

The Tree Company has earned its great reputation

By JACKIE KEOGH

REPUTABLE is the first word that comes to mind when one thinks of The Tree Company.

The Ballydoole-based business started out ten years ago with just Grant Jenkins and Chris Battenti at the helm, but it has grown to become a strong, much sought-after company employing five highly specialised workers.

In small gardens and large estates all over West Cork, The Tree Company has been called in to advise people about the planting of new trees, and the preservation of existing trees that are struggling with old age, disease, or environmental hazards.

It is the team's dedication and professionalism that has allowed the business to build up an excellent reputation for the care, maintenance and management of the region's natural environment.

An impressive new website – www.thetreecompany.ie – will give any potential customer a very clear picture of the work they do, especially in the area of consultancy and the preparation of pre-planning surveys.

A lot of work went into it creating the website and Chris said they are pleased with the end result. Photographs of team members, in harness, dwarfed by some of Ireland's largest trees gives a strong visual impression of the size and scale of their operation.

CATER FOR

Chris said: "We decided to upgrade the website to explain what we are about and to show how we can cater for the needs of small and large private customers, as well as local authorities and corporate clients."

As a professional outfit they never actually mention the names of the people they work for, but such is their reputation that a lot of high-profile homeowners in the South West will not go beyond The Tree Company if they want work done in terms of planting a new tree, or woodland, or help in preserving some of the majestic trees on their land.

"It is true to say that we are working for a lot bigger clients," said Grant, "but we also value our smaller clients, and would encourage new clients to feel free to contact us because we are happy to answer any questions, and will always provide a free site visit and quotation – without any obligation."

The only proviso is that they are – despite the recession – very busy at the moment and may not be able to start the job for a couple of weeks. But whatever the time and whatever the date, they will turn up when they say they will and do the job they agreed to do.

A lot of clients are so impressed by the quality of their workmanship, and the way they clean up after each job, that they have been awarded numerous maintenance contracts.

They are able to do this because they have invested heavily in the finest and most durable machinery. Their four wheeled-drive vehicles enable them to work on any site and they have their own mobile crane for handling specimen trees or awkward loads.

They also have large capacity wood chippers for dealing with branches, trimmings and other waste material. And they can cut and split wood for the fire with their newly acquired hydraulic log splitter – if that is what the customer wants.

LIABILITY

Of course, the company is fully insured with public liability cover worth €5.5 million, as well as employer's liability cover worth €13 million and professional indemnity worth €1 million.

Together Grant and Chris have over forty years combined experience in arboriculture, horticulture, countryside management and conservation both in the private and public sector.

But the last ten years working in West Cork have been the most rewarding. They started as they meant to go on and gave people good service. Soon the word went out that with The Tree Company 'customer satisfaction is guaranteed'.

"Word of mouth is what has allowed us to develop the business," said Grant. "And, as the business grew, we were able to provide more employment and training – including a college education – for the guys who now work for us."

Another investment that has paid dividends is the state-of-the-art tree management software, data capture and GPS (global positioning unit), which allows The Tree Company to map and survey trees, as well as provide landscape designers, architects and planners a very clear overview of the site they are working on.

It is but another example of the type of initiative that has made The Tree Company such an impressive and reputable business.



Tree Company employee at work.



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