



Lawn Care and Garden Services

... an environmentally friendly way

Garden Maintenance and Landscaping

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Springtime 2013 Newsletter.

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2013! The first sign of spring is an exciting time as fresh growth appears and fragrance, colour and new life abound. Bringing joy and cheer into our gardens as spring flowers open and the beautiful sound of birdsong fills the early morning air.



Springtime can be a busy time in the garden and may include the first regular mowing of the season. It is also the time to plan for summer with the planting of summer flowering bulbs.

Over the wintertime we've been preparing for the new season and reviewing how to continually improve and increase the services for our Clients. In this newsletter we touch on some of our plans for 2013.

SO, WHAT'S NEW FOR 2013?

- **Changing the balance** – continued move to increase **fencing** and **landscaping** services.
- **Environmental friendly investment** -in cordless electric grass and hedge cutting equipment.
- **Increased services** – shortly we will add **small tree felling** and **chainsaw work** to the list of services we can offer. With **wildlife pond** installation and maintenance later in the season.
- **Increased carrying capacity** – with a new towbar fitted to the van and a new trailer.
- **Simpler contact** – only using the one telephone number (mobile) **0773-903-6715**.
- **What's staying the same** – **no increase in rates** for 2013.

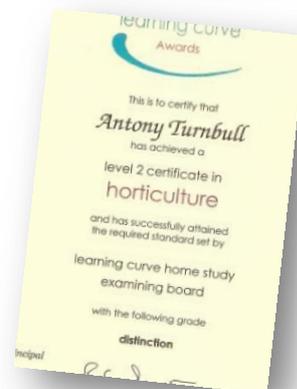
INCREASED CAPACITY FROM SPRING 2013

This season we will continue to build on our fencing and landscaping capability and may increase the workforce further. We have increased our carrying capacity with the addition of a towbar and trailer. This will allow us to offer even more cost-effective transportation of materials or green waste. Our daughter is fond of the little Suzuki van and pointed out "A trailer will be more **environmentally friendly** than a larger van, as it is only in use on days when it's required." Oh well, I'll just have to wait a little longer for a bigger van!



CHAINSAW SERVICES

Chainsaw cross-cutting and small tree felling services (working from ground level) will be available from summer. Having completed the RHS level 2 in Horticulture training course, I have embarked on a chainsaw training programme at Cragside. Undertaking certified chainsaw training with further specialised LANTRA training & certification in small tree felling in March.



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- ◆ Fencing ◆ Garden Sitting ◆ Hedge Trimming ◆ Landscaping ◆ Planting ◆ Pressure washing ◆ Pruning
- ◆ Lawns ◆ aeration ◆ mowing ◆ mulch mowing ◆ scarifying ◆ over-seeding and top dressing ◆ Turfing

CORDLESS EQUIPMENT - lean green trimming machines!

For the new season we have invested in cordless electric powered lawn and hedge trimming equipment* in an effort to continue to reduce our carbon emissions and noise levels. So, hopefully, you may be hearing a lot less from me! (*The equipment will be introduced during the season and will be suitable for some but not all gardens.)



LAWNS

Early spring is an ideal time to **scarify** the lawn to remove build up of thatch and allow light and air into the lawn. If the lawn is compacted then **aeration** and **top-dressing** may also be appropriate. An **organic spring lawn feed** will also encourage healthy growth. If you would like further information please ask for our leaflet on Lawn Care. It's worth pointing out that as the scarifying window is quite short (March/April) and demand tends to be high it's worth booking an appointment in advance.

Book NOW for spring lawn scarifying!

SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS

Spring is the time to be thinking about **summer colour** and planting summer flowering bulbs such as gladiolus and lilies in borders, containers and tubs. Available from early spring, buy dry, firm bulbs when they're as fresh as possible. Avoid the temptation to plant too early in cold, wet soil as the bulbs may rot. As well as planting, we are also happy to **supply** bulbs and plants.



YOUR VIEWS

With our increased carrying capacity I am considering carrying seasonal plants during peak planting times, such as annual summer bedding plants. I would be grateful for your thoughts and feedback on this idea to help gauge demand for this service, and any other ideas for garden services which you would find useful. I welcome your feedback on a postcard, by email or in person.

CONTACT:- EMAIL: antonyturnbull@hotmail.co.uk PHONE: 0773-903-6715 TEXT: 0773-903-6715

LANDLINE TELEPHONE NUMBER DISCONTINUED.

Please note that (0191) 392-1802 is **no longer in use.** Mobile no. **0773-903-6715** remains unchanged.

PLANT AND WEED OF THE NEWSLETTER – MARIGOLDS & GROUND ELDER



Ground Elder

Ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*) is a fast-growing, herbaceous, invasive, perennial weed which thrives in a shady aspect. It spreads via rhizomes (underground stems), is a member of the carrot family and is very, very difficult to eradicate. In spring, shoots with dark green leaves burst from the soil, followed by tall stalks that support several flat heads of white flowers. Flowers bear a resemblance to those of the unrelated elder tree, giving the weed its common name.

An organic way to help to control ground elder is by planting plants which secrete chemicals from their roots which help to suppress ground elder, bindweed and some other weeds. One effective plant is the Mexican Marigold (*Tagetes minuta*), however, this species of marigold can grow up to 6 feet tall and is unlikely to flower in our climate as it requires the sun of its native South America. However, you may wish to experiment with other types of marigolds which may have similar properties.



Mexican marigold

Happy Gardening!
Tony

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