

**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE–  
MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**REPORT BY: THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT**

### **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE GENERALLY**

Spring and early summer has seen very unpredictable weather. We started off with extremely dry conditions; this meant we did not get the early grass growth, commonly known as “Spring Flush”. The dry conditions continued from the spring to early summer and this required our contractors to carry out a lot of watering.

At the Crematorium we planted the rock garden just before the rain fell. This meant that the 1,000 alpines planted in June were watered in naturally. The soil around the alpines was then mulched with pink gravel. This not only enhanced the new planting, but also helped to retain moisture in the ground. It also helps prevent annual weeds from germinating. The end result in my opinion is a rock garden as good as you would see at Kew or Wisley gardens.

The pond is also flourishing with water lilies, pond plants and shoals of small fish. We now also have the seat positioned close to the pond with a fish carved into the back of the seat. There are also two types of filters which keep the pond clear and free of blanket weed. One is a UV filter which kills the blanket weed as it passes through a tube. The second one filters out the debris in the water.

### **TREE WORK**

The large copper beech adjacent to the internal car park has been pruned by reducing its width and height. Two other trees which were dead have been felled.

The dove birds which were sculpted out of three tree trunks in the woodland garden have proved a popular talking point to many visitors. Almost all have been very impressed with the work and think it is a wonderful addition to the garden.

During July the copper beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*) on the front lawn, between the cloisters and the mess room, has been extensively pruned. This has reduced its overall area and has given the sweet gum (*Liquidamber styraciflura*) more room to develop. Many compliments have been received about the quality of this work.

## **REPLACEMENT PLANTS**

I have inspected the shrub borders with a member of the contractor's team to agree a list of replacement plants. These will be ordered with a view to planting them in November 2011.

I am very pleased with the way Brighstone Landscapes continue to maintain the grounds. I make sure that the grounds are in pristine conditions every day, as I feel it is important for visitors to have the benefit of such a lovely tranquil setting.

*Roger Young  
Horticultural Consultant*

*Background List of Documents –  
Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 - None*

Ry/me  
6 September 2011