

**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE –
Monday 7 March 2011**

REPORT BY: THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT

CREMATORIUM GROUNDS – GENERAL UPDATE

The Joint Committee on the 13 December 2010 agreed that work be undertaken on the 3 woodland walk tree trunks to create bird sculptures. Having carried out the checks requested by the Committee, I undertook negotiations with Paul Sivell, the locally based tree sculptor, who had brought forward the proposal, to settle designs and achieve a price within budget, in the knowledge that many thousands of people visit the crematorium every year. The work was completed in early January 2011 and photographs illustrating the completed sculptures were circulated to members who commended the work at their meeting on 24 January.

The rock garden has now been dug over to a depth of 30 centimetres, removing old roots, stones larger than 50mm and any other debris. I have seen at least three barrow loads of rubbish removed so I think this work was well worth undertaking. I will now be choosing plants which will be laid out in drifts. They will be mainly carpeting plants that will not grow very high.

The large cedar at the front of the crematorium has had its lower branches removed and the ivy and brambles have been removed from around its base. Spring bulbs have been planted around the tree in the form of a circle.

The spring bedding is beginning to show colour and the tulips will soon be flowering improving the initial visual impact of the crematorium.

Two trees have died and they have both been felled as it would have been unsafe to leave them. Given the number of trees in the grounds I am not intending, at this stage, to replace them.

Our contractor continues to carry out work to a high standard, with which I am very pleased.

Roger Young
Horticultural Consultant

*Background list of documents –
Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 – None*

RY/JH/me
24 February 2011