

# LANDSCAPING MATTERS

A photograph of a landscaped courtyard. In the foreground, a curved stone path leads through a garden bed filled with various plants, including tall grasses, purple flowers, and yellow daisies. A young tree with green and yellow leaves stands on the left. The background features a large, multi-story stone wall with a small window and a brick wall on the right.

**ISSUE 3**

**MAN WITH THE GOLDEN TOUCH**

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# LANDSCAPING MATTERS

## Peter proves he has the golden touch

It was my great pleasure to interview Irish landscape architect Peter Donegan recently. He was about to head off to Melbourne where he had a show garden on display at the prestigious Melbourne Flower Show, but was able to spare me some time to talk.

We had a super chat and I immediately promoted him onto my list of top four companions at my fantasy dinner party... replacing Stephen Fry.

Now, I'm not sure if Landscaping Matters can take any credit, after all the vast majority of the work was carried out before we talked, but Peter and his team went on to win a Gold Medal.

The profile of Peter appears elsewhere in this issue and I hope that it is as fascinating to read as it was to write.

This is the third issue of Landscaping Matters and it is the desire of the Landscaping Matters team that we produce a magazine which contains plenty for you to get your teeth into and that you spend time enjoying what we have created for you.

Please give us your feedback as we are committed to making Landscaping Matters the best we can possibly make it and your input can only help us to achieve that goal.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



To advertise in Landscaping Matters, please email [mary@landscapingmatters.co.uk](mailto:mary@landscapingmatters.co.uk) or call 07841 927500

### Inside this issue



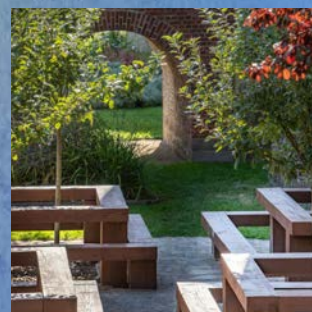
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# Hundreds of brands commit to GroundsFest with more on way

The event, which is the talk of the industry, will be held at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire on 20 and 21 September 2023.

Over 9,000 square metres of space has already been taken by a wide range of exhibitors with over 75% of allocated space accounted for as the event continues to grow.

These impressive figures are testament to just how well the show has been received by the industry. Close to 5,000 visitors, which includes grounds staff, greenkeepers, landscapers, local authorities, estate managers and contractors, have already signalled their intention to attend by registering for the GroundsFest visitor newsletter.

Attendees can expect to see hundreds of brands at the event. Some of the latest names to confirm their presence at GroundsFest include Honda, STIHL, AMS Robotics, The Pitchmark Group, KAR UK, Wicksteed Leisure, ICL, Dennis & SISIS, Shelton Sportsturf Drainage, Origin Amenity, Kress UK, EGO, Makita, Greenbest, Soil Scout, Karcher UK, Foley Grinders, RT Machinery and Etesia UK.

Commenting on Etesia UK's decision to exhibit at GroundsFest, Managing Director Les Malin, said:

"I believe GroundsFest could be exactly what the groundscape



industry needs in terms of trade shows. We have all been attending the same existing shows which have not changed for several years. Therefore, I think we should all be looking forward to something different.

"There is no such thing as too many shows in my opinion; it is more about having events that work for individual companies. We are all different, but we all want to give our customers the chance to experience something new and exciting. GroundsFest will offer exactly this."

The indoor halls and outside areas of GroundsFest will not only feature hundreds of exhibitors and products in action, but it will also include a free-to-attend LANTRA accredited

education programme, free practical training sessions, the largest retail area ever to be seen at a groundscape event, a dedicated landscaping zone, a music festival and much more.

Commenting on the event's promising start, GroundsFest's Event Director Christopher Bassett, said: "GroundsFest continues to grow, and the sales team are receiving new enquiries every week. We have also been upbeat about how much interest we are receiving from visitors.

"There promises to be a diverse visitor profile at GroundsFest this year and we can't wait to see the magic unfold in September."

■ For more information, please visit [www.groundsfest.com](http://www.groundsfest.com)

## 'GEOFF HAMILTON' ROSE SALES RAISE CASH FOR CHARITY

Barnsdale Gardens are proud to support Garden Re-Leaf Day with a 10% donation from each sale of the Rose 'Geoff Hamilton'.

The 'Geoff Hamilton' holds delicate pink flowers on stiff stems and has the shape and scent of a traditional English rose, but with the modern benefit of disease resistance.

Named by David Austin in memory of 'the people's gardener', the rose has a warm soft pink colour and are cupped at first, later becoming rosette-shaped, the outer ring of petals fading to white, providing a most attractive effect. There is an Old Rose



fragrance with a hint of apple.

As it is the 40th Anniversary of Barnsdale Gardens this year, the rose has been selling like hot cakes.

The Greenfingers Charity is

a national charity dedicated to supporting children who spend time in hospices around the UK. Their aim is to create inspiring gardens for them and their families to relax in and benefit from.

Linda Petrons from Greenfingers stated: "We are absolutely thrilled that this stunning rose will support our work. As Geoff was involved with Greenfingers right from the early days, it's a wonderful tribute to a special friend."

Rosa 'Geoff Hamilton' is available from the online Barnsdale Gardens store

■ Read more at the website <https://barnsdalegardens.co.uk/index.html>



# GROUNDS *Fest* 2023

# 20 – 21 SEP 2023

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## REAL TURF ONLY FOR THE LANDSCAPE ZONE

Organisers of The Landscape Zone, part of GroundsFest, have revealed that they are supporting the 'Say No to Plastic Grass & Plants' campaign. As a result, there will be no exhibitors within The Landscape Zone representing artificial turf, plants or flowers.

The 'Say No to Plastic Grass & Plants' campaign has been launched by the Society of Garden Designers (SGD) and is being supported by the Royal Horticultural Society and the Landscape Institute. The aim is to raise awareness of the huge environmental damage these products cause and to debunk the claims that they are harmless.

Commenting on the decision to

back the campaign, The Landscape Zone's Sales Manager Jess McCabe said: "We are pleased to announce that The Landscape Zone will only represent real turf. There is mounting evidence that plastic grass and plants are destroying our wildlife and are contributing to greenhouse gas emissions in their production. The Landscape Zone wholeheartedly supports the SGD's campaign, and we encourage everyone to use beautiful, natural solutions instead."

The Landscape Zone has already been warmly received by the industry. Attendees can expect to see a wide variety of brands at the event, and just some of

the latest names to confirm their presence include Ronjack Products, James Coles & Sons Nurseries, The Landscape Academy, QuickHedge, Lindum Turf, mmicité, Aquacut, Platipus and Boot and Dart.

The event, which will take place at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire on 20 and 21 September, is set to spotlight the latest landscaping technologies, solutions, and innovations, and will be a must-attend feature for landscape architects, local authority landscaping professionals, garden designers, landscape contractors, interior designers, facility managers and many more.

■ For more information, please visit [www.groundsfest.com](http://www.groundsfest.com)

## Green-tech wins supplier of year at APL awards '23

The Green-tech team are celebrating after being named the Supplier of the Year at the recent Association of Professional Landscapers (APL) Awards 2023.

The awards, set up in 1995, took place on Friday 17 March at The Brewery in London. Hosted by garden designer and TV presenter Diarmuid Gavin, they recognise and celebrate the outstanding landscaping carried out by members of the APL.

Green-tech's Managing Director Kris Nellist said: "I was thrilled to hear we had won the APL Supplier of the Year award. This is an award that the APL members vote for so its especially meaningful. The whole team work hard to ensure we offer the best products, price and service so I am particularly proud of them to be acknowledged in this way."

The Supplier of the Year Award is sponsored by Perennial, the UK's only charity dedicated to helping everyone who works in horticulture, and their families, when times get tough.

Green-tech is a staunch supporter of the landscaping



industry; themselves sponsoring a category at the APL awards – Commercial Maintenance, which was won by HM Gardens Limited for their Rainbow project.

Kris continues, "I'm proud that the company maintains its market leading position and is recognised by our customers and industry alike for offering outstanding service. The company continues

to grow and develop, constantly looking for new products to meet our customers' needs, particularly around sustainability and environmental agendas. Recent products to be added to our portfolio include a new urban tree planting cell system, TreeParker, Greentree Bioretention soils and NexGen - 100% Biodegradable tree shelters.

■ [www.green-tech.co.uk](http://www.green-tech.co.uk)





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# Enjoy more gardening power with Makita



Makita has expanded its impressive gardening and landscaping portfolio, with the launch of two new cordless pruning saws – the DUC101 and UC100D.

## **DUC101 18V PRUNING SAW BRUSHLESS LXT**

Designed with a 100mm bar and chain and equipped with a powerful brushless 320W motor, the new

DUC101 pruning saw offers chain speeds of up to 8m/s to make garden and orchard pruning tasks a breeze. With a lightweight and compact construction, users can easily manoeuvre the tool to make quick work of pruning tree branches and thick bushes.

One of the standout features is its tool-less chain change and tension adjustment mechanism which negates the need for any additional tools. Plus, with the automatic chain lubrication and chain oil view window, users can easily keep track of the saw's oil levels and ensure smooth and precise cutting performance.

The DUC101 features a lock-off lever accessible from both sides, a rear hand guard, and a moveable guard that gradually opens wider as the saw chain cuts deeper into the branch.

## **UC100D 12VMAX PRUNING SAW BRUSHLESS CXT**

Makita has also added the 12Vmax

UC100D CXT pruning saw with 100mm chainsaw bar and chain to its outdoor line-up. With a lightweight, compact design and a soft-grip handle this tool is ideal for smaller cutting jobs. Like the DUC101, it features automatic chain lubrication and a chain oil view window, so users can ensure that the chain is always properly oiled for maximum performance.

The UC100D includes a number of safety features such as a lock-off lever accessible from both sides, a rear hand guard, a moveable guard, and an electric brake to help prevent accidents.

The pruning saws are part of Makita's wider spring collection of product launches which also includes the 350mm 18V LXT DUC357 Brushless Chainsaw, which joins the 300mm DUC307 Chainsaw that was launched earlier this year.

■ To find out more about Makita's latest products, visit [www.makita.co.uk](http://www.makita.co.uk).

## EIGHT IN ONE WITH NEW FORTIS MOWER

The new Fortis range of cylinder lawnmowers from Cobra delivers advanced lawn mower technology to bring a convenient lawncare solution with incredible cutting precision.

The range combines eight machines in one to give the ultimate package for creating picture perfect lawns, and are the first powered cylinder mowers to be launched by Cobra.

There are four mowers in the Fortis range. Starting with a compact 14" model that is powered by a Loncin petrol engine, and then the 17", 20" and 25" all featuring Briggs & Stratton engines for extra power for larger lawns. They are all self-propelled and have a three-way drive facility, allowing the blades to be disengaged without having to stop the engine.

Fortis mowers all feature a six-blade precision ground cutting cylinder to give the finest, most

precise cut possible. The height of cut can easily be adjusted too with variants as low as 6mm and ranging up to 30mm. The finishing touch to the perfect cut comes from the steel front roller giving an enhanced definition to the iconic lawn stripes.

Convenience and comfort have also been considered as the mowers have foam cushioned handles that fold down for easy transportation and compact storage.

What makes the Fortis machines the ultimate in lawncare however, is their ability to transform into seven other machines to ensure that lawns are immaculate and healthy. The Fortis six-bladed cassette can simply be removed and replaced with another accessory cassette in the range to switch its use. Other cartridges include:

- Verticutter – lightly removes thatch build up with light, fine blades without penetrating the

soil and by cutting vertically to increase turf density

- Scarifier – more aggressive than the verticutter and can easily remove debris and dense thatch by penetrating the soil to encourage new growth
- Dethatcher – will remove the densest layers of thatch and will collect twice as much material as the verticut cartridge. Its thick, wide spaced tines will penetrate the soil up to 6mm deep
- Aerator – breaks up soil compaction as its blades slit the ground to allow extra air, moisture and nutrients to reach the grass roots. Ultimately, creating a healthier, thicker and more luscious lawn
- Turf rake – powerful blades both lift thatch and thinly slice soil surface.

■ For further information about Cobra, please visit [www.cobragarden.co.uk](http://www.cobragarden.co.uk)





# Stihl upgrades cordless chainsaw range

STIHL has launched upgraded versions of its popular AP System MSA 160 C-B, MSA 200 C-B, and MSA 220 C-B cordless chainsaws, offering professional users a new streamlined design, improved battery performance, faster cutting and enhanced operational features.

The new MSA 160 C-B is more powerful than the previous version, boasting a larger motor and compatibility with the recommended AP 300 S AP System battery, which ensures an increased electrical output of 1.5 kW for faster cutting performance.

Moreover, the enhanced MSA 220 now comes as standard with a 3/8P pitch, 1.1mm gauge PS3 PRO chain, which improves cutting performance by up to 20% due to its narrower kerf. The new chain has been specifically designed for use with STIHL's new Light 04 1.1mm guide bar, allowing more cuts to be made

per battery charge. The MSA 160 C-B and MSA 200 C-B feature a 1/4P chain for smooth and precise cuts.

All three new models have seen numerous upgraded operational features introduced to improve the user experience. These include improved visibility of the chain oil level for faster checks, a thumb lever and OPC starting switch for increased comfort and safety, as well as a soft rubberised grip and optimally balanced handle position for maximum control and comfort.

In addition, all new models feature quick chain tensioning for fast and tool-less replacement or tensioning of the chain, as well as bayonet style oil tank caps which can be opened quickly and easily while wearing gloves.

All the new saws are

compatible with the STIHL Smart Connectors, part of the STIHL Connected fleet management system. Smart Connectors record and transmit the working time of the tool to the user's smartphone, giving prompts to complete important maintenance tasks exactly when they're required.

■ More for information on STIHL's enhanced MSA cordless chainsaw range, visit [www.stihl.co.uk](http://www.stihl.co.uk).



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# Attraxor is king of the castle



After *Poa annua* was disrupting play on the greens at Bothwell Castle Golf Club, the Head Greenkeeper found a solution in BASF's Attraxor®, which was recommended and supplied by Agrovista Amenity.

Alan Boyd (pictured above) is the Head Greenkeeper at Bothwell Castle Golf Club in Lanarkshire. He explained how he first started using Attraxor®.

"Our greens are predominantly a *Poa* – bent mix. When the *Poa* is coming into bloom it starts causing issues with the ball swaying and the greens don't run true. Ramsay MacGregor (Amenity Specialist for Agrovista Amenity) told me that Attraxor® reduces seedhead production in *Poa* and I was keen to give it a try."

Attraxor® is a plant growth regulator containing the active substance, prohexadione calcium and can be used to regulate growth of all managed amenity turf. This active substance inhibits the gibberellic acid pathway, which results in a reduction of turf height and turf biomass. Root growth is promoted whilst turf colour and quality are maintained.

Furthermore, using an innovative formulation for fast leaf absorption, the product provides almost instant results, as it is activated once diluted in water. Contrary to other plant growth regulators that need to be activated by the plant enzymes, Attraxor® can be used earlier or later in the season during cooler weather.

Alan initially applied Attraxor® at a rate of 375 g/ha before increasing it to 800 g/ha and hasn't looked back.

"You can build it up to that application rate or bring it back down – whatever you think is needed," he said. "The results speak for themselves. Finer grasses have started coming through because the *Poa* is not overtaking. It is easy to use, easy to measure out and the granules easily disperse in the water. As a greenkeeper, our priority is to keep golfers happy and since using Attraxor®, the feedback on the surfaces over the past three seasons has been exceptional."

■ For more information about Agrovista UK, visit [www.agrovista.co.uk/amenity](http://www.agrovista.co.uk/amenity)

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Water Irrigation, established in 2012 by Stephen Harpin, has seen business grow by 50% during the last four years. The company's website [www.waterirrigation.co.uk](http://www.waterirrigation.co.uk) has become the first port of call for homeowners and landscaping professionals throughout the UK looking to purchase the highest quality irrigation and garden watering products at the most competitive prices.

The company was formed exclusively as an e-commerce business, breaking the industry

mould by offering a new and different way to buy irrigation products. Never before had there been a website that focused so much on the quality of the user experience and customer convenience.

With the advantage of having less of the usual overheads of a traditional trade stockist, retail outlet or garden centre, Water Irrigation could set its prices at significantly lower levels and offer real value for money.

"We work directly with the

best manufacturers, cut out the middle man by selling through the site. All savings are passed on to the customer," says Aneira Holmes, who has been Managing Director since 2018.

Back in 2012, Stephen Harpin was already running his successful online Hedge Nursery business and needed to find the most efficient and cost effective way of buying irrigation products to water and maintain stock. Sourcing them at a competitive price, however, did not prove straightforward. On top



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# “IT FELT LIKE THERE WAS A MASSIVE HOLE IN THE MARKET FOR A FAST, STRAIGHTFORWARD ONLINE IRRIGATION SYSTEM SUPPLIER OFFERING HIGH QUALITY, SENSIBLY PRICED IRRIGATION PRODUCTS”

- ▶ of that, deliveries could sometimes take weeks and products were not always reliable, causing problems with leaks and breakages. This led him to the establishment of [www.waterirrigation.co.uk](http://www.waterirrigation.co.uk).

“It felt like there was a massive hole in the market for a fast, straightforward online irrigation system supplier offering high quality, sensibly priced irrigation products,” says Stephen.

“The site was launched and disrupted the market. From the outset, transparent pricing including a price promise and reliable deliveries were fundamental to our online offering.”

However, affordable pricing was not the only consideration. Water Irrigation wanted to offer prospective and returning customers service levels on a par, or better, than those offered by the traditional sales channels. The best online experience would be backed up by fast, dependable deliveries and the highest levels of commercial and technical support throughout the purchase process.

During Aneira's time at the helm the company's business strategy has been based on continual improvement and professional execution. The successful e-commerce platform is the result of on-going investment in terms

of easier navigation, simplicity in product selection and customer support. The site is now more informative than it has ever been.

In 2022 the company launched its online Advice Centre, a vast resource available to everyone, empowering customers to build irrigation systems that will work for them. It gives all the details needed to select the most appropriate technology for any landscape irrigation project. A Guide To Choosing The Right System, Buyers Guides, Video Installation Guides, Delivery and Payment FAQs, direct contact with the Customer Care Team are all included. Visitors used the resource over 100,000 times during the year.

The company's philosophy is to offer customers, “Irrigation Systems That Work” - and this works on many different levels.

Competitive “amazing value” pricing, a choice of high quality brands, comprehensive product and installation information, unbiased advice, a technical and commercial customer service team that answers all email queries within four business hours are essential elements of the business model. This has been recognised by the company's Feefo Platinum Service Award Winner rating.

The world class logistics and order fulfilment service starts right at the point of purchase and continues through the company's fully automated warehouse in Telford where some 50,000 packages are processed monthly. It culminates in an outstanding nationwide dedicated courier delivery network with 3000 customer collection points across the UK and door to door deliveries. A number of new delivery features and options have just been added which are designed to further improve service. In addition to the guaranteed next day delivery for orders placed online before 9pm, which customers have enjoyed over the last years, Water Irrigation have added pre-10.30am, pre-12.30pm and nominated day delivery options.

The company's philosophy



from the outset has been to offer customers only market leading, well established irrigation brands. From pop-up sprinklers to drip irrigation, pressure regulators to sophisticated controllers, customers have a wide choice.

Products are available from companies such as Rain Bird, renowned for their continuous high quality product developments that meet the needs of the residential and professional users alike. “Rain Bird is absolutely a key partner. The company constantly innovates and raises the bar in terms of products performance,” says Aneira.

In addition, Water Irrigation's own in-house HydroSure brand includes high quality landscape irrigation and garden watering product lines at a lower price point. Irrigation Kits are very popular, providing an all-in-one automated irrigation solution for gardens, flower and vegetable beds, hanging baskets and other popular applications.

Water Irrigation operates in a market that never stands still. The company will continue to improve its customer services and invest in its e-commerce business. “Irrigation is a highly competitive market, but we believe our website is the best all round resource for both end users and the trade when it comes to purchasing irrigation products. It really is irrigation that works for everyone,” concludes Aneira.

■ [www.waterirrigation.co.uk](http://www.waterirrigation.co.uk)







# VERSATILITY AT ITS FINEST

Here at the Garden of Cosmic Speculation with its vast landscapes, sculptures and gardens we are never short of jobs to do. We already have a SXG mower for cutting the lawns and one TXG tractor, so to help with the workload we purchased another TXGS24 23hp subcompact tractor.

"With the front loader and bucket fitted it's largely used for excavating and landscaping purposes. It's also used for towing trailers, transporting grass cuttings and leaves for easy disposal. With the two tractors we can run the PTO's and systems off one trailer and can unload into a trailer attached to the other tractor. If we can attach something to them, then we can use it.

"ISEKI offer exactly what we need, they are reliable, comfortable and safe to use. I would recommend these machines to absolutely anyone."

Ben Wakefield, Portrack House



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# Eco-friendly: CoirProducts.co.uk

At CoirProducts.co.uk (of Salike Limited), we offer a wide and innovative range of natural and biodegradable coir products to help landscapers make sustainable choices when designing outdoor spaces.

Our product line includes peat-free growing media, eco-friendly coir pots and hanging baskets, natural erosion control solutions, and more. With decades of experience in the industry, CoirProducts.

co.uk has the largest portfolio of coir-based products in the UK.

Each of our products is ethically produced and sourced, and manufactured to meet the highest industry standards. Whether you're looking to make your landscape more functional or attractive, our products are not only easy to use but also free of harmful chemicals and peat, making them ideal for a natural setting.

In addition to their eco-friendliness, coir-based products also offer a host of benefits. Our products have excellent water retention, air porosity, and drainage, which help plants grow stronger and healthier roots systems. As coir is biodegradable, it decomposes into the soil over time, enriching it.

If you're simply looking to move away from plastic containers when growing flowers or plants, our coir pots are the ideal eco-friendly alternative. Made with care and precision, our high-quality coir pots allow plant roots to grow

through the pot, minimising transplanting shock when repotting.

Our CoirProducts.co.uk range is perfect for growing a variety of flowers, trees, and other plants as part of soft landscaping endeavours. Our multi-purpose coir potting mix, available in a range of sizes of compressed blocks, bricks, and discs, is the ideal alternative to peat-based compost. We also offer a range of products that can be used to help suppress the growth of unwanted weeds and keep your landscape looking neat and tidy.

In areas where soil erosion is a problem, our CoirProducts.co.uk coir Geotextile range includes various natural and biodegradable solutions. Our erosion control blankets can be used on large landscaping spaces, including slopes, riverbanks, shorelines, ponds, water channels, ditches, and embankments.

Our goal is to help you make sustainable choices when it comes to growing, gardening, and protecting the soil from erosion.



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THE ETESIA RANGE OF RIDE-ON MOWERS



# You'll never look back with an Iseki

A brand-new ISEKI tractor has not only saved Osterley Cricket Club a significant amount of time and money, but it has also helped its ground rating climb into the top three rankings.

Established in 1940, Osterley Cricket Club, in Southall, specialises in cricket, football and social gatherings. Somewhat of a hub for the local community it boasts 2.2 hectares of grounds. This consists of two cricket pitches which convert to seven football pitches during the winter.

Nadeem Chowdhry, Chairman of Osterley Cricket Club, explained why the Club was in the market for a new tractor.

"We started looking for a new tractor because we were using an old ride-on mower and a 1960's

cylinder mower which had all kinds of hydraulic issues," he said. "It was an important decision and so we did a lot of research.

"We selected ISEKI because of the brand's renowned build quality and ease of use. After deciding on the brand, we then spoke to several dealers and the one that stood out was RT Machinery. They understood our challenges, they pin-pointed the ISEKI tractor for us, and the presale and after sale service was phenomenal."

Based on RT Machinery's recommendation, Nadeem decided that the ISEKI TLE3400 was the perfect fit. The TLE3400 is ISEKI's premium economy tractor. This 38 horse-power tractor has a three-speed hydrostatic transmission and a lift capacity of 1000 kg. It is

supplied with agricultural or turf tyres as standard. An optional front loader is also available. Ideal on the farm, an estate, or sports pitches, it is an all-round tractor for all those tasks that just need doing – from muck scraper to harrow or mower to loader, it's capable of doing it all.

According to Nadeem, Osterley Cricket Club has not looked back since purchasing this unique tractor.

"It used to take our groundsman two whole days, to cut, stripe and tidy up – but since purchasing the ISEKI tractor this has been reduced to just two hours," he said. "The cost of running it, on fuel alone, is six times cheaper as well.

"This tractor is fantastic to store because it is compact, and it is so versatile. We use it with lots of different attachments



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**PELLENC**



- ▶ such as a grass cutting deck, a verticutting unit, a scarifier and all sorts of other attachments.

"Everyone at the club suddenly wants to help and have go on it because it is so easy and so comfortable to use – it is hard getting people off it!

"In fact, a lot of other nearby clubs have seen our ground rating go from near the bottom of the table to the third best and have been asking how we have managed to do it. We tell them that is down to the ISEKI tractor.

"Ultimately, it has made a huge

difference to our club, because everyone really enjoys playing on this gorgeous, lush outfield, and it is all because of this tractor.

"I would tell any sports club that has grass to look at ISEKI – they will never look back."

■ [www.iseki.co.uk](http://www.iseki.co.uk)



## ETESIA LAUNCHES NEW HYDRO 100 RIDE-ON MODEL

Etesia UK has announced the launch of the new Hydro 100 MK124 ride-on mower.

The new Etesia Hydro 124 boasts all the features of the popular Hydro 100 but has a larger 124cm cutting deck.

The new Hydro 124 boasts a modern hydrostatic drive transmission with differential lock for better driveability and greater safety. Its 18 HP twin-cylinder Kawasaki engine and its larger

16-litre tank give it more power and range. The cutting deck with rear central ejection combined with two counter-rotating blades, the high clearance bridge and the large box make it an undisputed standard-setter for mowing and collection in all weathers.

Furthermore, it has a large 500-litre grassbox that can be emptied in seconds thanks to its hydraulic pump.

Its ergonomic design, low noise

emission and supple new drive give the user the best working conditions for professional applications. All the controls are accessible without leaving the driving seat.

The hydrostatic drive makes gradual movement extremely smooth, and the absence of a turbine considerably reduces the noise emission, for greater user comfort. Also, it is designed to offer maximum safety.

The 18 HP Kawasaki engine offers unparalleled power and optimum work efficiency. The chassis is fully treated for corrosion protection and can withstand the effects of the weather in harsh working conditions. The cutting deck is cast in a single piece of one-centimeter-thick aluminium, for extreme strength.

The Hydro 124 has a wide range of accessories for winter work and for cutting long grass.

All Etesia machines come with a 2-year professional warranty as standard.

■ For further information, please contact Etesia UK on 01295 680120 or visit [www.etesia.co.uk](http://www.etesia.co.uk).



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**Scott MacCallum**  
caught up  
with **Garden**  
Designer, **Peter**

**Donegan**, just before he  
set off to exhibit at the  
**Melbourne Flower Show**  
in **Australia**. Things  
worked out pretty well!

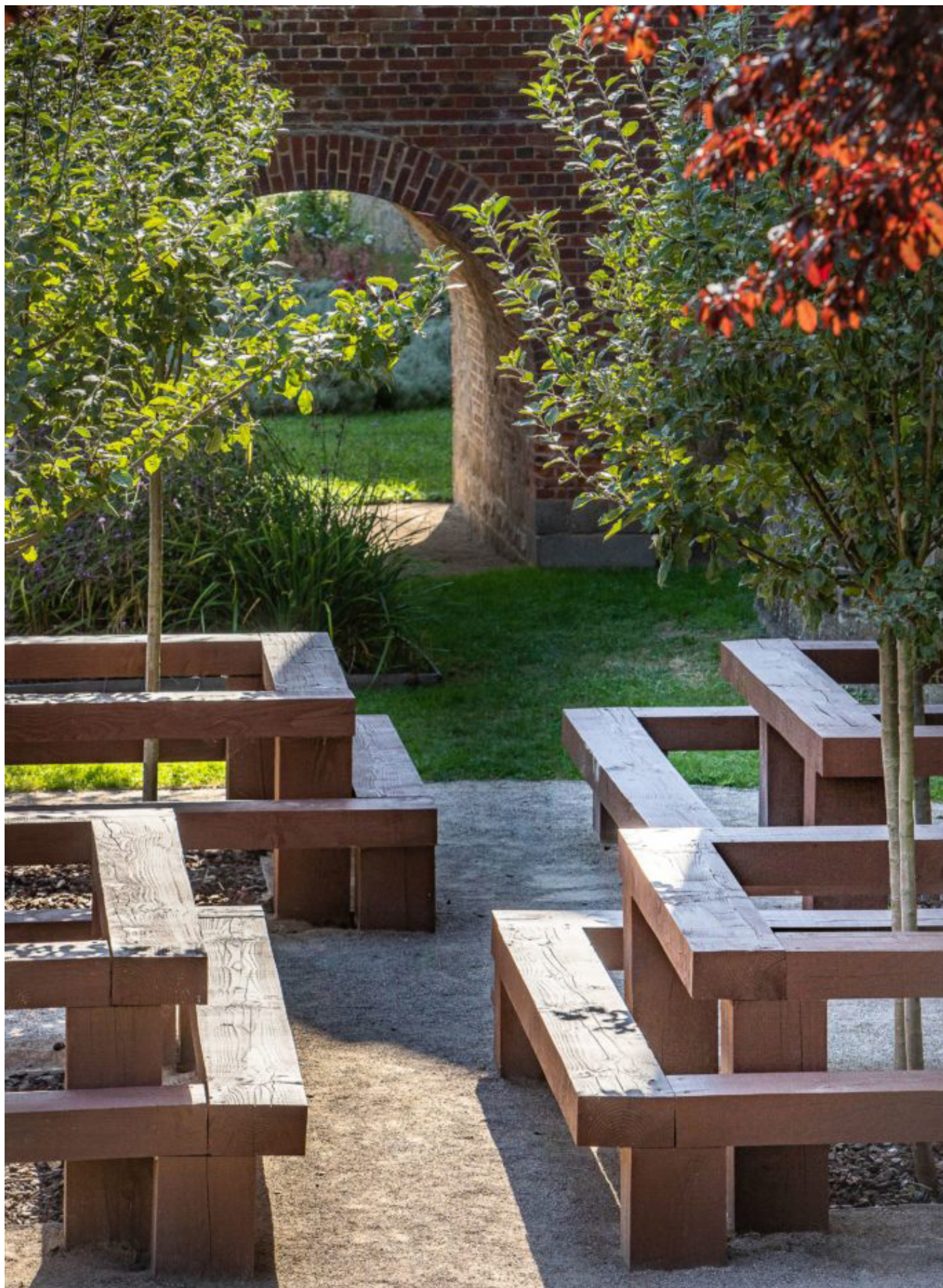
# Man with the golden





# touch







## “I GOT A REPUTATION FOR DOING DIFFICULT PROJECTS THAT NO-ONE ELSE WANTED. THE FIRST GARDEN WAS TWO STOREY AT THE FRONT AND THREE STOREY AT THE BACK WITH A 17 DEGREE ANGLE GOING DOWN A FLIGHT OF STEPS.”

– PETER DONEGAN

**W**hen discussing child protégés the first name that often comes to mind is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The 18th century Salzburg superstar was a talented pianist, violinist and composer by the age of five.

Dublin-based Landscape Architect Peter Donegan certainly wouldn't compare himself to Wolfgang, but he does share some similarities. He too, was an early starter, but he happily describes his young self as “nerdy and geeky”, rather than anything as pompous as a “protégé”.

The facts are that he may not have a *Così fan Tutte* in his back catalogue, but, when it comes to getting out of the blocks quickly, he was only a little behind. Young Peter designed his first garden, and knew the meaning of the word “phototropism”, by the time he'd reached nine!

“I dressed like a nerdy, geeky, kid, at a time when horticulture wasn't sexy. But by the time I was 17 I'd already worked on roof top gardens on multi storey car parks and, by 22, I was a Contracts Manager. I had my own company at 24,” explained Peter, in a manner which wasn't boastful, but merely describing how he'd been bitten by the gardening bug very early on.

Indeed, his green fingers, not to mention his entrepreneurship, was apparent even earlier when, at

seven, he borrowed a lawnmower and set out to earn himself some money. However, he may reflect on his choice of Business Manager for the fact he wasn't wealthy, and in a position to retire, by the time he hit high school.

“I had asked my dad for some money as I needed to buy compost, but the request was turned down. So armed with the lawnmower and a can of petrol I set to work and returned at the end of the day with £12. My dad counted it out. One, two, three, four, five, six – that's for tax; one for the hire of the lawnmower; one for the petrol and so on. It came to the end and he handed me £1, with the instruction that I had to buy a bar of chocolate for each of the family,” recalled Peter, who, being in the middle of eight children, saw all his profit disappear on the 10p bars of chocolate.

Having learned a lesson in life, as well as a lesson in hard work, Peter, thanks in no small part to his dad, had built some solid foundations for his career as a garden designer.

“I got a reputation for doing difficult projects that no-one else wanted. The first garden was two storey at the front and three storey at the back with a 17 degree angle going down a flight of steps. We couldn't use cranes because of the weight over distance and the access at the front of the property, while everything had to be co-ordinated

to come in by hand, as even wheel barrows would have tipped over.”

On such projects careers and reputations are built.

“By the time I was 30 we had won awards for design and had built a garden on a 27 acre 17th century estate and another on a 55 acre 18th century estate, projects which ran concurrently.”

In 2018, he was one of 14 designers selected globally to represent Ireland to design a First World War Peace Garden at Chateau de Peronne, in France, and he later returned to France to design a second garden at the 13th century castle, which is also home to Europe's largest war museum.

He is particularly proud of the Peace Garden, which was built in a dried up moat 30 feet below street level. A throwback to his enthusiasm for awkward sites.

“We were asked to design a garden to remember the past and to commemorate the fallen in both World Wars, but with an eye to the future. It is one of the most humbling and emotional things I've ever done in my lifetime.”

Peter also became garden designer for Ireland's most watched TV Show, DIY SOS The Big Build, where he could really let his creative juices flow, even if the tight time frames of producing a television programme imposed some practical limitations.

Think barbecue inside the





- ▶ bonnet of VW Beetles; paths which light up as you walk along to an outdoor grand piano, or 35 foot pleasure boats in a garden.

We spoke just as he was about to head down under to exhibit at the Melbourne Flower Show, the biggest of its kind in the southern hemisphere and one of the globally regarded Big Five Flower Shows.

Peter's career has followed a series of sliding doors moments, one creating the next opportunity and so on and Melbourne came about by the same circuitous route.

"In 2020, working with contractor Ed Burnham, of Burnham Landscaping, I had been accepted to do a garden at Hampton Court,

but in the meantime I'd become the designer for DIY SOS. We were also supposed to do a second garden in the castle in 2020, but had I taken on Hampton or the castle I wouldn't have been able to do the television.

"Then came lockdown and I wasn't able to travel but was able to do the television. The French then rang and said they really needed me to go back and do the second garden, so we were able to do that project as well in the end."

It was through his show garden and television work in 2007, however, that the Melbourne opportunity presented itself. Peter had been chatting with Trevor Cochrane, host of television programme, Garden

Gurus, in Australia, and asked him how much he knew about Melbourne.

"It had been on my radar. I just liked what it was about and how it did its thing. It was nothing more than a passing enquiry, but IMG, who run MIFGS, came back to me three weeks later and asked if I could produce a design for them within the next two weeks.

"Normally it takes three weeks to come up with a design but I said, jokingly, 'One in two weeks? I'll do you two in one week'. They said 'Brilliant'. What was I thinking!

"We worked around the clock and did produce two designs. IMG picked one and I got an email to say that the contracts were on



my desk, that my garden was completely funded and that I'd better book a plane to Melbourne.

"That's not always how it works. I call this guy and 20 days later I'm heading to Australia. It's a brilliant pub story," said Peter.

So let's talk about the Melbourne show garden and its inspiration.

"There is an island off the coast of Galway, and on it there is a beautiful place called Inishmore – unknowns at the time, it became the location for the Banshees of Inisherin. It's a stunning landscape. I was there with a friend of mine and got to thinking, can you imagine if you fell in love and your beau was on the mainland. The emotions, the conflict of knowing there were stormy waters, or not enough fuel in the boat, but emotion telling you to go for broke to make it over to the other side.

"Ultimately, when you get older, logic takes precedent, but when you are 17, 18 or 19 you're completely infatuated and logic goes out the window," said Peter, with a rather lovely description of his motivation for the garden.

In fact, Peter has as much an eye for a turn of phrase as he does for a great garden.

"Day dreams are one thing, but people who take day dreams, turn them into an equation and make them real, are those to be respected."

And another...

"Adapting a contemporary version of the love story means that we don't have Otis Reading, but we do have Marvin Gaye."

And, still on the musical theme, discussing how ideas and human



beings develop and progress...

"The Beatles doing Love Me Do was all very nice and beautiful, but by the time they recorded Sergeant Pepper, they had moved on, and actually put more people on the fence about them as a band."

Having nailed the concept, the

logistics of building the garden in a UNESCO Heritage Site which doesn't allow for any penetration of the ground, added complications to an already complicated project.

"We had a 400mm fall over a 20 metre distance so we had to build the site up with precision detailed construction to level and then build the garden around that," said Peter, who worked with respected Australian contractor, Martin Semken, the most medalled contractor in the history of the Melbourne Show.

"Inish Mor is entirely limestone, but in Australia you have bluestone. So we took the decision to replace limestone stepping stones with bluestone stepping stones for the

**"DAY DREAMS ARE ONE THING, BUT PEOPLE WHO TAKE DAY DREAMS, TURN THEM INTO AN EQUATION AND MAKE THEM REAL, ARE THOSE TO BE RESPECTED."**





► garden – these stones crossing water which is dyed black to assist the reflection of the stones,” explained Peter, who added that while utilising indigenous stone was the more sustainable option it did mean that the judges had to accept the fact that the stone wasn’t exactly true to the garden’s Irish roots and perhaps “off brief”.

The key elements of “The BAM Stone Garden” include water, natural stone paving, boulders, and lush planting. To further enhance the garden’s appeal, a portal dolmen-esque stone structure with a stone table and seating has been incorporated, allowing visitors to

relax and appreciate the natural beauty of the surroundings

This contemporary garden portrays the tale of two hearts separated by a small island off the coast of Galway to the mainland. The design aims to take visitors on a journey through a rocky, maritime landscape, reminiscent of the journey made across the Atlantic from the Connemara coast.

The garden features a series of natural stepping stones that elegantly weave through the landscape, leading visitors to an island of tranquillity. Here, a single large, *Liriodendron tulipifera* tree stands tall, providing a beacon of hope to those who wish to return to their loved ones.

That tree did cause Peter and the on-site team some headaches.

“The tree needed to appear a certain way, but, as we speak, we have a choice of trees and I won’t really know which one tells the story best until I get there. And behind the scenes, because we aren’t allowed to dig down, and the wood frame has already been fabricated because of lead times,

we are not sure if the frame will fit over the root ball of the tree,” said Peter, giving a little insight to the pre-show machinations.

On the subject of medals, and whether they are a true measure of a garden’s success, Peter also has some interesting thoughts.

“If you are my sponsor who has given me a big bag of loot and I design a patch of grass, which fulfils the brief exactly and it gets Gold... but the media doesn’t mention it – does the sponsor, and everyone who contributed, or donated, towards creating the garden, benefit?

“Then there is the line when you tell a story, or do something which is completely different and interpretive. The judges can go against you because they might argue that it hasn’t met the brief sufficiently. But you’ve produced a garden which has been to the betterment of the show and sometimes to the betterment of horticulture. It’s a bit like jazz, and I’m not a fan of jazz, but someone who has the ability to freestyle, or ad lib, within a structure has to be applauded.”

This was when he referenced

**“SO, HOW IMPORTANT ARE MEDALS? THEY ARE IMPORTANT AND THEY MATTER TO ME, BUT THEY ARE NOT THE BIT RIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE.”**





The Beatles and Sergeant Pepper. See where it fits in now?

"So, how important are medals? They are important and they matter to me, but they are not the bit right at the top of the page."

#### >>PRESS RELEASE JUST IN!>>

**Garden Designer Peter Donegan has won Gold Medal with The Bam Stone Garden at Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show 2023.**

The central boulevard 200 square metre show garden constructed by Semken Landscaping, a contemporary vision of a love story and two hearts separated by a small island off the coast of Galway to the mainland stole the hearts of the 120,000 visitors to world heritage site of The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

Featuring a series of natural bluestone steps that symmetrically weave their way through a rocky landscape, recognisant of the journey made across the Atlantic from the Connemara coast, the destination became a limestone

(moleanus) island featuring planting, shelter, and a single autumnal 8 metre tall *Liriodendron tulipifera* reflecting across the black water, a beacon to those who wish to return to their love.

From a garden construction perspective the design and build was a daring one on a site where one cannot, penetrate or dig in any way below ground of the Unesco protected world heritage site and became the largest ever garden featuring water in the shows history and the most difficult build Donegan and Semken have ever undertaken.

The story albeit interpretive, is of a man hoping, in reality in vain that on the island his beau and he will meet and be together. That however is of a daydream and completely plausible by sole virtue of imagination and daydreams where their impossible becomes possible and separation by water no longer exists. The garden is also representative of love's many forms – unrequited love, true love kept apart by distance, or unconditional lovers

**no longer physically together but never forgotten in the heart.**

During his time Donegan also guest lectured at The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and also at Melbourne University.

Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show is the largest and most prestigious flower horticultural event in the Southern Hemisphere and rated among the top three flower and garden shows in the world showcasing only the finest calibre of garden design and landscape architecture talent selected from Australia and globally.

Having interviewed Peter just before he set off for Melbourne, the news of his success seemed almost personal to me and I continue to bask in the reflected glory. He is clearly a man with a romantic mind but an analytical brain – a very useful combination for a garden designer.

So, Mozart may have composed his beautiful Clarinet Concerto in A but, as far as I'm aware, he fell down on the Gold Medal front, so it may be that Peter is, indeed, sneaking up on his old child protégé rival!

Peter, centre, with colleagues and the gold medals



# The future really is electric

Overton are right at the forefront of battery powered grounds maintenance machinery in the UK having imported the Mean Green range of electric mowers for over seven years and have recently complemented that brand with the RINO and CaRINO models which can offer both flail and rotary cutting decks, a first for the UK.

Seven years ago that market was very different to today with many users being put off by unreliable hand held equipment and a general disbelief in electric power, indeed the Mean Green mowers have evolved from those original machines to cope with the conditions both here and in Europe and to become ever more efficient. The biggest hurdle to get over was to prove to countless customers that the mowers really would cut grass for seven hours, a claim that has still not been bettered by any of the current competition. The choice of mowers has also evolved with the availability of Rival and EVO zero turns in 52", 60" and 74" deck sizes and Vanquish stand on mowers from 52" to 60" and the soon to be introduced Fury 32" and 36" standers ensuring there really is an electric Mean Green mower for every occasion. The advantages of these mowers are huge in both efficiency and also to the environment in which they are being used as well as a much healthier option for the operator with low HAV's, WBV's and low noise as well as zero emissions which means neither the operator or the public in the immediate area are ingesting carcinogenic fumes.

In 2012 Del Morino in Italy began to develop hybrid mowers however by 2018 they had realised that the market was moving quicker than they were and only a fully electric



The Mean Green WBX-33HD walk behind electric commercial mower is powered by Lithium-Ion batteries.

machine would suffice and this was the beginning of both the RINO and CaRINO ranges. The RINO is a fully Road homologated electric power unit capable of 18km/h and can be fitted with easily interchangeable implements including rotary and flail cutting decks, weedripper and sweeper collector options using plug and play technology while the CaRINO is a compact unit that has either a mid mounted flail or rotary mower deck. Overton UK have recently introduced these machines to complement the Mean Green to ensure there is a battery solution for every task.

The grounds maintenance industry at present is full of the problem of the reliability and disposal of sealed batteries as they are a huge problem, once a battery fails there is no option but to discard this and mostly they are ending up in landfill sites either here or overseas. Both the Mean Green and Del Morino companies manufacture their own battery cells and as such they are fully serviceable and have a much less volatile mix than most sealed batteries. Due to this they are much longer lasting, the Mean Green quoting up to 10,000

cutting hours use before reducing efficiency and Del Morino quoting up to 15,000 cutting hours. Both ranges can then be reenergised to increase the life of these machines. Mean Green especially are so confident of their latest technology that they have recently introduced a 5 year warranty for their batteries.

The main problem with all battery powered equipment is the price however when you take into account you are buying all of your fuel up front, your servicing costs are negligible, you can replace and recycle individual battery cells and your employees have a safer, healthier working environment the odds tend to stack up in favour of the electric mower. Another point with battery powered machines is the limited number of components and in a time when both petrol and diesel engines have been hard to come by, stock supply has remained good throughout the difficult times most have faced.

With such a range now available from Overton UK and their growing Dealer Network to cover almost all eventualities it is easy to see that the future really is electric.

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# STIGA Gyro 900e: The first 'drive-by-wire' joystick mower for professional use



Intuitive and easy to manage the NEW Gyro 900e is battery-powered, energy-efficient and safe. This newest product features the STIGA drive-by-wire joystick system, that ensures extreme ease of use for both first-time drivers as well as for professional users who are familiar with lap bars. Intuitive, intelligent, and easy to manage from the get-go, Gyro 900e offers a smooth and responsive driving system that enables the user to fully govern the machine's direction, steering and speed with the flick of a wrist.

## UNIQUE STIGA DIRECT DRIVE TECHNOLOGY

Engineered around its unique STIGA Direct Drive technology (patent by STIGA), the Gyro 900e axial mower offers a 360° turning radius; thanks to dual independent electric transmissions, one for each wheel, positioned in line and

equipped with powerful brushless electric motors, Gyro perfectly avoids uncut spots, offering at the same time the highest energy-efficiency, a key attribute for modern electric vehicles that run on batteries.

STIGA ePower batteries are hard to beat!

Designed and tested far beyond industry standards, the ePower battery pack powering Gyro 900e allows for longer run-times and product lifespan; with tests demonstrating continued performance after 500 charging and discharging cycles, equalling 10 years of weekly machine usage.

## SAFETY AND COMFORT FOR ALL USERS

Clever weight distribution has been developed to operate on inclines up to 15°. Riders have complete visibility, while all electronic controls are at the user's fingertips. Safety features are further enhanced by electronics that automatically manage speed limitations when working on slopes; in fact, the patented safety brake technology is fully integrated within the machine's Direct Drive motors. In the event of an emergency situation, a split-second response is ensured and as soon as the user releases the joystick the machine will stop in its tracks immediately. A weatherproof seat offers

maximum comfort, thanks to high back support and a dual-parallel suspension system that absorbs vibrations when travelling over bumpy ground.

## SMART DRIVING MODE AND SMART CUTTING MODE

Thanks to the STIGA Smart driving mode, Gyro combines cutting and driving speeds to suit different mowing needs, with the choice between comfort at 4 km/h for a more precise trim, or combining with an Eco-cutting mode for mulching.

STIGA's electronic Smart Cutting Mode offers three blade speed settings: Eco (2800 RPM), Standard (3000 RPM) and Boost (3200 RPM).

## REAR-DISCHARGE SPECIFIC DECK AND NEW STIGA BLADES

The Gyro 900e is designed with a top-quality deck with a 125 cm working width and equipped with three freely rotating blades (each powered by a 1.5 kW motor). The blades are designed by STIGA to reach their best performance on rear-discharge, with a low energy absorption, offering longer runtime\*. Also, there is no belt nor pulley, so no loss of power and minimum maintenance. Finally, there's an optional mulching kit, too.

■ The STIGA Gyro 900e is available to purchase online at [www.stiga.co.uk](http://www.stiga.co.uk) or your local STIGA dealer







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**RINO**  
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## RINO & CaRino ELECTRIC

Range of RINO and CaRINO battery powered machines which can be fitted with both flail and fine cut mower decks.



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# Kress delivers ground-breaking technology

A game-changer in every way, Kress is leading the charge with a breakthrough innovation in battery-powered technology, built to deliver the performance and power of petrol.

For decades, petrol-powered gardening and landscape equipment has been a reliable choice for commercial use, due to most battery-powered equipment being incapable of matching or surpassing the benefits of their petrol counterparts. This is coupled with the fact that innovation in battery technology has remained slow in meeting the dynamic and ever-growing demands of professional gardeners.

Gardening and landscape professionals have tended to veer away from battery-powered equipment due to excessive charging time before continued use, the high expense associated with the limited lifecycle, and unreliable performance quality.

Despite growing concerns that the air and noise pollution associated with petrol-powered equipment is having a severe impact on the environment, professionals

have been forced to pick an option that provides economical advantage in terms of power and uninterrupted operation.

Tackling the current limitations of battery head-on, with a ground-breaking opportunity, Kress is taking the transformation from petrol to battery to the next level, creating a stronger, faster, quieter, more affordable option, that is specifically designed to meet the demanding needs of commercial landscapers and is set to drive battery-power technology forward to a brighter, more efficient future.

The new commercial Kress 8-minute Cybersystem™ battery platform has been engineered to have the fastest re-charge of any commercial battery system available, has twice the power output of standard lithium-ion batteries and has been developed with heavy-duty use in mind. It is battery-power as we have never seen it before.

With a petrol-free future on the horizon, and soaring prices in the UK, the latest evolution in Kress' battery-powered technology is a remarkable, timely development

for gardening and lawncare professionals, radical new technology that can help protect their planet and pocket, without compromising on performance.

"Everyone is waiting for a change in professional gardening and landscaping equipment, petrol will soon have to be replaced and, for that reason, Kress has come up with a powerful solution, built for a future-focused industry," says Don Gao, Chairman and CEO of Positec Group. "The future must rely on energy storage, energy distribution and an integrated system. It's time for an energy system evolution – the new Kress system can fulfil that need."

### KRESS BATTERY TECHNOLOGY

The new commercial Kress 8-minute Cybersystem™ battery platform was engineered and designed specifically to meet the demanding needs of commercial landscapers. The system features both 4Ah and 11Ah battery packs with the ability to recharge each 60v battery pack to 100% charge in only 8 minutes, or 80% charge in 5 minutes – the fastest re-charge of any commercial battery system available.

Due to its proprietary battery cell technology, each 60v Cyberpack battery is capable of producing up to twice the power output of standard lithium-ion batteries. The added power output allows Kress outdoor power equipment to meet or exceed the same performance as most commercial petrol machines but with less noise and zero harmful emissions.

In addition, the Kress Cyberpack battery can be re-charged thousands of times – up to 10 times more than standard lithium-ion batteries.

The extended battery life supports multiple re-charges per day and greatly reduces the cost of replacement battery packs over the life of the equipment.

The Kress 8-minute™ Cybersystem™ is the first and only cordless battery power supply that will allow commercial landscapers to finally replace their expensive petrol equipment without sacrificing performance, power or runtime.

The new Kress 8-minute Cybersystem™ battery platform will power a full line of Kress professional outdoor equipment that includes commercial-grade backpack and handheld blowers, grass trimmers, edgers, chainsaws, and hedge trimmers as well as heavy-duty walk-behind mowers.



**In some parts of the country, hosepipe bans have already been put in place and the threat of droughts increases as we progress into summer. Here, Angus Crichton, Marketing Manager for ACO Home & Garden is inviting gardeners and landscapers to join the conversation on how rainwater can be managed to help tackle the impact of climate change.**

Our homes' relationship with water has to evolve. The UK has been used to comparatively cheap, on-demand water piped into our homes to drink, water the lawn and clean the car. The assumption many of us have is that, when rainwater runs off rooftops, stormwater drains will provide an adequate exit. The boom-and-bust rainfall patterns along with the sealing over of rain-absorbing ground to accommodate population growth has shredded these long-held beliefs.

The results of this are that our news is often dominated by macro-level concern around water security, as sewage overflows into watercourses. According to the Environment Agency, in 2022, sewage entered our rivers 825 times a day on average. Sir James Bevan, head of the agency, has warned we are staring into "the jaws of death". Based on current data, the UK will run out of drinking-

# Rethinking rainwater

quality water into our homes by 2050, as demand outstrips supply.

## RETHINKING OUR APPROACH

When we think about our own homes, presumptions of readily available water tend to shape our habits and behaviours. Meanwhile, solutions, knowledge and objectives around rainwater runoff are fragmented across professions,

trades and the homeowner's wish list. Garden water features are designed with little connection to rainwater runoff, and guttering and soakaway capacity is usually specified with the only goal being that rainwater is removed quickly.

Rainwater management will likely not be taken into account by most homeowners creating their ideal outdoor space. Drainage to ►





- ▶ handle patio runoff for example can be an unwelcome expense and even an eyesore in some scenarios. Avid gardeners who like to focus on planting often opt for looks, as opposed to the plants' potential to cool an area or help with runoff diffusion.

### RETHINKING OUR RESOURCES

With an eye to combatting these issues, ACO has partnered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), the UK's largest garden charity, for the creation of The RHS Resilient Garden at this year's RHS Hampton Court Flower Festival (4th-9th July). The garden's designer is Tom Massey and its builder is Landscape Associates. The garden – accompanied by a book published by Dorling Kindersley – shows the potential to transform an unimaginative domestic garden into one that is aesthetically pleasing while being a haven for biodiversity and resilient to climate change. Because of this, an integrated approach to domestic rainwater management is key to The RHS Resilient Garden and the adjoining ACO stand.

At the stand, gardeners will be taken on a journey from when rainwater lands on a property to its eventual dispersal. The relationship between homes and rainwater is reimagined; no longer a problem for swift disposal but a resource to channel, store and disperse, using the combined power of plants and products.

This rethinking would see impermeable roofs, patios and driveways as catchment areas that can be used to channel rainwater towards storage for later use. Channel drains feed

rainwater gardens that overflow into soakaways, demonstrating how drainage combines functionality, aesthetics and sustainability. In cases where the site is compact, has heavy soil or a high water table, rainwater may be better slowed by green roofs and rainwater planters prior to its release. Paths and drives can be made permeable by using gravel or grass embedded in a ground stabilisation product, which also delivers a hardwearing surface accessible to all, from prams to SUVs.

The quality and quantity of water are increasingly important issues

for the landscaping and the water sectors. By talking together, we can develop innovative solutions and manufacture products to deliver them in an ongoing effort to rethink rainwater. Join the conversation at the ACO Stand at RHS Hampton Court Festival or contact me at [acrichton@aco.co.uk](mailto:acrichton@aco.co.uk).

■ *Having designed and installed a rainwater harvesting and infiltration system in his own property, Angus Crichton is convinced we need to rethink rainwater use in domestic properties in the face of climate change.*



## ECCO: Delivering sustainable and innovative landscaping solutions

In a rapidly changing world, the team at ECCO Products feels it is our responsibility as individuals to take action to improve our planet. And at a minimum, reduce the negative impact we are making for future generations, with our mission to make 20 million m<sup>2</sup> of land water permeable by 2025.

ECCO Products focus is to return the equilibrium to the

water cycle through the design and manufacture of products that increase water permeability and reduce rainwater runoff in the built environment. We manufacture a range of products such as gravel grids, grass grids and sedum green roof trays from recycled materials, and pride ourselves on offering products which are environmentally conscious throughout production

that also benefit the ecosystem.

We feel that we can play a more significant role in educating others on how their outdoor or green space can improve the overall sustainability of our planet. Check out our eBook on our website: 'A guide to creating a sustainable garden' and consider ECCOProducts for your next project. ■ [www.eccoproducts.eu](http://www.eccoproducts.eu)



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# Gardeners' New World

DROUGHT AND FLOOD ARE RARELY OUT THE NEWS OR THE GARDEN.

Our actions in the garden contribute to the news. We still channel rainwater off our roofs and patios down storm drains. This leads to sewage overflowing into our rivers and seas. We still use drinking-quality water in both our kitchens and gardens, yet by 2050 demand for drinking water will outstrip supply.

**How can we reimagine rainwater away from runoff to resource?**

**How do products and plants deliver rainwater solutions?**

**How can we integrate our solutions from roof level to ground level?**

**How does our landscaping practice meet Gardeners' New World?**

## Join us to shape the conversation

ACO is partnering with the Royal Horticultural Show to explore domestic rainwater solutions through the RHS Resilient Garden at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Festival (4th-9th July 2023). Join us on the ACO Stand at Hampton Court to shape the conversation for Gardeners' New World.



STAND HC277, RHS HAMPTON COURT FLOWER FESTIVAL, SURREY.