



# Lawn Care and Garden Services

... an environmentally friendly way

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## Spring 2014 Newsletter.

Welcome to the Spring newsletter. May I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year, although I appreciate it may seem a long time ago! At the time of writing we have been blessed with a very gentle winter so far with little snow and few frosts. And compared to southern and western areas we have escaped the worst of the floods and storms. I suspect that most of us are looking forward to a little warmth and sunshine as the days continue to lengthen as we approach spring.



Crocus in Heaton Park, Feb 2014  
photo thanks to Samantha Richards.

You may notice the updated logo at the top left of this newsletter. Can you spot how it's changed? The logo represents the 4 seasons. Winter was represented by a snow plough, which was consistent with snow clearing and gritting services which we introduced in 2010. However, these services have now been discontinued as demand reduced due to the nature of our weather. So, this season the snow plough has been replaced by the fence in snow! Demand for our fencing services continues to increase especially during the winter months, so it seemed to make sense to picture this on the logo. Winter can be an ideal time to replace old fences especially where the fence is in a shrub border as access can be improved as shrubs lie dormant for the winter and the fence installation can be used as an opportunity to cut back and prune in the borders at the same time.

In this edition we take a look at: spring lawn care; bulb planting in springtime for summer colour and fencing. We are also introducing a service to provide bespoke conservation reports to help businesses understand and make best use of the local habitat. Whilst aimed at the commercial sector, a report of this type may also be of interest to domestic Clients wishing to better understand their immediate local environment and give ideas, for example, on how to encourage wildlife. An abstract of a local conservation report is attached at the end of this newsletter.

### *SPRING LAWN CARE*



Spring lamb in Rothbury -  
cutest way to 'mow' a lawn

Spring is the 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 in places then **aeration** may be appropriate. If you would like further information please ask for our leaflet on Lawn Care or further information can be found on-line at <http://www.antonyturnbull.co.uk> Spring is also a good time to get the lawn off to a good start with a nitrogen rich spring lawn feed. Finally, it's worth pointing out that as the scarifying window is quite short and demand tends to be high it's worth booking an appointment in advance

### *SPRING IN THE GARDEN*

Now is a good chance to get a head start with the garden before everything starts to shoot away. It's a time to do **any remaining tidying up**, removing dead foliage from herbaceous perennials and the final chance for winter pruning of anything that has been missed so far, such as roses. Care is needed not to prune any early flowering shrubs (typically shrubs which flower this side of June) as this may remove flowering buds e.g Camellias, Magnolias and Philadelphus should **not** be pruned at this time.

◆ FENCING ◆ MAINTENANCE ◆ LANDSCAPING

Antony Turnbull trading as Lawn Care and Garden Services. Est. 2009 Website: [www.antonyturnbull.co.uk](http://www.antonyturnbull.co.uk)

- ◆ Fencing ◆ Hedge Trimming ◆ Landscaping ◆ Maintenance ◆ Planting ◆ Pruning ◆ Small tree felling
- ◆ Lawns • aeration • mowing • mulch mowing • scarifying • over-seeding and top dressing • Turfing



During the **bird nesting season**, which runs from roughly the start of March until the back end of August, it's important to take extra care when hedge trimming and pruning to check for the presence of active bird nests and leave well alone to give the mother and her young the best possible start to life, apart from the fact that it is illegal to disturb any nesting bird.

One of the tricky things with gardening is remembering to **plan ahead**. While we're enjoying the aconites, crocuses and snowdrops now, to enjoy summer flowering bulbs such as Crocosmia, Gladioli and Lilies spring is the time for planting. Bulbs can be a great answer to plug gaps in the borders where you fancy a little colour later in the year. Bulbs are also useful in pots and planters as they can then be moved around the garden and patio areas.

### **FENCING.**

Fences can provide a variety of functions from marking out boundaries to providing privacy and security. Whilst for security purposes it is often tempting to build high solid fences, the reality is that this type of fence can often feel imposing from the inside and provide cover for unwanted 'guests' on the outside. Alternatives to high, solid fencing includes the use of an open trellis on the top of the fence which lets more light into the garden, giving less shade and helps to connect the garden with the outside landscape. The trellis can also make it more difficult to climb, than a solid fence, according to recent home security findings.

#### Close boarded fence.

In the example below the old fencing was replaced with an attractive new close boarded fence topped with trellis. Rather than using a 180cm (6ft) high solid fence, the Client chose to use 150cm high boards topped with a 30cm (1ft) high trellis. The use of trellis makes the fence look much less imposing, allows more light into the garden and enables the trees and greenery from further afield to be enjoyed. As a finishing touch a vertical trellis was added to give interest, provide support for climbing plants and separate different parts of the border.



#### Lap panel fence.



**Before**



**After**

In this second example an old panel fence was replaced with 'like for like'. As the fence spanned several gardens and ran down a slope, the fence was installed to 'step-down' the slope.

*Happy Gardening! Tony.*

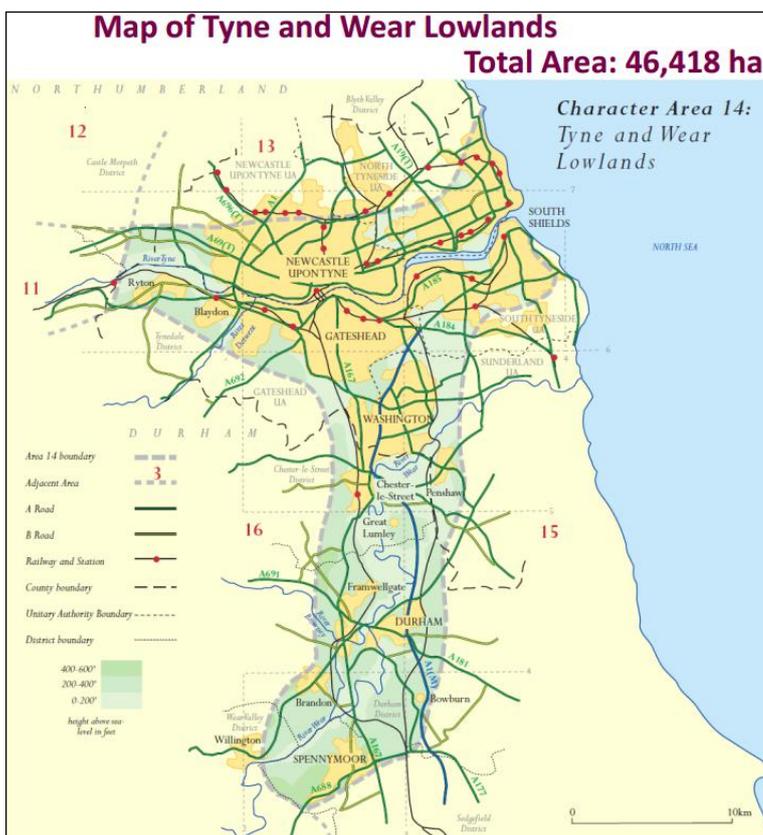
## An extract of the LCGS Gosforth Conservation Report

This short report aims to give a sense of place and illustrate the natural identity from the bespoke viewpoint of location of Gosforth. Initially it focuses on the wider region, and then zooms directly into Gosforth.

Please note that the report which follows is only a condensed two page taster. A full report provides detailed information as it moves in from the larger area towards Gosforth and would take a look at the landscape character within a 10, 5 or 2 mile radius of Gosforth and may include pages on historical landscape changes. The full report would also explain items which may trigger your curiosity, such as 'why Sunderland is not included when Durham is, in the Natural Character map area no.14 below?'

### Natural Character Area No.14 The Tyne and Wear Valley Lowlands.

Gosforth lies in the northern section of Natural Character Area No.14, The Tyne and Wear Valley Lowlands. Centred on the lower valleys of the Tyne and Wear, the Lowlands are bounded on the south and east by the west facing escarpment of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau and, to the west, by the rising land of the Durham Coalfield Pennine Fringe. To the north, the extensive conurbation lying in the broad valley of the Tyne merges into the South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. The area comprises gently undulating or rolling land, incised by the valleys of the major rivers and their tributaries. It is densely populated, and heavily influenced by urban settlement and by industry.



#### Key Characteristics

- An undulating landform incised by the rivers Tyne and Wear and their tributaries.
- Dominated by widespread urban and industrial development, and a dense network of major road and rail links.
- A landscape of considerable recent change, with a long history of coal mining - now revealed only by locally prominent open-cast extraction areas, spoil heaps and recently restored sites.
- Large, open fields of arable crops with urban fringe effect of pony grazing and other miscellaneous activities around settlements.
- Irregular woodland cover, generally sparse, but with well-wooded, steep, valley sides, estates with mixed woodland and parkland trees, and plantations on restored spoil heaps.
- Historic riverside cities of Newcastle upon Tyne and Durham, strategically located at bridging points of the rivers Tyne and Wear.

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## Gosforth

Bulman Village and Gosforth as a whole has a number of historical features, which contribute towards its spatial layout and development. The main punctuation to the south of Gosforth is the Town Moor. The northern boundary of Gosforth was traditionally demarcated by the sprawling grounds of St. Nicholas Hospital. Various small quarries and collieries have impacted upon the way the area has developed over the centuries, however most are not traceable in modern-day Gosforth.

## Gosforth Conservation Area

Gosforth Conservation Area lies approximately 1.5-2 miles to the north of the City Centre, beyond the Town Moor. The area consists of a dense, late C19th early C20th residential suburb. It is unique to the rest of the City in the way it has developed, aided by its status as an independent parish until 1974. The housing stock represents a collection of types, which are not represented in such quality elsewhere in the City, a collection of some of the region's best examples of High Victorian, Queen Anne Revival and Edwardian house styles. The suburb is complemented by a typical traditional High Street, which thrives despite its close proximity to the City Centre. All mature trees within the Conservation Area require local authority permission before any arboriculture works are carried out (i.e.: - pruning – felling)



## Wildlife of Gosforth

Squirrels LOOK OUT for Squirrels in Gosforth – both red and grey have been recorded within 2 miles of Gosforth. Please contact Red Squirrels Northern via this link if you have seen sightings of either species to... <http://www.northernredsquirrels.org.uk/>



Red Squirrel



Grey Squirrel



Rabbit

## Other recorded mammals



Hedgehog



Fox

## Recorded birds



Yellow Hammer



Goldfinch



Great Spotted  
Woodpecker