



Greenkeeping is an Art

Artists, Ackroyd and Harvey, have been creating breath-taking works of art using British Seed Houses A26 So-Green mixture.

The award-winning duo has been creating masterpieces by utilising the light sensitivity of chlorophyll in individual blades of grass to create 'sketch like' images. They do this by projecting a large scale negative onto a canvas of grass as it grows.

Richard Brown, of British Seed Houses, commented, "We have been working with Ackroyd and Harvey for a while now, and realised early on that A26 So-Green was the perfect mixture for what they wanted. It contains our naturally occurring AberNile perennial ryegrass which has the ability to maintain a dark green

colour, even throughout the winter. It's this particular quality that allows the artists to achieve such contrast and definition in their work."

It was the simple act of leaning a ladder against a living, light-sensitive surface that was to first arouse the idea of actually using the green pigment of chlorophyll to make extraordinary photographic images in grass.

Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey recently returned from Ljubljana, Slovenia, where they exhibited their piece 'On the Field' (pictured) at the 2010 Arts Festival in the city.

The piece is an excellent example of the light manipulation technique they use to change the colour of the grass during growth.



TEN UP FOR BRAD

BIGGA's Membership Services Assistant, Brad Anderson, has recently celebrated 10 years service with the Association.

Brad was just 17 when he started as one of the two Receptionists in the then recently opened BIGGA HOUSE and he moved to the Membership Department in 2007.

His indepth knowledge of computers and technology has also been of great benefit to the Association in terms of technical support to the rest of the staff and was responsible for him picking up the nickname, "Bradget."

Brad became the fifth current member of Headquarter staff to reach the 10 year milestone and he received a digital camera to mark the occasion.



BIGGA Chief Executive to Leave

The BIGGA Board is sad to announce that after 17 years of service its Chief Executive, John Pemberton, has given notice of his intention to move on. John first joined the Association in March 1993 as its Accountant, moving up to take the reins as Chief Executive in March 2004.

“The BIGGA Board of Directors wishes to thank John for his leadership and dedication to the job over the years which has resulted in BIGGA significantly increasing in size, profile and industry positioning” commented Chairman, Paul Worster.

John will continue in his current position until the end of April 2011 and will be helping the Board with the recruitment of a suitable successor.



ROYAL ARRIVAL ON SAVILE ROW

‘Savile Row Field Day’ saw the world’s most prestigious tailoring location closed to traffic as dozens of sheep grazed in a specially laid pasture created by Inturf.

The event took place under the patronage of HRH The

Prince of Wales and was organised to publicise the benefits of wool clothing.

It attracted visitors and buyers from around the world – as well as considerable publicity in the national press.

“The turf had to be laid

during the night so we started at 11pm and worked through until 5 in the morning,” says Inturf Joint Managing Director Alex Edwards.

“As befits a project for Savile Row the turf was a tailor-made mixture of grasses including sheep fescue!”

Facing Facebook Talking Twitter

Justin Ruiz, CGCS, has been honoured with the 2010 GCSAA Leo Feser Award for his article, “Facing Facebook, talking Twitter, which appeared in the June 2010 issue of Golf Course Management magazine.

Justin is the GCSAA certified Superintendent at The Rim Golf Club in Payson, Arizona.

His article focused on the communication advantages with golfers/

members/customers that social media can provide.

The Leo Feser Award is presented annually for the best Superintendent-written article published in GCM. The award winner is selected by members of GCSAA’s Strategic

Communications Committee. Ruiz, a 12-year GCSAA member, will receive the award at the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference.

WatSave 2010 Technology Award from the ICID

Dr Keith Weatherhead and Dr Jerry Knox, of the Cranfield University’s Centre for Water Science, together with UK Irrigation Association Executive Secretary Melvyn Kay, have won the prestigious WatSave 2010 Technology Award from the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) for their research and promotion of on-farm reservoirs in the UK.

The annual ICID WatSave Awards recognise outstanding contributions to water conservation or water saving across the world.

The winning project, proposed and funded by the Environment Agency, promotes the use of on-farm reservoirs to store surplus winter water for use in drier summers. This helps protect the environment and conserves water for existing users.

The judges noted that though this was not a new technology, “its application here, by water professionals campaigning for farmers to invest in storage on their own land was worthy of award. The construction of on-farm reservoirs [in the UK] has provided the water security essential to achieve timely production of high quality food that reduces water wastage from field to plate.”



Deere Seen at the Zoo

If you could talk to the animals at Chester Zoo, they'd probably say how good the lawns and paddocks look after their John Deere machines have been at work.

The zoo currently runs a Z425 zero-turn mower, a TS Gator utility vehicle and a 2720 compact tractor, all supplied by local John Deere dealer Turner Groundscare of Tarvin, Chester. Horticulture & botany team leader Mark Hargreaves chose the new compact zero-turn mower after a visit to the IOG Saltex event in 2009, where he looked at about 10 different machines altogether.

"The mower is perfect for what we need, and has been an absolute godsend," he says. "We only have three hours to cut around 13 acres

of grass before the zoo opens to the public at 10am, and it saves us a lot of time. One man can cut it all in a couple of hours, even including the car parks when necessary.

"It's light and extremely manoeuvrable, especially when cutting around our newly established borders and flower beds, and we can even use it in wet grass with no problems. The mower deck also features a mulching kit that allows us to cut and drop, which saves us 25 per cent on fertilisers throughout the year."

The TS 4x2 Gator is used every morning, carrying hosepipes, landscaping materials and as a general workhorse around the

zoo. "The Gator does just about everything we ask of it, and is also a real help in getting various jobs done in time before the zoo opens each day," says Mark.

Andy McKenzie is a specialist keeper in the zoo's popular elephant house, which is the base for a John Deere 2720 29hp compact tractor equipped with a front loader and bucket.

"We use the tractor all day every day for general shifting and materials handling work. As well as cleaning out and reshaping the sand on the floor in the elephant house and out in the paddock, the tractor is also useful for towing tree branches and moving 1 tonne bags of grass for the elephants to feed on, said Andy.

Surrey Team Victorious at the Three Section Match

The annual Three Section match between Essex, Surrey and Sussex at Three Bridges Golf Club in Essex, was won by the Surrey team pictured - the first time the trophy had been retained, or won by any team outside their own county.

The day was Sponsored by Ernest Doe and Sons, Andy Turbin pictured on Jacobsen Eclipse



SALES AND MARKETING MAN IN AT KUBOTA

Kubota has appointed David Blackwood as Sales and Marketing Manager for its Tractor & Groundcare Division.

David brings with him a wealth of experience in the agricultural equipment industry, having spent the last 18 years in various technical and commercial roles for AGCO, formerly Massey Ferguson.

In previous roles he headed the group's sales and marketing operations in the Far East but will now be operating somewhat closer to home, creating and implementing Kubota Tractor & Groundcare's sales and marketing strategies in Northern Europe, working with dealers in the UK, Ireland, the Baltic and Scandinavia.

In particular he will be looking to help Kubota establish its higher horsepower tractor ranges.

Married with two children, David said, "Kubota is a global manufacturer known for its quality and reliability and I am delighted to have joined such a well-respected company.

"My role will be to continue to drive sales for Kubota's core groundcare utility and compact equipment range but to also support its move into the higher horsepower tractor market, which is where my experience will be invaluable."



Success for Writtle Student

Anthony Stockwell, who was featured in the October 2009 edition of GI for his Living the Dream article regarding his placement at The London Golf Club, has successfully graduated from Writtle College, a partnership institution of the University of Essex. Anthony received an upper second class Honours BSc degree in Sport Turf Science and Management.

Anthony found the relationship with The London Golf Club very supportive as he was able to work at weekends during the final year of his studies before taking up a full time position on the greenkeeping staff upon completion of the course.

In January 2011 Anthony, who has a firm belief that only the correct application of science and management techniques can progress the industry, has applied to start studying for a Masters degree in Professional Studies of Turfgrass Management.



New Kit for a New Centre of Excellence

The Vale Resort's newly developed Welsh Rugby Union National Centre of Excellence has recently been kitted out with a brand new fleet of Toro turf maintenance machinery.

The £4million state-of-the-art training facility is home to the Cardiff Blues rugby team as well as Cardiff City Football Club and the Welsh Football Association, and needed a top-notch fleet to mow and maintain its six international-standard practice pitches.

The WRU charged local machinery dealer Ted Hopkins Limited with selecting the right

manufacturer and machines to suit the centre's needs.

Two new Toro Reelmaster 3100-D mowers and a heavy-duty Workman HDX utility vehicle with topdresser are now hard at work at the training ground, which also features an extensive indoor training centre and the world's most advanced 3G outdoor floodlighting.

Geraint Scamel, Head Greenkeeper at the Vale Resort, which is based in Hensol, near Cardiff, said that he was delighted with the new arrivals.

"I used to use Toro many moons ago on the golf course, but we switched to another manufacturer's machinery – it's great to have Toro back.

"I'm really pleased with the mowers – they feel really robust and solid when you sit on them."

What's more, Welsh Team Manager, Alan Phillips, has given the Toro fleet the official thumbs up, commenting:

"I'm glad Geraint and the boys have got the proper equipment they need to do a top-class job."

IF YOUR ABSTRACTION LICENCE IS UP FOR RENEWAL, READ THIS MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Of approx 340 time limited abstraction licences up for renewal by March 2011 only 175 applications have been received.

"We don't want licence holders to find themselves in the situation where they do not have a current licence to abstract," said Fiona Ireland EA, Permitting Team Leader Water Resources.

"Like any business we need to plan and manage our workload and we have tried to encourage the early submission of applications but have not yet been successful. In a couple of years we will have 900 renewal applications to process and if we are going to be in a position to determine these applications in time and

allow continuing abstraction the drive to encourage early submission will be even stronger," she explained.

"In previous years we have been fairly lenient in accepting applications for renewal right up to the point of expiry and we have considered applications submitted after the expiry date of the old licence.

"This will no longer be the case and in future we will be enforcing the legislation - licence holders must get their applications to us at least three months before the old licence expires in order for us to process their applications to allow continuing abstraction while their

application is being determined (known as LEV).

If applications are not received in time we will treat it as an application for new water which may mean that details of the application would need to be advertised and if the abstraction is in an over-abstracted or over licensed catchment it is possible that it would not be renewed under the same terms and conditions as the previous licence and in some cases may even run the risk of not being renewed at all," said Fiona.

If you think you are affected then call the Permitting Support Centre on 0114 289 8340



Four New Faces at Sherriff

Sherriff Amenity has expanded its national sales team with the addition of four new Amenity Specialists.

Edward Harris takes responsibility for sales in North East England. Edward has extensive experience within the amenity industry.

He studied an HND at Myerscough College in Turf Science Golf Course management.

He has also worked as a Greenkeeper at The London Golf Club, Hanbury Manor Country Club and Loch Llomond Golf Club.

Edward also spent a couple of years in Abu Dhabi, managing football pitches for Sheik Hamdon and Sheik Mansoor.

David Chammings will be covering Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

Prior to joining Sherriff Amenity David spent 8 years working in the greenkeeping industry at Exeter

Golf Club and Ashbury Golf Club.

Chris O'Kane has been promoted from within Sherriff Amenity and is now responsible for sales in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Chris joined the company in 2008 in a sales and transport administration role.

Adam Hartley joins the company having spent the last 22 years as a Greenkeeper, the last nine of which were as Course Manager at the 27 hole West Chilmington Golf Club in West Sussex.

Adam will be covering West Sussex, Hampshire and Dorset.

"I am delighted to announce these appointments," commented Mary Pyrah, Amenity Director of Agrovista UK.

"All four are now undertaking their BASIS training, which we see as vital qualification for anyone advising the use of chemicals in the amenity industry today".



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New Holland Stalwart Retires to the 19th Hole



New Holland is saying farewell to one of its most experienced Product Marketing Managers who has spent almost half a century in the groundcare industry.

Alan Hawes, who has worked for the company for the last 20 years, is retiring from an industry that has undergone

considerable change since he entered it as a 17 year-old.

“When I started most customers would have a tractor on every implement, and the UK industry supported about 33,000 machines. That number has now halved, and tractors have become bigger, more powerful and able to

handle a wider range of tasks. Air conditioning used to be standard as there weren’t any cabs,” said Alan.

He has spent the last 10 years in charge of New Holland’s 65-115HP tractors, the T4000s, TD5000, T5000s, and fruit tractors. Working on that size of machine has allowed him to travel the length and breadth of the UK and Republic of Ireland, meeting customers on local authority and sports grounds, and sites that are close to his heart – golf courses.

“We sell a lot of T4000s into golf courses and during my career I’ve had the chance to work with great people on some special courses.

“Obviously St Andrew’s would be a highlight. To be stood in their workshops and looking across at the R&A clubhouse and golf hotel you think: It’s a dream come true to be training these people on our tractors at the home of golf,” he added.

His love of tractors and machinery started when he used to sit on the wing of his father’s Fordson Standard.

From there he progressed to an apprenticeship before working in multiple roles across service, sales and marketing with tractor firms. He then joined Fiat and New Holland from 1991.

Of his 48 year career, Alan said, “I’ve lived my dream, which started when I was with my father on the farm. I’ve always had the ambition to work with machinery and tractors and I’ve been able to do it. I’ve made a tremendous number of friends over the years, worked for a wonderful company in New Holland and enjoyed every minute of it. I won’t retire rich, but I’ll have rich memories.”

Steve Basnett, who has been working in New Holland’s demonstration team across Europe, took over the role of marketing product support specialist in October.

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Bobcat Takes Promac

Bobcat has appointed Promac Solutions Ltd as the company's new Authorised Dealer for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Promac is now responsible for the complete range of Bobcat equipment from skid-steer, compact tracked and all wheel steer loaders, excavators, telehandlers and utility vehicles to a comprehensive selection of Bobcat attachments that together deliver versatility and time-saving efficiency across a huge range of different applications.

A successful supplier of new and used plant and machinery for earthmoving, construction, demolition and recycling, Promac was formed in 2006.

Commenting on the new appointment, Grant Linton, Managing Director of Promac Solutions said:

"The addition of the Bobcat range is an excellent complement to the leading brands we represent throughout the South East which include Doosan and Montabert. Bobcat has one of the leading ranges of compact equipment with a superior range of compact loaders, mini-excavators and telehandlers."



Aeration Day

A precise and quite perfect exhibition of clean hollow-coring stole the praise at T H White's Aeration Day at Mill Ride GC, where 35 turf professionals from Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire had assembled.

Wiedenmann's GXi8 HD Terra Spike using 11 mm diameter coring tines and going 80 mm deep effortlessly aerated one of the greens in a text book display which was met with enthusiastic appreciation.

Laurence Pithie, Director of Turf Master One Consultancy, whose earlier aeration lecture session had covered all aspects from solid tining, scarifying and hollow-coring said, "The Wiedenmann GXi8 HD now overcomes the old problem of golf clubs having to purchase two machines to hollow core and deep tine greens and tees. This machine can do both quickly and cleanly with adjustable depth and using a variety of tines to suit all situations throughout the year."

The event which was BIGGA/CPD accredited had been organised by Ian Royston, area manager of TH White, Reading.



EILEEN CALLS IT A DAY

After 28 years service as liaison officer for the farming sector and greenkeeping training at Oatridge College, Eileen Barry has retired.

Eileen has seen many changes in the years that she has worked at Oatridge College.

Scotland's East Section wishes Eileen every success in the future.

Picture showing Eileen being presented with flowers and gift voucher from Tom Murray on behalf of the East Section.