

Made in Gloucestershire - A miscellany of items – Series 1

Lister JP2 diesel



*Bantam IV
(courtesy London Canal Museum)*

This time it's yet another product from the Dursley-based firm of Listers, once suppliers of engines to the world. This particular one is a Lister JP2 diesel and powers the little tug Bantam IV, owned by the London Canal Museum. The engine is original and started by hand. Bantam was built in Brentford and launched in 1950, and after a long period of working in gravel pits and use for canal maintenance, she came to the museum in 1994.

The JP2 engine was manufactured by Listers between 1930 and 1952 and was their first diesel. It was initially known as the 9/1 (nine horsepower, one cylinder) 1000 rpm engine, later becoming the JP. Confusingly, there was also a Lister 18/2 (JP2) diesel that was advertised as producing 21hp at 1200 rpm. The JP came from the 'Joint Product' agreement between Lister and Ruston & Hornsby, whereby they agreed to keep to their own engine size ranges and not compete against each other. This left Listers with engines below 100 hp, while

Ruston produced bigger capacity units, although this agreement was later abandoned.

The JP's block was integral with the crankcase and the engine featured a mechanism that made starting from cold without an external heat source a much more reliable process. The JP was a success and sold widely in the UK and overseas. However, the one in the Bantam is apparently on its last legs and ready for a rebuild!

Stephen Mills December 2024

iron bracket by Listers of Dursley

Peter Powis recently took this photo of an iron bracket with the Lister name nicely cast into the centre section. It hangs in the former stables at Croft Castle in Herefordshire, a castellated 17th century manor house and home to the Croft family for many centuries. The suspicion was that it was something to do with shearing equipment, once an important area for Listers. A bit of online digging confirmed that that was exactly what it was!

The Lister company had been established in 1867 and quickly became a major manufacturer and exporter of agricultural machinery, particularly dairy equipment. However, it was not until 1909 that they started manufacturing sheep shearing



equipment. They went on to develop a range of hand-driven and powered shearers and clippers for sheep, horses, cattle, and so on.

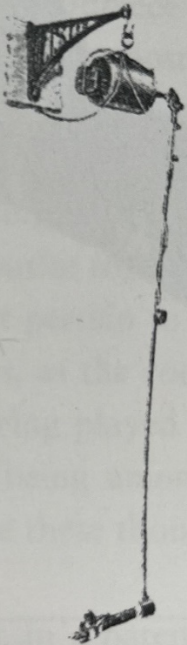
**LISTER SHEARING SETS FOR
LARGE FLOCKS**
(See also pages 129, 130, 131, 132 & 133)
Electrically Driven Machine

Consisting of a high-grade motor suspended from a bracket or beam on a swivel eye. Controlled by a switch on a steel lined flexible shaft which drives the Handpiece.

Supplied to suit voltages as follows : 32, 55, 110, 220 D.C. and 220-250 A.C. Single Phase. Consumption approx. 330 350 watts. If you have a voltage which is different from those given above, we shall be pleased to quote you accordingly. When ordering, please state whether D.C., or A.C., giving number of phases and cycles.

Complete machine with motor, flexible drive and high-grade Lister Handpiece, with 3 Standard Combs, 6 Standard Cutters, Screwdriver, Oil Can, Comb Brush and Shear Cleaner.

PRICE (for above voltages) £12 8 6
Hanging Bracket and Coach Screws.
extra 14/-



The photo on the left shows a 1930s advert for an electrically-powered shearer, complete with the mystery hanging bracket – this would cost you an extra 14 shillings, although this also included the bolts!

Incidentally, the bracket shown below was sold in an auction in Ledbury in 2022 for £160.



March 2025

Lister sheep shearing kit

Members may recall the article in the March newsletter about the interesting cast iron 'Listers' bracket for shearing equipment spotted at Croft Castle in Herefordshire. As we often comment, equipment from Listers crops up everywhere, and here is yet another connected example. On a recent visit to a farm and craft centre in the pretty little village of Upper Stowe in south Northamptonshire, a few miles from Daventry, yet more emerged. This time it was the long-abandoned remains of several types of hand-operated sheep shearing kit, all clearly marked with the Listers, Dursley name under the rust. I wonder how many thousands of others lie rotting in the corner of dusty barns throughout the country!



'As found'



As it once looked! (Courtesy Lister Shearing @ <https://www.lister-global.com/news/handpieceupdate/>)

Stephen Mills May 2025

George Waller cast street /wall furniture

Here are some examples of George Waller cast street /wall furniture that survive today (almost!), along with the relevant extracts from their long 70-page catalogue



Bonds Mill, Stonehouse



For more details on this interesting engineering company, with illustrations of some of the very wide range of products the company manufactured. see

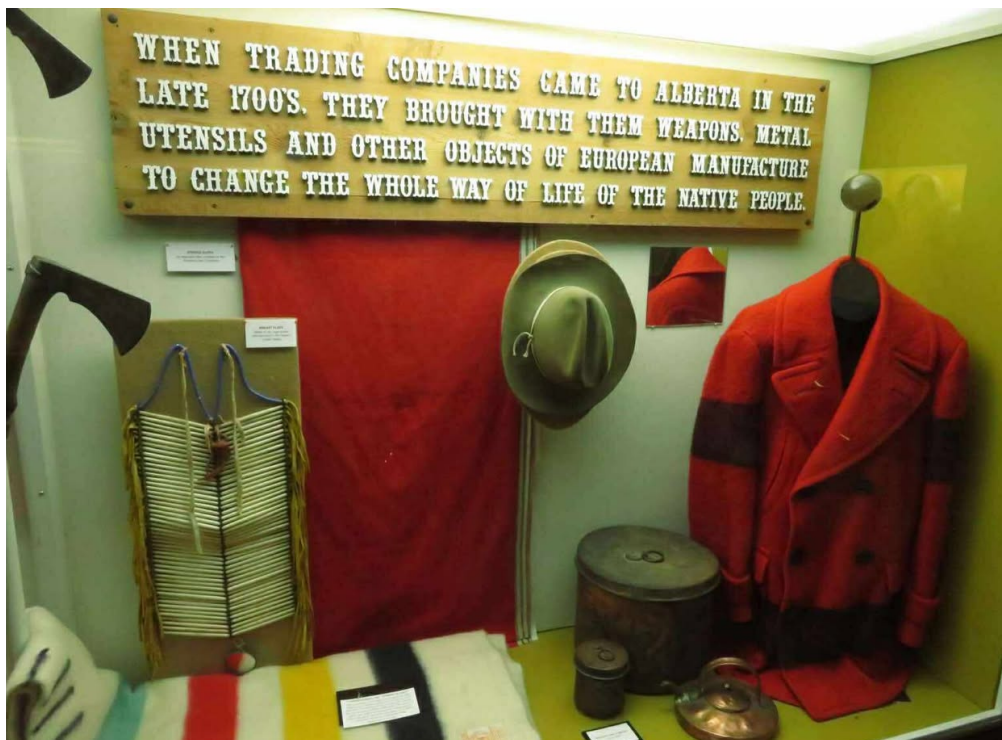
https://gsia.org.uk/sites/files/nq/gsiang_waller_history_20220324.pdf

Peter Powis June 2025

Stroud Cloth in Banff, Alberta

A friend was recently touring Canada and came across this well-known Gloucestershire product on display in the Buffalo Nations Luxton Museum, located in Banff, Alberta. The museum is set in a replica 1800s stockade fort surroundings, and depicts First Nations life and customs. The exhibits include Stroud-made scarlet cloth, important for military use but also traded with the First Nations peoples who apparently prized it highly. As the one picture notes, it was an important item of trade for the Hudson Bay Company.





Photos courtesy of Rob Toseland

Stephen Mills October 2025