



# Lawn Care and Garden Services

... an environmentally friendly way

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## Summer Newsletter 2015.

Welcome to the summer newsletter and the miracle of new life with a cute and fluffy **Highland calf** and her Mum from our recent visit to Hirsell Country Estate in Coldstream. Hirsell Estate was the family home of Sir Alec-Douglass Home who was prime minister the year my wife was born, do you know the year?



Staying in Bonnie Scotland, we came across **Crossmyloof** train station in Glasgow. What a wonderful name 'Crossmyloof' and a good Pointless question and in fact since our return from Glasgow it was actually a pointless answer on Pointless! And as you can imagine we were sitting shouting it out at the tv! I've tried to find out where the name came from and according to local belief, the name is reputed to be derived from its location on the route taken by Mary, Queen of Scots to the site of the Battle of Langside. A fortune-teller may have offered to tell the queen her fate if she would "cross her loof (hand) with silver"

### Summer Lawn Care.

Mulch mowing is a great way to put nitrogen back into the soil to feed the grass during the growing season. Alternatively, the occasional feed with a nitrogen rich **lawn fertiliser** will encourage green lush growth. For the last two seasons I've switched to using Neudorff® **organic lawn feed and improver** which I find gives excellent results and encourages healthy root development and healthy leafy growth above ground. The product includes mycorrhiza fungi which has a *symbiotic* relationship with the grass. A symbiotic relationship is where each party gets something out of the relationship. In this case, the mycorrhiza fungi lives off the grass roots but the grass uses the mycorrhiza fungi to enable it to absorb potassium and other nutrients. This promotes resistance to drought and frost and give dense and strong lawn growth.

### Plants of interest.

In Hexham park in spring time I came across this beautiful catkin laden specimen of *Garrya elliptica*. *Garrya* are vigorous evergreen shrubs with simple leathery leaves and small greenish flowers in pendent catkin-like racemes in late winter and early spring.



In March we explored Glasgow Botanic garden while house hunting with our daughter. I found this display of primroses, gravel and stones within a greenhouse most appealing.

Closer to home in Chapel House, in April a Client kindly allowed me to take this picture of the marsh-marigold in full bloom in their garden pond in this very special garden which was designed by her husband. *Caltha palustris*, known as marsh-marigold, is a perennial herbaceous plant, native to marshes, fens, ditches and wet woodland. It becomes most luxuriant in partial shade. In the United Kingdom, it is probably one of the most ancient native plants, surviving the glaciations and flourishing after the last retreat of the ice, in a landscape inundated with glacial meltwaters.




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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

## Staff Changes – a big welcome to Neil!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Neil Alderson to the team. Neil started in April having taken over from Michael. Michael left last season to help bring up their beautiful daughter Elizabeth born this February.

Neil has kindly provided a few words of introduction for newsletter readers:- *“Hello. I'm very pleased to be part of the team and I have already worked on some fantastic gardens since joining Tony in April. One or two of you may have seen me around. I'm currently studying for a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture at Askham Bryan College which is setting me up for a career in the industry and I have a particular interest in garden design which is something I hope to develop further. I run an allotment in High Heaton so I'd welcome any tips from more seasoned allotmenters. I'm also a real plant fanatic and I've been treated to some fine specimens in the gardens I've already worked on. I'm very much looking forward to the rest of the season.”*

## Mobile App payment option.



With immediate effect I have taken on the Paym® technology to introduce an additional **method of payment** for anyone who uses a **mobile phone banking application**. Paym® enables a Client to pay safely and simply by using their mobile phone banking application. If this may be of interest to you, please ask for further details.

## Lawn care equipment.

I was recently invited to the Greenlay (Cramlington) grass machinery Open Day at Parklands Golf Course. It was an excellent opportunity to find out about the latest equipment and to keep up to date with changes in the industry from my supplier. There were demonstrations in the field of major products and an opportunity to try out the equipment first hand. I tried out a John Deere ride on lawn mower which is the big brother of the John Deere pedestrian lawn mowers which I use. A ride-on is a lot more exciting to use than the pedestrian mowers which I use on a daily basis at this time of year!

It was interesting to learn that flail mowers are becoming a lot more popular. A flail mower cuts longer grass much more cleanly than a rotary mower. As some councils are reducing the frequency of their grass cutting cycles they are moving towards the flail mowers to cope with the longer grass. Below is an example of a front mounted flail mower, the type you may start to recognise on the road verge sides and point out to your friends *“oh, there's a front mounted flail mower”* to impress them with your knowledge.



Front mounted flail mower



John Deere grass collector



John Deere ride on mower which I tried!

## Fencing and Gates.

Fencing, gates and repairs continue to form a key component of the services we deliver. This is a recent example of a front garden trellis fence which enhances the garden boundary. The trellis steps down and to ensure the horizontal timbers line up the trellis was custom made on a jig. Installation differs from larch-lap panels which are typically installed between the fence posts. In the case of trellis the panels are installed on the front of the post to form a continuous horizontal line. Finally, the trellis capping is returned vertically as the section steps down to give a professional finish.



..... Happy gardening! Tony