

# Leigh Park Garden Machinery Ltd

GARDEN MACHINERY SPECIALISTS

## The story so far...

Dave Tucker spent many years as an area sales manager for Norlett, which became part of the Flymo Electrolux group. In the recession of the early 80's they restructured and closed their professional side completely.

In the latter half of 1981 Dave was made redundant, and bought a small DIY shop on the Leigh Park Estate in Bradford on Avon, into which he introduced the Lawnmower sales and service departments.

Mowers quickly took over and by 1986 the DIY shop was sold, and the business relocated to Treenwood industrial estate, where it operated from a 1000 square foot unit.

1991 saw the addition of a mezzanine floor to double the space, and in 1994 Derek Tucker (Davids' son) left his job at Natwest bank to join the ever growing family business. In 1997 the adjoining unit was taken over to provide nearly 3000 square feet of total space, then another mezzanine floor took the total to 3500 in 2001.

2006 saw the move of the entire business to larger, better positioned premises with ample parking at Dunkirk Business Park Southwick. This gives us the space and opportunity to look forward to the next 10 years.

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Visit: [www.leighparkgardenmachinery.co.uk](http://www.leighparkgardenmachinery.co.uk)

# DEALER OF THE YEAR

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## Leigh Park Garden Machinery

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in 23 hours and 28 minutes

for

The National Deaf Children's Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Christopher Benson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Sir Christopher Benson FRICS, President*





**RIDING HIGH:**

Derek Tucker says business is booming after the move to Southwick

PICTURE: Sam Farr

## Growing garden firm proves grass is greener after relocating

A FAST-growing family firm has moved to Southwick.

Three years ago, plans for Leigh Park Garden Machinery to relocate from Bradford on Avon were dropped at the last minute.

But now the expanding

company has set up shop at the Dunkirk Business Park.

And the company is reporting that trade has increased by 40 per cent since the move took place last week.

Managing director Derek Tucker said there

was now a lot more space for parking, workshops and retail use.

The floor space, compared with the company's previous premises at Treenwood Estate in Bradford on Avon, has doubled.

Before the end of the

year Mr Tucker said he hoped to take on more staff to deal with the surge in new business.

Another fast-growing area of the business centres on internet sales, with machinery now being dispatched all over the country.

The company was established in Bradford on Avon 24 years ago by Derek's father, David.

Although now retired, Mr Tucker senior went to the opening of the new premises and met many of his old customers who came along in support.



# New showroom for Leigh Park Garden Machinery

GARDEN equipment experts, Leigh Park Garden Machinery, are pleased to welcome you along to their brand new showroom just off the A361 near Southwick.

The local business, which has been established for nearly 25 years, has moved from their former premises in Bradford-on-Avon to a more spacious showroom, allowing them to show off their complete range of products from small items such as shears, right through to the top-of-the-range ride-on mowers.

It is also a more central location for the company who have a strong customer base in the surrounding area.

From garden tractors and mowers, to rotavators and shredders, Leigh Park Garden Machinery can supply you with the machinery you need to get the job done.

Business owner Derek Tucker said that the move to Southwick has made the business more central to their customers.

He said, "It's a much bigger premises in a more central location with better parking. The building suits our purpose very well, and we're right in the middle of our customer base."

"Leigh Park Garden Machinery was set up by my dad in 1982. I came into the business in 1994 and I have been running it for the last eight years. Between us we have over 60 years' experience in the business. It's very much an established local business. Locally we have around 4,000 customers, but we also make a lot of sales further afield on the internet."

If you're after advice, spares, repairs or sales of any element of garden machinery, Derek and his team will be able to offer their services, catering for products from a wide range of manufacturers including John Deere, Stihl, Husqvarna, Alko, Honda, Westwood and more.

Adjoining the showroom, Leigh Park Garden Machinery has a fully-equipped workshop to allow them



Stuart Robinson, Derek Tucker and Barry Owen from Leigh Park Garden Machinery

to service all makes and models of garden machinery.

Derek added, "For any product sold over the last 20 years we can provide the back-up with spare parts, servicing etc."

"We also pride ourselves on our after-sales service, so in the unlikely event that something does go wrong, we'll be happy to put it right again."

The staff at Leigh Park Garden Machinery tailor their advice depending on your needs. So whether you have a large country estate, or a small garden, or something in between, you can rest assured that this long established local business can give you all the advice you will need to make the right choices.

The business sells and services: lawn mowers, shredders, garden

tractors, brushcutters, chainsaws, mulching mowers, security locks, chains, trailers, sweepers, cultivators, trimmers, garden vacuums and more.

Leigh Park Garden Machinery is currently running a special promotion in association with *Frome Times*. You can save yourself up to £140 on a ride-on mower by cutting out the advert on this page.

For more information on the products and services available at Leigh Park Garden Machinery, you can log onto their website [www.leighparkgardenmachinery.co.uk](http://www.leighparkgardenmachinery.co.uk), pop into the showroom at the Dunkirk Business Park, Southwick, or telephone 01225 774202.

Pictured: Stuart Robinson, Derek Tucker and Barry Owen from Leigh Park Garden Machinery.

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# Flying start in new premises

By Morwenna Blake

A FAMILY firm trading for 24 years has had its busiest month ever since moving to new premises.

Leigh Park Garden Machinery has moved from Bradford on Avon to the Dunkirk Business Park in Southwick.

Managing director Derek Tucker, 37, said: "The business has expanded and we have been looking for available space for the past three or four years but there isn't much commercial space available in Bradford.

"We had just outgrown the old site in every respect."

The business, which sells domestic and professional garden machinery, was started by Mr Tucker's father, David, in 1982.

It has clients from all around the area but Mr Tucker said many people did not know where they were in their old location on the Greenwood estate.

"Where we are now is more central to our client base and we get a lot of passing trade from the main road," he said.

The company has seen a 20 per cent rise in business since the move at the beginning of April.

"It has been a good start. The weather has meant a slow start so a 20 per cent rise is great," Mr Tucker added.

"We just need a good growing season now."

The floor space, 4,000 sq ft,



Derek and Karen Tucker at the new showroom at Southwick (18399)

is double that of the premises in Bradford on Avon and there is greater workshop and office space as well as the retail area.

Service is a major part of the business, with between 100 and 200 machines coming in to be serviced each month, depending on the time of year.

The company sells garden

machinery of all types and sizes including mowers, trimmers, shredders, pressure washers, brush cutters and chainsaws.

The firm also stocks spare parts for all the models it sells as well as second hand machines.

Another fast-growing part of the business centres on the internet, with about 40 sales

per month being done online.

Staff will visit people's gardens to advise on the type of machinery that will suit them best and delivery and assembly of larger items can be arranged.

For more information about the business visit [www.leigh-parkgardenmachinery.co.uk](http://www.leigh-parkgardenmachinery.co.uk) or call (01225) 774202.

## Inspiration for business came from music

MUM Liz McCarron Heal enjoyed a children's music group so much she has started her own business running them for babies.

Mrs McCarron Heal, from Grittleton, started the classes called Tapping Teddies in the village hall in September.

They were running once a week on a Wednesday but after proving so popular she started an extra class on a Monday.

She said: "The earlier children start to listen and experiment with music the better. Music helps development in subjects such as maths later on in their school careers too."

This is to do with the fact that maths and music both rely on the principles of rhythm."

Mrs McCarron Heal said: "Babies respond to music very quickly and catch on and seem to remember a lot of the songs we sing. They become really happy and alert when they hear them."

Mrs McCarron Heal was inspired to start the business after taking her own children to music classes at Kingston St Michael. She became chairwoman of the Kingston St Michael music group and when the position became available she became the music teacher, which she still does once a week.

She said: "I was looking for a job that I could have during school term-time. I wanted to work but still spend time with my kids."

A former nurse, Mrs McCarron Heal said: "Working

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## outhwick firm 'hires' prentice candidates



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thwick firm Leigh Park Garden Machinery featured on top 1 show The Apprentice on Wednesday night, after the boss wannabees tackled selling its ride-on mowers at the al Bath and West Show.

firm's boss Derek Tucker interviewed both teams as ntial salesmen, before choosing James and Roisin, whose n Summit subsequently lost the week's challenge, to work im for a day.

pair sold £3,597 worth of mowers, with team leader James later fired by Lord Sugar.



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ucker and his staff had been sworn to secrecy since the ing at last May's show.

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- 5 Housing association slammed for placing convicted paedo in estate with kids
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- 11 Plans for 82 homes on show next week
- 12 Bakery chain salvages deal to open up in Westbury
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- 14 These are the heroes on the ground
- 15 BOWLS: Manor are aiming to Chipp away in league
- 16 Villagers warm to barista-style coffee service
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WITH





A man wearing a dark suit, a pink tie, and a dark bowler hat is sitting on a green and yellow John Deere Z225 riding lawnmower. He is looking off to the side. The scene is outdoors on a grassy area. In the background, there is a white car, a red tent, and other outdoor equipment. The text "The Apprentice: BBC One" and "Wednesday 26th November 9pm" is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

The Apprentice: BBC One  
Wednesday 26th November 9pm