

# cutting news

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## Pellenc roars into action!



New to the UK and first seen at IOG SALTEX, French manufacturer Pellenc have launched the Helion range of hedge cutters. Pellenc is the only manufacturer in the world to be able to produce machines that can be used in the landscape, forestry and local authority industry for up to a full day's work on a single charge and at the same time guarantees use with no odour, no pollution and virtually no noise making them a truly environmentally friendly product.

Whether you are using the Pole, Universal or Telescopic model, Helion hedge trimmers will improve your working conditions. They are extremely light (between 3 kg and 4 kg) thanks to the use of a revolutionary 1,200 W motor developed by Pellenc. By using the 4-speed selector switch, you can adapt your tool to the type of cut required.

For easy topping off, the flexible +90°/-45° head is fitted on Pole and Telescopic models, whilst a +/-90° pivoting handle has been fitted on the Universal model for vertical cutting ensuring a perfect cut quality

with interchangeable cutting heads.

On each of these tools, you can adjust your chosen disc hedge trimmer for a clean cut: 51 cm, 63 cm (also available with single rake baffle plate, model 63 D) and 75 cm. All of these cutting heads are universal, which means that they can be fitted on any Pellenc model and are easily interchangeable.

Like all of the Pellenc products, Ultra lithium Battery benefits from a very-high-capacity technology which guarantees use with no odour, no pollution and a revolutionary working capacity.

In late 2010 and early 2011, the UK ground to a halt by the worst winter seen for over 30 years, seeing local authorities, landscapers and grounds maintenance professionals struggle to keep roads, paths and car parks safely open for users.

Many grounds maintenance tasks, such as snow clearance, are seasonal activities, which often results in costly dedicated equipment lying idle during long periods of the year. With budgets being cut across the board in 2011, it makes sense where possible to purchase an attachment which can be driven off an existing power source.

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French manufacturer Etesia has recently been enjoying a sales boom as users of their ride-on rotary mowers have been rushing to buy snow clearing attachments and



tow-behind gritters for their existing Hydro mowers so that they wouldn't be caught out in the next big freeze predicted in the coming months.

With its wide range of attachments, the range of Etesia mowers are cost effectively transformed into multi-tasking, all-year-round workhorses for a wide-range of applications including snow clearing and salt/sand spreading.

"At times like this, end users realise the true multi-tasking value of an Etesia ride-on," commented Les Malin, Etesia UK's General Manager.

"Our accessories such as the snow plough or salt/sand spreader are keenly priced so keeping roadways and paths clear is a very cost effective operation. Our customers have discovered that for a relatively small investment they can be prepared without the need to have expensive dedicated equipment lying idle during long periods of the year."

The options include:

- A snow blade which can be angled to the right or left and lifted for transportation between sites.

- Wheel (or snow) chains providing grip for quick and safe snow clearance.
- An easy-to-attach, quick release spreader for distributing salt or sand.

For operator comfort in cold, snowy or wet conditions, there is also a glass-panelled cab with optional heater available.

All Etesia accessories are easily fitted to most ride-on models in the range.

**We recommend customers order early to avoid disappointment, or risk getting snowed in.**

# Green is the driving force at ambitious Blue Square club

The boss of Ecotricity, the green electricity company which this summer hit the headlines with the launch of a countrywide network of solar power re-charging points for electric cars, is extending his mission statement and business ethos to the world of football. He is one of the first if not the first businessman to own and run an electric car, so where to next?

As the kick-off to the 2011-2012 season approached, pitch mowing became part of all this with a new mower from Etesia being launched at this year's IOG Saltex the focal point.



Dale Vince OBE took over as Chairman of Forest Green Rovers just nine months ago and is step by step transforming the Blue Square Premiership club into an entirely green and eco self-sufficient enterprise. The aim is to make it the first such club in British professional football. Water recycling from all sources – rainwater and the washing-up – is already very much a feature at the delightful Gloucestershire stadium, charmingly called the New Lawn. There is a five-year sustainability plan and the first building blocks are firmly in place. He's called what's starting to happen to car powering a revolution. There may well be a similar kick-start in the world of football.

The Club had moved just a few hundred yards from its previous abode on the edge of the country town of Nailsworth back in 2006. Not surprisingly this was called the Lawn. Rovers' new home is a handsome stadium, certainly for this level of the football pyramid, but as groundsman Stewart Ward points out, the initial pitch did require subsequent improvement, notably a fresh drainage system installed by contractors Pugh-Lewis and which



**Forest Green Rovers will be playing on a really green pitch this season**

links into a water recycling set-up

Stewart's appointment last year was another move in the green direction for the Rovers, since he shares the Chairman's thinking wholeheartedly. He explains that the philosophy at the club is a simple one – to be more sustainable, greener in its day to day running, and have a more organic approach to how they do things. It is Stewart's first venture into football groundsmanship. He and Forest Green Rovers seem tailor-made for each other.

*"The chairman is passionate about all of this and is very much a father-figure for putting it into action," he says.*

*"Obviously this very much affects the way I keep the pitch in shape. What Dale has in mind for the club is very much how I have always felt and I am really enjoying putting it into practice bit by bit. There's a lot more to do of course."*

Stewart had been a user of Etesia machines in his previous job looking after the grounds at Gloucester's Hartbury College, best known for its equine, sports and landscape science courses, and had long been a fan of the French manufacturer's attention to environmental aspects of product development. It has been working on battery and solar-powered ride-on mowers for sometime as a practical eco alternative to traditional fossil fuelled machines for sports and amenity surface cutting.

As part of the fine-tuning process prior to IOG Saltex launch, Stewart used one of the company's new Bahia Electric ride-ons on trial for pre-season cutting. The idea was to provide Etesia's UK general manager Les Malin with real feedback on its performance. It was the breaking of new ground. Forest Green Rovers was the first football club in this country to use electric mowing for its pitch, and Stewart gave it a good report – not just because of his own eco leanings – but for its cutting and collecting credentials.

*"It does the job really well and at a decent speed," he said. "It's so much quieter than a petrol machine with much less vibration too, and of course there is absolutely no worry about oil or fuel spillage."*

The New Lawn pitch was renewed at the end of May. Koro removal of the previous surface was followed by the addition of 150 tons of sand and re-seeding with Rigby Taylor's R14 mix, incidentally the same as used at Stamford Bridge.

The Bahia machine on trial at the New Lawn was plug-in re-chargeable, but it could be that the club will eventually opt for solar powering the four 48v batteries. Full charging takes six hours via a 16amp 200v socket and charger. This, says Stewart, is about twice what you need for cutting and collecting a full size pitch, and the New Lawn is a big one, 100 x 70 yards.

The Bahia's cutting width is 80cm

and with the newly established summer sward Stewart showed off an impressive mown look, invitingly ready for the club's first home pre-season friendly against Bristol City. He was confident that the New Lawn would be looking immaculate two weeks later for the first home league fixture against Stockport County when Sky Television cameras would be putting the mower's finish to public gaze.

Stewart sees that all pitch cuttings are recycled, passing them to a local farmer. All clippings are 100 per cent non-toxic at the New Lawn because all pitch treatments are organic-based and he is regularly in touch with the Soil Association for advice on nutrient application. He says the grass box on Etesia's new electric mower (240 litres) does an efficient collecting job for him. Both driving and cutting transmission are 100% electric, so there's absolutely no addition to the eco footprint.

For a football club chairman and its groundsman to share an interest is rare enough. For them both to embrace the virtues of a piece of turf kit is a big first in football. All the nasties that combusive equipment put into the atmosphere – hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide, the lot – score nil at the New Lawn thanks to the Etesia Bahia and this gets a big cheer from the directors box and the groundsman's hut. Supporters may for the moment be more interested in how the team is doing, but the green mood is definitely catching down at FGR.



# New Airion Blower

Pellenc has launched the lightest, quietest and most environmentally friendly hand-held electric blower for local towns, landscape architects and golfers.

The Airion, which is exclusively distributed in the UK by Etesia UK, is a hand-held blower intended for cleaning roads, parks and gardens. Weighing only 2.6 kg and with a noise level of just 80 db, it is the lightest and quietest professional blower on the market and can be used near sensitive areas such as hospitals and schools. It is very comfortable to hold owing to the soft touch new generation handgrip and is optimally balanced for natural tilting towards the ground.

The Airion has 4 speeds which easily enable the operator to effortlessly optimise and adjust the speed of the air expelled according to its working environment (roads, markets, gardens, etc.) and the site to be cleaned (dry leaves, wet leaves, on gravel, etc.). Keeping the speed selector button pressed instantly selects the booster mode, giving a maximum power of 750 Watts. This function is especially useful for picking up wet vegetation or heavy waste matter. This mode is available for all speeds.

The progressive trigger enables the airflow to be controlled very precisely. The principal advantage is

efficient battery management. On roads, the trigger can prevent the scattering of gravel. The inlet grille has been specially designed to reduce the sound level as much as possible while maintaining exceptional blowing performance. Pellenc was inspired by aircraft propellers to design a strong, quiet and efficient axial turbine. The air intake and airflow are optimised by the air inlet which is designed to accelerate the inlet airflow.

In the interests of sustainable development, Pellenc has launched a range of environmentally friendly tools with almost zero CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.

Lithium-ion technology combined with the Pellenc motor means that the Airion emits very little CO<sup>2</sup> into the environment, giving the tool a very clean image.

Comparing the direct emissions of CO<sup>2</sup> of the Airion with a petrol blower, the difference is enormous.

A petrol-engine blower has a direct emission of over 4 tonnes of

CO<sup>2</sup> per year while the Airion only emits 47 kg.

The Airion prevents almost 99% of the direct emissions of a petrol engine. If Pellenc batteries are recharged with the recently launched Solerion solar charger, direct CO<sup>2</sup> emissions are totally eliminated.

	Petrol-engine blower Direct emissions + fuel production	Airion Direct emissions + electricity production	With Solerion Direct emissions
Carbon equivalent/hour	3.3kg CO <sup>2</sup>	39g CO <sup>2</sup>	0g CO <sup>2</sup>
Carbon equivalent/day	20kg CO <sup>2</sup>	234g CO <sup>2</sup>	0g CO <sup>2</sup>
Carbon equivalent/year	4 tonnes CO <sup>2</sup>	47kg CO <sup>2</sup>	0g CO <sup>2</sup>

## New Solar Charging Station and light-weight battery available from Pellenc

Invention and innovation are passions of Pellenc, which have led the group to much of its success. Throughout their entire range of machines, they try to offer added comfort and greater productivity in environments where work can be exhausting. The end user is the main focus of all of their development procedures, which drives their engineering teams to optimise the design of tools.

Pellenc are now pleased to offer a new solar charging station (Solerion) for use with all of the tools, which are exclusively available throughout the UK from Etesia UK, and a new highly powerful multi-function battery (Poly 5).

Once the Solerion photovoltaic panels (PV) have been installed at the operating site, the Solarium draws the best part of the solar energy converted by the PV panels, thanks to the MPPT load regulator, for the optimum recharge of the battery connected. The MPPT function stands for Maximum Power Point Tracking. This function allows the optimum power drawn to the panels permanently so that the photovoltaic panels are subsequently supplied with the maximum peak power at all times.

The Poly 5 Ultra Lithium Battery has been designed to deliver higher power. It is primarily aimed at the most "power-hungry" tools in the Pellenc range. The lithium polymer components heat up less allowing a higher uninterrupted power when cutting.



### Reducing the weight and dimensions!

The POLY 5 battery from Pellenc consists of lithium polymer elements, which have a very high power-to-weight ratio. This data allows more energy to be transmitted whilst reducing the weight and dimensions. As a result, the Poly 5 battery from Pellenc allows a greater ease of movement in trees and an extremely thin and extra-lightweight battery.



# Visitor attraction chooses one ride-on for all its surfaces

The first UK sale by French manufacturer Etesia of its latest 4-wheel drive BPHPX rotary mower with a near full complement of utility attachments has been made to a major 364 days a year visitor attraction. Dealer Parks & Grounds Machinery of Bidford-on-Avon supplied the ride-on unit complete with brush and collect facility, a hopper for seeding or gritting, and a snow plough to Birmingham's Botanical Gardens and Glasshouse.

First opened in 1832, the 15-acre site in the City's Edgbaston district and described as an oasis of delight, retains the elegance of a Victorian country park with its glasshouses and horticultural landscape. As well as attracting over 200,000 visitors each year, the Gardens are a notable study centre. A high level of round the calendar upkeep is essential, and Malcolm Taylor, who took on the role as Maintenance and Ground Services Manager last summer had been re-assessing the best means of keeping all the grassed and the hard surface in top order at all times.

Previously, grass cutting had been carried out by a triple mower, but this was in need of costly repair, and hard surface maintenance was always a labour intensive business. Ahead of the quieter winter period

was a good time for an equipment up-grade. A single-source unit seemed to be the logical choice and after looking at what machines there were on the market this particular Etesia set-up was chosen because it offered everything the Gardens needed for surface maintenance.

Malcolm says the snow plough was in action just after purchase, clearing walkways of the pre-Christmas snow, and throughout the winter months the brush attachments have been in daily use keeping the Garden's terraces and walkways free of leaves and debris. The hopper attachment is due to be called into extensive action this spring, re-seeding the main lawn areas.

The BPHPX is the 4-wheel drive machine recently added to Etesia's

H100D ride-on rotary series. It is specifically designed to ensure optimum grip in all conditions and on varying terrain for mowing and hard surface duties, which is exactly what Malcolm Taylor requires for the Garden's undulating parkland environment. He selected the 'cut and collect' option for aesthetic and safety reasons – though mulching or cut and drop with rear deflector are other choices available. When mowing begins it will cut down to 44mm if required, and its high tip emptying mechanism with a maximum of 1.8 meters will be depositing cuttings from its 600-litre grass box into the Garden's own composting site. Particularly suitable for the Garden's layout is the machine's tight 1.1 metre turning circle.

PGM also fitted the Garden's new Etesia equipment with a ROPS and LED lights for maximum health and safety conformity.

"This is our only piece of ride-on kit and we are already absolutely delighted with its versatility and how it is performing for us," said Malcolm.

As part of the Garden's re-assessment of maintenance equipment also in test use there is a hand-held Pellenc Excelion brush cutter, courtesy of PGM. Powered by lithium-ion battery, it provides up to a day's work on a single charge, offers emission free and quiet running benefits ideal for use in public areas, and is half the weight of the lightest petrol equivalents.

## Etesia has a Walk-Behind Mower for any Operator

From cutting awkward road-side verges and tidying lawns to maintaining bowling greens, local authorities and contractors always have a use for a pedestrian mower. Many local authorities come back year after year with large orders, because they know Etesia products offer the lowest possible noise and vibration levels on today's market.

Designed in response to the demand in the commercial sector for a high-output, pedestrian rotary which offers reliability with low maintenance, Etesia's range of 14 pedestrian mowers, from 46cm – 53cm cutting widths have an innovative and easy-to-use drive system with no gears meaning they are the ideal companion for any contractor. Some models benefit from three completely separate forward driving zones for fine-mowing short grass, cutting medium length growth, or heavy-duty mowing on very long grass.

There are models with xenoy and die cast aluminium decks; the latter has a removable front rubber bumper to prevent damage to the casting in the event of the mower striking an obstacle. A tough rubber cable protection

prevents snagging on low branches and gives a clean line to the centrally mounted handlebars.

Beneath the cutting deck, a specially profiled blade lifts the grass before cutting it. Ejection of clippings is aided by the aerodynamically designed vacuum which creates a low pressure zone which reduces the risk of any blockage.

Handlebars adjust for the operators comfort and fold for storage or transportation. Central single lever cutting height adjustment provides a range of settings to suit any application.

Because all of the pedestrian models are lightweight and easy to transport in a van or trailer they offer fantastic reliability and give an excellent finish. Etesia pedestrian mowers are extensively used by both landscapers and contractors alike.

Whether you want to simply mow and drop, cut & collect or mulch, Etesia has a walk-behind mower for any operator.

Added to this either one or two litre tanks and the operator can complete a full day's work without re-fuelling.



# Pellenc powers ahead of the competition



Pellenc has announced that all Lixion and Treelion pruning shears will now come with a three year battery and motor guarantee as standard, further powering the products ahead of the competition who remain to give a maximum two year guarantee as standard.

The Lixion are ergonomic pruning shears that combine power and speed whilst being the most compact and the lightest currently available on the market.

The primary characteristic of larger Treelion pruning shears is the ability to operate in continuous controlled mode, for precision work, or in pulsed mode for quicker cutting which has been described by many professionals as being years ahead of traditional electric pruning shears.

The fast, powerful Lixion and Treelion shears ensure exceptional cutting quality with the latest-generation interchangeable blades by Pradines, a world leader in professional pruning equipment known for its 'slicing' cutting technology.

Both models are the result of six years of research and development work conducted by a full-time, ten-person team at the Pellenc R&D centre in Pertuis, France. Both are light, robust and fantastically efficient having been designed for intensive

cutting work, whether it be for vineyard work, arboriculture, the upkeep of parks and gardens or forests. Unlike traditional electric pruning shears, which can run for up to half-a-day or a full day, the shears also offers extended running time of up to three days (Lixion).

Pellenc is the world's first manufacturer to offer a whole range of professional tools which operate with the use of a high capacity lithium-ion battery, totally removing CO2 emissions and noise pollution.

## New Pellenc Brushcutter Launched

Developed for tough working applications and packed with advanced features for ease of use, Pellenc's new Excelion brushcutter, distributed in the UK by Etesia UK, is the ideal maintenance tool for professional landscapers and contractors.



Featuring a brand new handlebar design and longer shaft, the Excelion is a unique tool which combines a brush and grass cutter in one: the multifunction head can be fitted with either the Pellenc wire made from a very high resistance polyamide or a wide range of metal blades adapted to your work.

Further benefits include an ergonomically designed adjustable D-handle, flexible head and telescopic system featuring new soft anti-vibration grips for optimal comfort and increased safety. The brushcutter is exceptionally well balanced making it easy to use at varying angles in ditches, on slopes or steep inclines for added versatility. Two times lighter than some petrol brushcutters, the Excelion makes grass brushing and cutting much easier.

The 4-speed selector, exclusive to Pellenc has the durability to withstand tough conditions and demanding projects making it easier to adapt to the vegetation: slow speeds are recommended for edges and urban areas for example. Silent, rapid and extremely lightweight, the Excelion is the new brush cutter for professionals.

As with all other Pellenc products, the Excelion uses the ultra high capacity technology of the ultra lithium battery and guarantees non-polluting, odourless operation with quick start-up and a record operating range.



# Safer, Quieter and Greener Hedging at Nymans

One of the National Trusts' flagship properties in the south of England, Nymans near Haywards Heath in West Sussex, has switched to battery power to keep a characteristic feature looking its best, and now there's no turning back.

Last summer, the garden department at the hugely popular attraction bought four lithium battery-powered Pellenc Helion hedgecutters from South East Groundcare at East Sussex to take over the work of electric machines powered by a noisy petrol generator.

The 275-acre gardens at Nymans are maintained by nine full time gardeners with the assistance of up to 14 volunteers and hedge trimming is a major part of the work there. According to Philip Holmes, the Assistant Head Gardener who is in charge of hedging work, battery powered trimming is now the order of the day by popular consent and the Helion machines deal with everything from the tough cutting of hawthorn and beech to the finer topiary work on yew and box.

Hand vibration is considerably

lower and gone are the hazard of cables and the distracting background noise of the generator. Philip Holmes says that hedging at Nymans is now conducted safely and less conspicuously as visitors enjoy the gardens.

Close to the property's now iconic ruined house destroyed by fire in 1947 is a series of box topiary mythical birds dating back over 100 years. Careful trimming of these is conducted once a year in July and in August the distinctive 80-year old yew turrets running alongside get their annual trim. Here, the lack of cabling is a distinct advantage. Both of these topiary features, like all of Nymans' gardens, were originally the creation of the Messel family, the former owners who were famed for their garden design ideas and horticultural endeavours. For this summer's topiary work Philip Holmes will have half-length Helion blades at his disposal to make delicate trimming even more accurate.

Other hedging tasks for which the Pellenc Helion units are now used include a ¼ mile stretch of laurel on both sides of a visitor path. Two sides and a top twice – that's a mile and half of trimming all told. The new hedge trimmers light battery



backpack enables a full 8-hour working day, so major work like this is well within their compass.

*"When I first worked at Nymans 40 years ago I was introduced to the hedge trimming using an electric machine,"* said Philip Holmes.

*"It was heavy to operate, the job was noisy and actually quite a dangerous one. How times have changed? The battery trimmers we're using now make it much more manageable and far less tiring. The gardens here are these days open seven days a week so best of all because the trimmers are so quiet we don't feel we're inconveniencing visitors."*

*"When we bought the four machines a year ago Health and Safety and noise levels were the principal reasons, but we do pride ourselves here at Nymans on wanting to keep abreast of technical advances in equipment and pass on*

*our experiences to other National Trust properties. This is definitely an advance as far as hedge work is concerned."*

The machines were also used in March for trimming and shaping the garden's heathers.

Nymans is now looking into extending its usage of Pellenc battery-operated equipment. The Health and Safety and noise level benefits apply equally to brush cutting, which is an extensive part of the gardening team's workload. Philip Holmes says that they will also be investigating the use of the manufacturer's solar power panel battery kit to boost their environmental credentials still further.

The Pellenc Universal Helion hedge trimmers now used at Nymans weigh just over 3kg and are fitted with a 1200-watt motor with 4-speed selector to suit the type of trimming required. Features include interchangeable blades and a battery charge level indicator. They are fitted with a swivel handle which moves in 45 degree increments allowing comfortable trimming of sides and tops of shrubs and hedges.

The variable blade speed is changed with the press of a button and there are four speeds from 1600 to 1900 strokes per minute. Speeds can be set to the lower levels, on appropriate cutting material to conserve the battery. If the blades strike a thicker piece of wood that does not cut immediately the machine automatically engages a shunt mode where the blades reduce speed and pulsate to cut through the thicker material. This gives a cleaner cut than fast moving blades of conventional machines which chew through the thicker branches. If a blade becomes caught while cutting, an electronic device reverses the direction of rotation allowing it to automatically work loose easily and safely.



# Heritage gardens are now 'greener' thanks to battery trimmers

National Trust properties in south Somerset have trimmed energy costs, time and noise as well as hedges this year. The four properties in this area of Trust administration switched to battery power in 2011 for the significant hedge cutting and topiary work that has to be undertaken annually and the results are significant. It is the Trust's Greener Garden Fund for more ecologically sound outdoor upkeep of its properties that aided the purchase of Pellenc Helion lithium-ion battery-powered trimmers supplied by machinery specialists Bigwood and Partners of Taunton.



Lytes Cary Manor at Charlton Mackrell near Somerton dates back to the 14th century and was the home of medieval herbalist Henry Lyte, notable for his plant directory Lytes Herbal. Restored from dereliction 100 years ago by Sir Walter Jenner, its much-visited garden is a combination of outdoor 'rooms', topiary features, statues and herbaceous borders.

Damien Mitchell, the gardener-in-charge there, has two and half miles of hedging all told, predominantly of yew, hornbeam, beech, lime and privet. Work to keep them trim begins in mid-May and finishes in late October, which is peak visiting time and before now, when petrol or electric trimmers were used, this presented Damien with a variety of health and safety issues as well as user and visitor discomfort. Noise levels and trailing wires were the main offenders.

This year for the first time he used a Pellenc Helion hedge cutter with back-pack battery unit which drastically cut noise, user fatigue, and detrimental effect on passing visitors. These plusses alone would tick boxes in the Trust's Greener Garden checklist, but a further bonus at Lytes Cary Manor is that power for the batteries comes from an on-site solar panel. Three to four hours of free charging is enough for a day's operation, so Damien's cutting work is about as energy efficient as you can get and with zero carbon emission.

Topiary on yew close to the Manor itself and the shaping of 12 Apostles, a feature common to many large estate gardens of the time, also in yew, is a skillful trimming task that has to be



conducted twice yearly. These are 100-year old features that demand serious attention and work on them this year has been noticeably more efficient, safer and quieter, reports Damien, who has up to four permanent gardening staff working at the property and about 50 volunteers.

***"The new Pellenc trimmer is a lot more user friendly and the environmental advantages are considerable... We are a lot more comfortable doing the work when visitors are here because they are not inconvenienced at all."***

Damien's counterpart at nearby Tintinhull Garden, Tanis Roberts, has just volunteer support for her work at this 17th century manor house. Created last century, the gardens there have over 25,000 visitors each year and feature secluded lawns, pools and colourful borders, plus an attractive kitchen garden, woodland walk and orchard. Focal point is the Eagle Court and adjacent Middle Garden, characterised by striking boxwood domes along a central path.

Every year Tanis has the job of cutting the sixteen 100 year old plus Box domes. Until last year this was done by hand shears, which was laborious and would take about a month to complete. Tanis, who has been in charge of gardening at Tintinhull for nearly 20 years, had previously tried petrol trimmers, but the vapour caused scarring of leaves and the noise was an annoyance to visitors. She had also tried electric trimmers, but says she didn't get a clean cut because the reciprocal action of the cutters chewed the edges of the leaves badly and caused similar unsightly browning.

Hence a return to hand cutting, but with a number of different individuals using hand shears uniformity was hard to achieve, and this is essential with the domes, which are a precious heritage.

The Pellenc battery-powered trimmers she now uses have made it so much easier to achieve a smooth

facility, but plug-in powering of the battery overnight is sufficient for a day's trimming.

*"The back pack makes using them during visiting hours so much easier", she adds. "You can easily step aside if need be, and visitors far from being inconvenienced by what you are doing, show a lot of interest in such quiet trimming."*

Tanis has also used the new trimmers on a bay arch in the gardens, also previously cut by hand shears. Bay is very tough to cut and you get a lot of chewed edges. The Pellenc trimmer made lighter work of it and with better results, she reports. Another job, tedious with hand shears, the trimming of lower box edging around beds in the kitchen garden, has now been completed for the first time using the back-pack trimmers with very pleasing results.

So keen on the Pellenc trimmers is Tanis that she hopes to have her own for the 2012 cutting season at Tintinhull.

cut line, according to Tanis.

*"There is no scorch and the risk of error is far less," she says. "Switching to this equipment has saved me three weeks work - easily."*

Tintinhull is effectively a 'subsidiary' of Montecute House, another of the Trust's south Somerset properties. Tanis borrows the Pellenc trimmers from there on a weekly basis and has them from Monday to Wednesday. At present she doesn't have a solar panel





# Etesia announce new Sales Appointment

Etesia UK is delighted to announce the appointment of Andrew Roberts as Northern Area Sales Manager for its range of Etesia and Pellenc Products. Andrew will be responsible for the North of England, as well as The Midlands, Scotland and Wales.

Andrew joins Etesia UK with over 30 years experience in the grasscare sector and has an enviable and extensive knowledge of outdoor products and machinery having

previously worked at Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd.

Favoured by many of the UK's top councils as well as landscapers and groundsman, including National Trust gardens, both Etesia and Pellenc has gained a reputation for producing equipment that are highly reliable with low maintenance, making them the number one choice for many users.

Andrew's responsibilities will include providing product advice, demonstrations and assistance to customers and dealers, as well as attending shows and exhibitions. He

will also be responsible in the recruitment of new, approved dealers within his regions.

Les Malin, Etesia UK's General Manager said: "We are extremely pleased with Andrew's appointment as his extensive knowledge of the industry, our customer base and product range will enable him to build on our market position and ensure the highest levels of customer service are always achieved".

Andrew can be contacted on 07792 894256 or [aroberts@etesia.co.uk](mailto:aroberts@etesia.co.uk).

## ET Mowers *They mow so you don't!*

**There are 3 models available:**

The ETm44 is the baby model in the range and is dedicated for small areas. This model is perfect for anyone who wants to stop having to mow small and medium-sized areas of grass of up to 5000 m<sup>2</sup>. Nine cutting positions from 22mm-75mm are available with a speed of up to 2km. Two driving wheels with six cutting blades on two decks and weighing only 26kg ensure a quality cut throughout the year.

The ETm65 is perfect for large open areas cared for by local authorities and companies that find mowing a considerable waste of time and money. It works very

quietly, so can be used during the day or at night, whatever the weather, on grassed areas covering up to 9000 m<sup>2</sup>. Eight cutting positions from 22mm-65mm are available with a speed of up to 3km. Two driving wheels with nine cutting blades on three decks, weighing only 36kg and capable of working up to 30% camber ensure that local authorities will have peace of mind allowing this machine to go on its business.

The ETm105 offers the top performance in our range with a 105cm cutting width and covers up to 20,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Its capacity enables it to deal with very large areas, such

as golf practice ranges, football and rugby stadia, racecourses, etc. Energy consumption is kept to a minimum, beating all energy-saving records. Eleven cutting positions from 22mm-80mm are available with a speed of up to 3.6km. Two driving wheels with fifteen cutting blades on five decks, weighing 51kg prove that this is no toy and capable of working in the most rugged of conditions.



## On the housing estate Etesia's smallest Pedestrian Rotary is a real pro

The upkeep of amenity turf within hundreds of housing estates up and down the country is a huge source of business for contractors. Reliability of mowing equipment is essential for this work. A contractor based at Battle in East Sussex, the FGS Group, chose the Etesia Pro 46 to handle the month-by-month cutting routine as part of its work for the Amicus Horizon housing association in the Hastings area.

FGS, which was set up 22 years ago, specialises in landscaping and grounds maintenance in the south east of England. Social housing like that provided by Sittingbourne-based Amicus is vital part of its service. It bought four of the rotary walk-behinds from another Sussex firm, South East Groundcare of Polegate, East Sussex. These are now in their second season of work trimming the amenity grass areas in over 30 estates and FGS has twelve operatives using them.

According to Jenny Waterfield, Contract Manager at FGS, the principal requirement for the grass cutting aspect of the Amicus estates work is that it has to be cut and collect. For so much of this type of amenity grass upkeep 'cut and fly' is often all that is wanted, but increasingly housing

associations are asking for a neater, cleaner finish for residents' amenities. Etesia's pedestrian machine is designed specifically for speedy, efficient cut and collect operation.

"When we talked to Matt Clark at South East Groundcare about which mower would be best suited for this type of work we stressed the importance of ability to cope with cutting on quite steep slopes," said Allen Welch, Contract Supervisor at FGS. "Much of the amenity area on the estates in Hastings is pretty undulating, so we needed a machine that could handle it. It also needed to be light enough for staff to lift on/off of commercial vehicles."

"These Pro 46s are certainly light and easy to manoeuvre. We just bag up the cuttings and when each job is finished take for green waste.

The grass areas are always left free of unsightly mowing debris, so the contract spec is fully met month after month."

FGS has had the contract with Amicus – which also includes border maintenance and hedge trimming – for eleven years and when it comes up for tender again next January Jenny Waterfield is confident the contractor will be successful once more, thanks in no small part to the consistency of its mowing.

As well as the cut and collect virtues of the Pro 46, Jenny spoke of their business benefits.

"There is hardly any downtime," she said. "The mowers are worked really hard over eight months of the year and just routine servicing is all



we ever need. They were a sound investment and more than earn their keep."

The single blade Etesia Pro 46 has a 5hp 160cc Honda petrol engine. Cutting width is 46cm, the detachable grass box with 'full' indicator has a capacity of 52 litres, and overall weight is just 37kg. Low vibration and noise levels meet all EU legislation and individual wheel height can be adjusted from 25mm to 88mm.

There are six models in the range, with options including mulching facility.

For more information or details of your nearest dealer visit [www.etesia.com/uk](http://www.etesia.com/uk) or email [sales@etesia.co.uk](mailto:sales@etesia.co.uk)

