

## Gardner, bloom and blossom

AN EXCITING new era started in the autumn for Oaklands College: the old Hertfordshire College of Agriculture merged with two F.E. colleges - De Havilland College and City College - to form a new and enlarged college to be known as Oaklands College, which incidentally is the name it has been colloquially known by for over sixty years. With over 1,000 staff and 5,500 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students, the future is certainly exciting. The senior management team consists of the Principal, Mr Keith Gardner, two associate Principals, Dr Norman Bloomer and Richard Blossom and three Faculty Heads. The new Head of the School of Agriculture is Roger Thomas, previously Head of Machinery at the old Hertfordshire College of Agriculture.

Plans have been approved to develop a 'golf academy' at the college, this giving even better practical facilities for greenkeepers whilst also providing a place for professionals to bring their pupils for coaching.

As part of on-going development the college has introduced a one year full time course in Golf Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management.

## New course for Cannington

EXCITEMENT is bubbling from the very pores of staff and pupils at Somerset's Cannington College, first with the welcome news that a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Greenkeeping with European Studies has been developed and will commence in September 1992, coupled with the revelation that a new resource, a full length nine hole golf course, is to be built on college land covering 55 acres, with stunning views overlooking the Quantock Hills and within sight of the Bristol Channel. The course, designed by Martin Hawtree to specifications by Jim Arthur, will be constructed as a 'working' golf course that will receive the wear and tear of normal play (it is intended the course shall be open to the paying public) that will enable student greenkeepers to experience real life working conditions and prob-

lems, thus enabling them to successfully manage their own golf courses in the future. In addition, arborists, tree surgeons and would-be landscapers will lend their weight to the enterprise, one that is worthy of high acclaim for this nationally known seat of academic and practical learning. The college is seeking support from manufacturing industries associated with greenkeeping in the development of the course, which will also include a tuition area and ample practice facilities.

## Kenneth beats his disability



KENNETH Henderson, 24, an East Kilbride greenkeeper, has completed his three year block release SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping at Elmwood.

This achievement is no mean feat, for Kenneth, pictured above, can neither hear or speak. This was recognised by SCOTVEC when he was awarded the "Greenkeeper of The Year" award for Land Based Industries at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Kenneth was assisted in his course by Mrs Ann Dick of the Fife Regional Council Adult Support Unit, who helped him enormously during his times at college.

East Kilbride are obviously pleased with Kenneth's achievement, particularly Stuart Taylor (his then head greenkeeper and now at Glasgow, Killermont), who helped him as much as possible with his college work.



TWO female greenkeepers have started their training at Elmwood, enrolled on a Greenkeeping Block Release of three years, the girls attending college for seven weeks each year. Caroline Patrick and Tarn Stewart are the first females to enrol for many years, highlighting the point that a career in greenkeeping is no longer an exclusive male bastion. It is hoped many more ladies will follow their example.

## Double win for high flyer Tom

TOM Spence has completed the National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management, at Distinction level, at the Lancashire College of Agriculture - a three year full time course.

Tom was awarded the Institute of Groundsmanship Cup for the top academic student, and the Rufford Topdress Cup for the best student in Management.

Tom, a former Tudhoe Grange pupil, has gained employment as first assistant at Newby Grange GC, Carlisle.

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*Further information from:*

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