



Oxfordshire Gardens

go Mowing with Sanli

High-profile Oxfordshire visitor attraction, Waterperry Gardens, has taken delivery of a pair of Sanli LSP46 self-propelled pedestrian mowers to help maintain a variety of formal lawns and other grassed areas within the magnificent 3.2ha ornamental garden.

Handed over by Sanli UK's Area Manager, Claire Morris, the two mowers are to be used by Waterperry's three full-time gardeners. The mowers incorporate operator-friendly features such as comfort-grip handles, 60 litre grass collectors and single-point cutting height adjustment.

Located near the village of Wheatley, east of Oxford, Waterperry Gardens was, until 1971, home to a school of horticulture for ladies. Today, the gardens at Waterperry have evolved into an oasis of calm and beauty where visitors can enjoy the spectacular formal gardens, which include a waterlily canal, a rose garden and the celebrated 60m long colour border, said to be one of the finest purely herbaceous borders in the UK.



JCB Secures Huge Order with Leading London Plant Hirer

JCB has won a huge order – including 42 tracked and wheeled excavators – from one of the country's leading plant hire firms.

The multi-million pound deal has been secured with London-based Lynch Plant Hire and includes a fleet of racked excavator models in addition to two wheeled excavators – manufactured at JCB Heavy Products in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

The excavator order has been placed in response to increased demand from Lynch Plant Hire's customers for machines which can operate in the demanding road and rail sectors. Several of the machines have already been delivered and are already performing on high profile projects across the UK. This includes the JCB wheeled excavator models carrying groundworks as part of the M25 motorway widening scheme.

What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Lee Penrose, of the STRI, is interrogated...



What is your position?

Project Manager / Consultant

How long have you been in the industry?

Just over eight years

How did you get into it?

Whilst at university I conducted a research project for Dr Stephen Baker, at STRI, investigating rootzone construction in greens. The time I spent working with Steve and the team was great and I took the opportunity to work for a forward looking company!

What other jobs have you done?

Laid bricks, built conservatories, managed Burger King, and worked on turf construction and maintenance.

What do you like about your current job?

Definitely, the variety. My life is impossible to predict day to day, and that is a great thing. I spend a lot of time travelling and meeting new people. I love being at the cutting edge of the turf industry and, through the STRI, helping to steer things in the right direction for our clients.

What changes have you seen during your time?

Technology is now king and we are slowly seeing that creep into the industry and, in particular, course management. We are moving into an era where quantitative analysis and prediction, using tools like the STRI Trueness Meter, will help take golf course presentation and playability to the next level.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have 3 great passions in my life:

- 1 – My wife and 2 daughters, Mary and Abigail
- 2 – Fly fishing for salmon and wild trout
- 3 – (Sadly) work. I spend my evenings working on things like the Golf Environment Awards.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Who knows? I have an inherent need to re-invent myself every few years. I will no doubt still be involved with STRI and working within the industry (but hopefully for more money!)

Who do you consider as best friends in the industry?

Numerous, but I particularly enjoy annual jaunts shared with Dr Micah "Buckie" Woods (Director, Asian Turfgrass Centre) and have spent many happy hours with Simon Elsworth (Head EAME Turf & Landscape, Syngenta)

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

215 – not sure why...

Lee has picked Shona Garner, Consultant