

The Garden Show, 2009

The Garden Show was held at the Bath & West Show, Nr Shepton Mallet, Somerset over 3 days from 4th to 6th September and I was able to attend on Saturday and we had a good time, unlike the Traders who clearly weren't. The weather did the dirty on us and decided to be wet most of the day.

David Pearce brought his Howard Gem and a Honda and was seen ridging up the demo area. Charlie brought a good selection of Barford atoms, using one with some newly-acquired harrows and rotavating with his Trusty Earthquake.

Ray Smith with a hydrostatic Mayfield cutting the grass and another Mayfield with a dumper on the front and a seat for the driver. He also brought his beautifully restored Howard Gem BJ Twin. He also had a good collection of information on display.

Roy Watts had a comprehensive selection of push hoes and seedrills from Iron Age, Planet and Jalo. It's amazing the different models sold over the years I noticed that the rear wheels on Roys Planet Seeders were split, looking at my No.4 seeder it is solid.

Gary Sainsbury brought his Merry Tiller and spent most of the time helping everybody to repair their machines, so much for keeping clean and tidy.

One of our members had a recently acquired Simar A4 supplied via Picard & Pictet - but the engine was seized. A lot of effort and expertise went into it to say nothing of Charles WD 40 and the miniature railway fitters' blowtorch, with Gary, Ray Smith, Charlie and the owner (sorry I didn't get his name) working on it, or advising for most of the afternoon. It finally gave up and moved. He'd taken the piston home to boil it in water and washing powder to clean it out and free the rings. It was re-assembled by the end of the show, but not yet running I gather.

I took my Merry Tiller and as I was getting it started it kicked back, snatched the pull start handle out of my hand, broke the cord and threw the handle past my right earhole! Gary was there with his Merry Tiller and he'd had the same thing on the Friday, he went round to a Machinery stall and they had the right bit of cord, cost him a pint. When mine went he disappeared, came back with a length of cord and we fitted it on. I went to the stall where he got it and it cost me two coffees and a tea for the chaps on the stall. Merry tiller went faultlessly after that, I couldn't use it on the demo area due to forgetting to bring any tines (some say I've got a convenient memory!) I also took 3 Jalo Hoes, several Sprayers, Four Oaks, Eclipse, Mysto etc., Wrigley, Planet No4 and Bean Seeders, Tarpen generator, hedge-trimmer and chainsaw.

All together a good show from our point of view and we hope it will be run again next year, but its future is in the balance because the traders weren't happy. There were plenty of people about but they were not spending enough.

Alan Rogers