

groundbreakers

Raising the standard

QUADRON

Working in partnership with



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

QUADRON
ENVIRONMENT

Providing horticultural services for the upkeep of The Royal Borough of
Kensington and Chelsea's parks, gardens and open spaces

Autumn 2011

Welcome to groundbreakers, Quadron's newsletter to keep all interested parties informed of developments within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's grounds maintenance service.

Awards galore in Kensington and Chelsea



Kensington and Chelsea has had plenty of cause for celebration in recent months with the Borough and its people being recognized for several prestigious awards.

Quadron Park Keeper, Alec Eadie, has been honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, the only gardener in the Borough to achieve the award.

Alec was highly commended for his work in St Luke's park and his involvement with the community. Alec also helps the police on the Community Watch programme. The Mayor personally told Rob Scott and Ben Binnell that Quadron has improved the parks and open spaces so much over the recent years and the improvements were noted.

Alec was later invited to the City Hall by Boris Johnson to collect a Silver Mayor's Safer Parks Award together with the parks police for his work in helping to keep St Luke's a safer place for its users and residents.

There was more good news in July, when we learned that Kensington and Chelsea had retained all of its existing Green Flags and gained two new ones at Westfield Park and Little Wormwood Scrubs.

Congratulations and thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication.



Alec Eadie receives his Lifetime Achievement Award



Alec Eadie and RBKC Parks Police collect the Safer Parks Award

Kensington and Chelsea Quadron apprentices

The apprentices continue to work well and Ian Fleming has reported that he is very pleased with their progress.

All apprentices recently undertook an exam as part of their Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture. Three of the apprentices achieved a distinction which is an excellent result.

The apprentices continue to contribute significantly to the improvement of standards in the park.

For all Quadron's latest news and information visit www.quadronenvironment.co.uk

Chelsea in bloom

After a very cold winter with lots of snow the parks came alive with spectacular shows of colour.

Marie, a Chelsea resident said of the Chelsea Embankment, "I have travelled on the bus every morning on my way to work for the last 35 years and this year the beds are looking splendid, have you had a new team of gardeners in?"



Embankment in January (above) and then in April (below)



Gabor and Jaryd planting up outside the Chelsea Flower Show



The same planter in Spring

Congratulations are due to Gabor Kiss and Jaryd Gray in their new roles as acting Head Gardener and Charge Hand as their high standards are now paying dividends. Rob Scott agrees: "The standards being achieved by the mobile team are the best I have seen since I began work seven years ago".

Spring clean in Westfield

Brian Wilson (left) from Groundwork has joined Quadron as a gardener at Westfield Park. Brian, formerly a butler, has taken a new career path. He has great enthusiasm and a strong interest in horticulture and is already growing plants and vegetables from seed, has turned an old wheel barrow into a planter and, together with Gonzalo

(right), repainted and re-organized the mess room and repainted tables and chairs in their yard making it a very enjoyable place to be. The park has been awarded a Green Flag this year. The judge, who is Manager of Parks for Westminster and Manager of The Royal Parks seemed very impressed with the park keeper's work.



Brian Wilson



Gonzalo

Dave and Sam keep it spic and span!

The Cleansing Team's David West and Sam Mayhew have now both been trained on the Hako Sweeper and can be seen actively sweeping the paths of the Borough's parks clean.

This is a huge help for the charge hand Andrew Rugg who previously singlehandedly swept the paths with the sweeper.

“ Andrew applauded them saying “It's much better now as it spreads the work-load and it gives me more time to oversee our work. Sam and Dave are highly committed workers doing a fantastic job!”





The new Ice House border

“ I enjoyed designing this border next to the Ice House as it is my favourite area of Holland Park with beautiful views. My husband Mark commented saying it looks just like my style of gardening at home. I have used a mixture of shrubs, herbaceous and annuals to provide year round interest and will continue to improve the border and make innovations as time progresses.

Leonie Castro (Assistant Head Gardener)

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Mediterranean skies in Kensington Memorial Park

Due to the liquidation of Eden a very old olive tree has been donated to Kensington Memorial Park.

The tree now forms a central feature in the middle of the formal garden. Steve intends to compliment the tree with Mediterranean style planting.



Planting the olive tree



Keeping Kensington and Chelsea green

Krzysztof Ksiezniak has made an excellent contribution to recycling in the Borough by creating compost bins out of recycled timber in Cremorne and St Luke's.

Krzysztof created the well-crafted compost bins on his own initiative and his work will allow composting of grass and leaves on site and reduce the carbon footprint, whilst providing valuable eco-friendly compost within the parks.



Putting the new compost bin to good use

Rob Scott has been nominated as the co-ordinator for biodiversity in the Borough.

Working alongside Saskie, the RBKC ecologist, the strategy of this role is to increase the variety of flora and fauna in the parks through sound management and maintenance techniques. Rob's tips are:

- leave undisturbed logs for invertebrates,
- don't cut back shrubs and hedges until August as birds are nesting,
- fill up bird feeders.

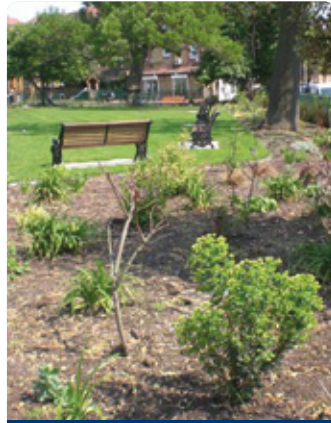
Many thanks to the park keepers filling the feeders during the winter as this proved invaluable for our many birds resident during the winter months.

A new toilet block in St Luke's has a green wall and green roof, using a special watering system, so putting the Borough in the forefront of eco-friendly buildings.

Little Wormwood Scrubs

March saw the completion of the new ornamental garden at Little Wormwood Scrubs.

With the turf laid and the herbaceous perennials starting to come through with the spring sun, the only thing left to do was to add the turf edging. With the edging completed the entire project looked very successful. Additional planting was added to the shrub bed in late April to supplement the planting that did not make it through from the harsh winter months.



New ornamental planting at Wormwood Scrubs

Early March also saw another successful volunteers' day conducted in Little Wormwood Scrubs with staff from a local packaging firm helping to plant young whips in the native hedge.

All the hard work has seen great results as Little Wormwood Scrubs has this year achieved its first Green Flag!



Volunteers plant the new whips

Cremorne Gardens



Spring bulbs at Cremorne

Tony Webb is now working as a valuable member of the team in Cremorne gardens having transferred from Kensington Memorial Park Gardens in March.

Tony is enjoying the new site, gets on well with the mobile team and is appreciated by the boat club. Tony says "I'm enjoying working with a great bunch of guys, and I'm getting to see interesting sites in the south of the Borough that I haven't seen before."

The English Landscape School, a school for horticulture and design, has offices overlooking Cremorne Gardens and their teachers have commended Rob Scott and the mobile team on the interesting work being carried out across the Borough, particularly with the use of plants and colour. In the future we hope that volunteers from the school can liaise with the parks on new exciting projects.

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Service delivery comment / enquiry request

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 Date / Time (if applicable): _____
 Specific details of comment / enquiry: _____

Reply required YES / NO (please delete as applicable)

CONTACT DETAILS FOR REPLY

Name: _____
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