

Melcourt News

Melcourt Master Stockists meet to hear about the serious business of play and the difference between risk and hazard (October 09)

Master Stockists of Melcourt products gathered at Tetbury for their annual meeting last week to hear Roger Davis, a nationally recognised expert in children's play from the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association, give a talk on children's play. His main theme was the confusion society makes between 'risk' and 'hazard' in the design of play areas - a point well illustrated with some recently discovered 1950's film footage from the National Playing Fields Association archive showing children playing in the street - and getting run over!



Roger Davis addressing the Melcourt Stockists Meeting

Roger Davis's point was that risk is good and hazard is bad, but there has been a tendency in recent times to try to reduce the risks to a level that makes play areas uninteresting. This in the light of the fact that on average there is one death in children's play areas every four years and of the 40,000 children who visit hospital A and E units every year (as a result of a play area related accident) only 200 result in an overnight or longer stay. With around 12 million children in the country this is a very low number indeed particularly when compared with the number of visits to play areas enjoyed by children each day, every week and throughout the year.

A regular feature of these events is the presentation of Awards by Melcourt Sales and Marketing Director Andy Chalmers who announced Michael Bryant of Country Supplies of High Wycombe as Stockist of the Year (again!) and gave the Achievement Award to John Legg-Bagg of Miles Stone of Eastleigh, Hampshire, a loyal seller of Melcourt landscape and play products for many years.



Michael Bryant(left) receives an award from Andy Chalmers

"The day also included a tour of our production facility with a demonstration of how we ensure the correct volume is in our bags as well as on loose bulk lorries," says Andy Chalmers. "It was a very productive session which also included lots of opportunities for stockists to compare notes on a wide range of topics." Melcourt Growbark®, an organically certified bark, has been used at the Warwickshire grounds of the UK's leading organic growing charity, Garden Organic, to demonstrate to gardeners how to make their garden compost more versatile. Home composting has long been championed by the charity as an excellent means of returning fertility to the garden, and, in more recent years Government has encouraged us all to home compost as a means of reducing the amount of waste going in to landfill. However, once composted, using the material around the garden can be limited to mulching and soil improving unless the compost is blended with other materials that reduce the compost's nutrient and pH levels.

Contact