



Lawn Care and Garden Services

... an environmentally friendly way

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Spring Newsletter 2015.

Welcome to the spring newsletter. As I'm writing this newsletter with dark heavy snow laden skies and an inch or two of snow on the ground, it's hard to imagine birds' singing in the warmth and sunshine of a beautiful spring morning. However, by the time you're glancing at this newsletter, hopefully, short days and snowfall may be behind us!

Spring bursts forth and the hustle and bustle of activity in the garden begins as the weather encourages us into the garden. For professional gardeners spring can be the busiest time of year often with the floodgates opening at Easter time, it's quite **eggstraordinary!** So, as the saying goes "*to fail to plan is to plan to fail*" it can be worth planning ahead a little. In early spring, **lawn care** and **hedge cutting**, before birds start to nest, are tasks worthy of consideration for **booking in advance**.

SPRING LAWN CARE

Spring is a good time to spring feed the lawn with a nitrogen rich lawn fertilizer. During the damp and dull winter months if moss has developed it's well worth **scarifying** the lawn. If the lawn is spongy through the build up of thatch, scarifying will help to remove thatch and moss allowing light and water in to feed and nourish the lawn.

This season I've invested in a new petrol driven scarifier to complement the existing scarifying machine. The new low-emissions scarifier is fully adjustable to control the intensity of the scarification and enable thatch to be removed at various depths. The machine is also capable of lightly aerating the lawn by slitting the top 25mm or so of the soil to help the soil absorb water and relieve compaction in the top layer of soil.



Scarifying can remove large amounts of moss and thatch

We'll be offering the above spring feed and scarification lawn care services from **March to mid April**. If you're interested in finding out more about spring lawn care or would like advice on the condition of the lawn, please let me know. Spring lawn care is one of those services which is well worth booking in advance. For clients who have already requested this service I shall be in touch beforehand to arrange a convenient time to carry out the work.

NEW LAWNS

We had the pleasure of working on a beautifully maintained garden with various carefully designed areas including beds and borders and a vegetable garden. Our remit was to replace the vegetable garden with a lawn and a gravel path and edging at the top end. Preparation is key to the installation of a new lawn along with using top quality turf.



Rolawn Medallion® turf I find provides a consistently good quality lawn. Having installed lawns for the past 5 years and preferring to use Rolawn® turf, at the end of 2104 we have been accepted by Rolawn® 'find a landscaper' links.



Ground prepared; cultivated, firmed; levelled and fertilised



Turf being carefully laid, rolled-out, quite literally! – brick-like style to break the joints



Lawn laid and looking good!

Antony Turnbull (City & Guilds Horticulture, LANTRA) Trading as Lawn Care and Garden Services. Est. 2009.

- ◆ Fencing ◆ Hedge Trimming ◆ Maintenance ◆ Planting ◆ Pruning
- ◆ Tree work – chainsaw work and small tree (up to 5 metres) felling
- ◆ Lawns • aeration • mowing • mulch mowing • scarifying • over-seeding and top dressing • Turfing

FENCING AND GATES

As a result of the strong winds in January many fences have been put to the test and we've been involved in a number of fence repairs and replacements during the early part of 2015. Roof ridge tiles were another casualty of the January winds, as we experienced when our ridge tiles thundered down the roof and crashed to earth during the night. It actually happened on the night of our daughter's birthday and was a timely reminder of another disturbed, but on that occasion a joyous and miraculous night 30 years earlier.



Closed boarded gate

Gates - we have supplied and installed a number of custom made gates this season from 3ft to 6ft in height. To the left is one example of a solid closed boarded gate which we supplied and installed for a Client.

Fencing - in addition to open boarded, closed boarded, trellis and panel fencing we are also now able to supply and install **feather edge board fencing** which offers complete privacy as the fence boards overlap and there is no gap between the boards, as in the picture to the right. A good option for areas where privacy is the top priority but not the best option for very windy sites as this type of fence makes a solid barrier and doesn't allow wind through.



Feather edge board

WILDLIFE - ROBINS

Many thanks to Keith from Kenton for sending me this fascinating information about the robin and allowing me to share it in this newsletter.

"I am sending two snaps of a charming robin who follows visitors around the greenhouse in the walled garden at Wallington Hall singing sweetly, probably in the hope of some cake crumbs from the restaurant, or even a pocketful of mealworms! Although robins are ingenious opportunists when it comes to setting up home – there are instances of nests being built in kettles, coat pockets, church organs and even an aeroplane engine – I don't think he has taken up snug winter quarters in the greenhouse, but he hops in through the door to the adjacent potting shed when the gardener or a Trust volunteer leaves it momentarily open. He is very tame and, with patience, can be hand fed. *The reference book on robins – though now quite scarce and expensive is: Redbreast – The Robin in Life and Literature* by Andrew Lack; Ashford Press 2008.



CHANGING LIVES

During the autumn you may have met Steve who was working with me from Changing Lives.

"Changing Lives is a national, registered charity which provides specialist support for thousands of vulnerable people and their families, every month. Changing Lives work with people experiencing homelessness, addiction and a range of other problems by reaching out in to our communities, offering specialist support services for women and families and provide employment opportunities for our clients." More information on Changing Lives can be found at <http://www.changing-lives.org.uk/>

Steve enjoyed working on a variety of gardening work during the placement and we wish him well in a new job which he started after his work placement

AND NEW LIFE!

I would also like to thank Michael Newton for all of his hard work last season; installing fences, planting, pruning shrubs and trees and maintaining gardens. And to wish Michael all the luck in the world as he soon embarks on a life-changing experience with the birth of his first child. Good luck and very best wishes to Michael and family.

Happy gardening!
Tony