

# groundbreakers

Raising the standard

QUADRON

Working in  
Partnership with



QUADRON  
ENVIRONMENT

Providing horticultural services for the upkeep of The Royal Borough  
of Kingston upon Thames's parks, gardens and open spaces

Issue 2:  
Spring 2010

## £1.1m of Playbuilder funding secured!

On behalf of the Royal Borough of Kingston, Quadron successfully bid for £1.1m of Playbuilder funding to improve 18 existing playgrounds and create four new schemes within the borough. The works is taking place over a two year period which commenced in April 2009.

Year One projects, totalling £350,000, were hit by horrendous winter weather yet despite this all except one were finished by the end of March. The final site was unfortunately under water at the time but now the sun is out it is well on the way to completion! Quadron also worked closely with the police to improve sight lines and the perception of safety, which has generated many compliments from residents, one of which is copied below.

"I just wanted to write to congratulate [you] for the initiative to significantly upgrade the playground equipment in the Blagdon Road open space in New Malden, the work has quite simply transformed the space. The children are now playing rather than simply loitering, and the fact that the older kids now have some more exciting and challenging equipment to play on means that the basic equipment at the

other end of the park is available more often to the younger kids. It has become a destination in its own right, with families, teenagers and children I've never seen before now coming here to hang out and play.

New Malden is a safe place, but as you will know, fear of crime is more of a problem than crime itself, and the removal of the overgrown shrubbery combined with the fact that the park now is always full of kids, means it feels so much safer in the evening and is now a real pleasure to walk through each day on my way to and from the station.

I'm sure this kind of equipment doesn't come cheap, but I would love to see more of this kind of work around the borough. I have been surprised at how this investment has had such an immediate impact on a whole range of factors that affect one's quality of life..."



Blagdon Recreation Ground: New Malden before (top) and after.



## Welcome to 2010 seasonals

In early March the 2010 seasonal contingent started work at Kingston joining up with the full time crews to take on the 2010 season.

Of the 18 employed we have a varied crew from all over the world – New Zealand, Germany, Poland, Sweden and Jamaica and of course England. We wish them well for their time at Quadron Kingston and we hope they return in 2011.

For all Quadron's latest news and information visit [www.quadronenvironment.co.uk](http://www.quadronenvironment.co.uk)

# Parks improvement planting

Rob Waite (Greenspaces Officer) and Lionel Randell (Park Supervisor) have long had a wish to improve planting within key parks. In January and February Quadron embarked on the planting of 3,900 bare root roses and 500 flowering shrubs. We all wait in anticipation of the flowering results!



*Beverley Park: Before and after*

## Qualified trainers

Parks Team Leader Nick Edwards and Park Ranger Darren Leiberman have recently qualified as Lantra-Awards instructors in Groundscare machinery. The training involved a five day "Instructional Techniques" course, two days of Operator training on Ride-on and Pedestrian mowers and a further four days of technical standards training.



*Nick (left) and Darren (right) – delivering accredited training*

"The training has been excellent and has boosted both my personal and professional confidence no end" said Nick, and Darren added that "the scope and depth of the course, coupled with the high quality of the trainers, has increased my confidence greatly. I am now very motivated and

enthusiastic about my future within Quadron".

Contract Manager Mark Garthwaite stated that "It's often with some apprehension that we attend or send staff on training courses – will the individual embrace the training? Will the company get a positive return?"

Having spoken to both Nick and Darren on their return from the first round of training they spoke with such enthusiasm that this Lantra training cannot fail to be a success in both their own personal development and that of those they will train and the future of the company as a whole".

## Customers come first...

As part of our standard customer care policy we like to give our customers the opportunity to let us know what they think of our service delivery standards.

This feedback is used to amend the future service so we can make sure that we meet your needs. If you have an enquiry or comment, please contact us using the contact details below or by filling out and returning the enquiry form, alternatively feedback can be given via the website, [www.quadronenvironment.co.uk](http://www.quadronenvironment.co.uk)

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### Service delivery comment / enquiry request

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENT / ENQUIRY**