

How does he do it?

It started off as a sloped piece of tarmac, overgrown with moss and looking a little sorry for itself. The front garden, if you could have called it that consisted of a small knoll of grass from which a weary looking flower bed lay crestfallen. As a driveway there was just enough room for a single car to park into and reverse out of.

When the present owners moved in, they decided that something ought to be done and turned to Brian Harrison for a solution. It looked like a rather daunting project, but then a stream of possibilities began to materialise, and soon Brian had come up with the perfect way to transform this tired old driveway and make it bigger.

For a start, he proposed that the grassy knoll should be dug into to make more room. This would mean removing tons of soil when the time came to carve into the rising ground. His idea allowed for a small kerb to be built near the end of this section of the driveway to provide a raised flower bed. All in all, it would almost double the available parking space. However, this threw up a dilemma, because although the owners wanted more space, they didn't want it to look like a huge car park. Good design was the only solution.

The other problem Brian was going to face was how to deal with the matter of drainage. A prickly hedge with a tangle of roots on the opposite side of the driveway prevented any channels being dug there. The new owners also wanted to develop the old flower bed, something which precluded a drainage solution being created at that point either. As usual, Brian had come up with a clever but totally practical way around this challenge.

So, work got underway. His digger chomped into the knoll and then downwards to excavate the ground to his trademark depth; far deeper than most other installers do, but then we are talking about a professional perfectionist here. At the point where the driveway met the pavement, Brian dug out a drainage channel, and then sunk a huge soak away; deep enough to hold over two and a half tons of aggregate. This feature, along with the naturally porous quality of the driveway would be more than sufficient to deal with the heaviest downpour. The remainder of the knoll was transformed into a kerbed flower bed and gave the driveway a natural finishing point.

Then, using a line of Marshall's Drivesett Pennant



Grey kerbing, Brian carefully built the border of key stones that would lock the blocks in place. Even for Brian, this was not an easy task to complete, but with skill and patience they all came together to create the most attractive border for the driveway itself. With the semi permeable membrane in place and the aggregate and sand whacked into a solid mass, Brian laid the beautiful Cotswold Heather blocks; natural looking stone that looks perfect and graceful once in place and nothing like a car park. He was even able to cut these to shape to fit around the manhole cover, making this part of the driveway almost invisible to anyone who didn't know it was there.

As usual, Marshalls kept a keen eye on Brian's progress during the building of this particular driveway, so when they held their awards night on 2nd February this year he was a clear winner in the 'Best Driveway Transformation' category. It's the fourth year in a row that Brian has won this award, and when you consider that this year alone, 904 jobs were submitted for judging, being the winner really counts for something.

It's rather nice for the new owners too to think that their driveway is an award winner. And it's not beyond the realms of possibility to think that the new driveway you're planning to have installed this year might well, with the help of B.H. Building, be an award winner too. Now that would be something to shout about, don't you think!

Get a free quote off the award winner himself: Brian Harrison. Tel: 01476 400426

Mob: 07905 069 802

Email: bhbuilding@sky.com www.bhbuilding.co.uk

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