

# A Lister Engine in Guatemala

14 May 2020

To GSIA Members

It hardly seems six years ago that in May 2014 the famous firm of "Listers of Dursley" (by then "Lister-Petter") finally ended its time in the town after almost 150 years. Members may recall that GSIA were able to rescue no less than 39 boxes of documents and photographs at that time. Of particular importance were a run of minute books for the original company of R A Lister & Co. The earliest one was dated 1896 and the minutes were signed by Robert Ashton Lister himself. The documents were taken immediately to Gloucestershire Archives and during the following two years GSIA members did sterling service cleaning them and then 'enhancing the catalogue entries' for the most important items. On a longer timescale many of the thousands of slides and prints have been digitised after careful weeding of duplicates. The originals have also now been deposited at Gloucestershire Archives.

Listers products, notably diesel engines in the 20th century enjoyed an enviable reputation for reliability and were exported all over the world. GSIA Chairman, Stephen Mills, has provided this lovely example.

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## **A Lister engine in Central America**

There was a recent posting on social media from Chris Terrington. He was originally from Stroud but now lives in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Guatemala. He recently came across this little Lister engine that drove a coffee mill in the Guatemalan cloud forest. It was in a small coffee finca called Café Aurora, Verapaz (yes, I had to look up what a 'finca' was – it's generally a small holding or small farm). Chris kindly gave permission to use his photo (next page).



This is just one example of the many thousands of Lister engines exported around the world. There is probably not a country where you won't find a Lister engine somewhere. Over the years, they have been put to an incredible range of uses from pumping water, powering workshops, or even driving boats. Like here, wherever you hear a steady 'chug chug chug', there's often a Lister nameplate on it!

Stephen Mills