In 1892 the first gasoline-powered tractor was invented by John Froelich

The tractor was developed in a small village in Northeast Iowa. At the time steam-powered engines were used to thresh wheat. John was frustrated with the problem steam engines as they were heavy and bulky plus hard to manoeuvre. Froelich decided he could invent a better way to power an engine. The answer was gasoline. Froelich worked with his blacksmith and developed a vertical one-cylinder engine mounted on the running gear of a steam tractor engine and developed parts to make it all work together. Soon Froelich and his crew were using it to threshed 72,000 bushels of small grain.

Flour City was a tractor brand name used for the early gas tractors built by the Kinnard-Haines Co. of Minneapolis, USA. The companies tractor production ended when the factory was sold in 1929, following the death in 1926 of Mr Kinnard.

Stories, pictures and advertisements can be emailed to the Editor at blowcart0@gmail.com
ANSWERTO LAST MONTH’S BRAIN TEASER: Simply roll the two cylinders on the ground. The hollow one will roll farther than the solid one since it will have a higher moment of inertia.

**Something we didn’t know ——**

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...But, not downstairs. (Why in the heck would you want to take a cow upstairs!?)

**Did you know?**

The earth is struck by lightning about 100 times per second.

**Mystery Object…… Do you know what it is?**

Find out on Page 4

**Important – From the Secretary**

Renewal notices are being sent out with the newsletter. They need attending to as soon as possible to obtain our insurance at the end of the month. Thanks.....**Keith**
Continuing the mower restoration information from oldlawnmower.co.uk

Project Stages
Most restoration projects can be broken down into separate sections from initial dismantling through to final reassembly and finishing. It is often possible to carry out some of these stages, on different parts or sub-assemblies of the mower, at the same time.

- Dismantling and Inspection
- Cleaning
- Painting
- Replacing Parts
- Reassembly
- Finishing

Cleaning Mowers

RUST REMOVAL
Rust is always a problem with steel or cast iron. You will need to remove it before you can repaint the mower. Rust can be removed using a wire brush. Glass paper, sanding blocks and wire/steel wool are also useful. These all create dust so work in a well ventilated area if possible and wear a face mask to prevent breathing it in. A wire brush wheel in a power hand drill can cut a lot of the effort out but can create even more dust. As with all power tools, take care and wear appropriate protection.

If you have access to shot blasting equipment this can make cleaning the components a lot easier. Shot blasting can clean the metal right back to a bare and clean surface. In reality it is not necessary to go this far. Special chemicals can also be used to remove rust but there is no substitute for hard work with a wire brush. You should be aiming for a surface free of loose rust and paint.

PAINT REMOVAL
Even the rustiest machines will have some paint deposits on them. There is a good case to be made for leaving original paint on the mower even if you are going to paint over it. In this way the original paint will be preserved for future inspection by historians, industrial archaeologists and enthusiasts may be able to use as yet unforeseen techniques to learn about the materials and skills of the past.

If you do decide to remove the paint, scraping is one of the simplest and best techniques, particularly for small areas. Scrapping is also useful for larger areas but additional methods may be required. Paint stripper is useful. The water soluble, semi-gelatinous types are the best as they are easy to use and can be washed off afterwards.

Brush the stripper over the parts and leave for 15-30 minutes, using the time to work on other bits. Once the paint is softened it can be removed more easily by scraping or wire brushing. A second or even third application is sometimes required. Wipe cleaned parts with a rag soaked in white spirit to remove any stripper residues and leave to dry. Remove remaining rust as previously described.
NQMP MEETING AND DISPLAY DAYS 2019
AT TRAIN PARK LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

30 June 29 September
28 July 27 October
25 August

Mystery Object Answer - did you guess?

A Slush Lamp

In the days before battery powered torches railway men working on steam locomotives used a slush lamp to provide the light they needed to carry out their duties.

The slush lamp looked like a very small tea pot with a handle on one side and a spout containing a wick on the other. The pot held a flammable liquid like paraffin.

When the wick was lit the slush lamp provided sufficient light for a locomotive driver to carry out duties like oiling the bearings on the locomotive a task which was needed on a regular basis.