

A recently discovered Budding lawn mower

by Stephen Mills July 2024

GSIA member Andrew Hall kindly provided details of a new addition to the collection of The Hall & Duck Trust. This houses the largest collection of lawn mowers in the world and has many noted examples of historic lawn mowers which stretch from the 1850s up to the second world war.

In 1830, John Ferrabee, the owner of the Phoenix Ironworks in Thrupp, Stroud, formed a partnership with Edwin Beard Budding - together they patented the Budding lawn mower, based on the design of the spiral rotating cutters (cross cutters) used to level the nap of woollen cloth.



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**Restored Buddings Patent (new build) lawn mower
owned by The Hall & Duck Trust**

All known Budding lawn mowers from this early period are in museums, notably the Science Museum in London, The Lawn Tennis Museum in Wimbledon, Stroud Museum in the Park, and The Milton Keynes Rural Life Museum, plus one held by Ransomes in Ipswich. Remarkably, another unknown example of the Budding 'Improved' made by Ransomes to James Ferrabee's patent improvements of 1858 recently surfaced. It had been in store for 50 years and pre-dates the Ferrabee examples in Stroud Museum. It has become the latest acquisition for The Hall & Duck Trust and will be seen for the first time in public at Gloucestershire Extravaganza in August.



1858 Budding Improved, the Trust's latest acquisition.