It can be proudly claimed that Atco/Villiers played a large part by introducing Jack Sears to motor driven cars. Later, he went on to compete (and very often win) in some of the biggest events and most powerful and exotic cars of the period. From that small beginning in 1938 emerged one of England's finest and most formidable racing drivers.

The accompanying photograph is copied from the book "Gentleman Jack".

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Above: The OLC display at Malvern Autumn show, with Paul Harvey's immaculately restored Uni Horse in the foreground.

Below: Some of the mowers on display at the Bedford Steam Rally



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Above: The Club's new Chairman, Robbie Robinson, had a 65th birthday party at the end of August, the celebration almost marking his retirement.
Below: After winning the vintage section for the 3rd year running, Colin Stone's 6" Multum in Parvo acted as a stand for the lawnmower display's awards at the Alresford Show.

