

# A MIDSUMMER'S LIGHT DREAM

Now is the time to prepare for the long dark nights ahead



As high summer passes and the school year begins, it's time for landscapers to consolidate and prepare for winter. **Robert Webber** explains what this means in the lighting sector

September is upon us, slipping away on holiday was only a few weeks ago but it's soon forgotten. It's time to get the kids kitted out for school again and catch up on those jobs that got moved down the list to make way for family. September is the time of year when we start our maintenance programmes, following up on past commissions to make sure everything is working and ready for the winter when the lighting is needed most. Every garden is different but we normally follow a similar procedure for our clients.

**1** Booking the visit and checking if they would like any changes or light movements ready for the winter. Much of the planting will soon be cut away, it's time to move lights away from sparse areas and onto features that will benefit throughout the winter. This changes in each garden. Tree ferns get wrapped in

their coats while trees get ready to shed theirs, so it's an ideal time for repositioning.

**2** Opening up every light and checking that it is moisture free, its lamp holder is in good condition and its lamp works. It's the time of year when lamp holders do need changing if they show signs of moisture or burning. We change a lamp holder for about £5 so it's no major deal. It's one of the only serviceable parts on the lights we tend to use.

**3** Has anything changed? What's new in the garden since we last came? It's an ideal time to look at lighting fresh new areas, or making changes to suit the use of the garden in autumn and winter, particularly if the work involves water features. Sometimes we recommend the use of nets over the feature to inhibit leaves and debris from clogging pumps.

One area where Scenic Lighting concentrates its efforts is the front of the house, particularly the front door and pathway lighting. Allowing functional movement from garages and parking areas up to the front door.

Normally rear garden lighting is more aesthetic in nature. It is designed to be subtly complimentary to a garden and it contrasts with the front of the house. Traditionally this is a far more practical area allowing safe movement to the front door.

The front garden is the part that you will use the most in the coming months. Imagine running down the path holding the shopping while the rain runs down your neck and back! Then you get to the door and see the lock to

put the key in! It is this time of year that we often upgrade lamps to allow for the darkness. Most people welcome the thought of much brighter lighting around their front doors and pathways. It helps to create a more welcoming vista when they arrive home.

We try to achieve this by using slightly brighter lighting than in the rear garden; trying to retain the architectural subtlety of the garden and house features. Wever and Ducré are a great lighting partner to achieve this solution. They offer subtle perfection when it comes to functional lighting.

So brush up on your 'front of house' and then as the curtain falls, you will be sure to receive a standing ovation.

## ABOUT ROBERT WEBBER

Robert Webber is the founder of Scenic Lighting, a specialist exterior lighting company based in Berkshire. He designs and installs garden lighting throughout the UK and internationally. Robert can be contacted on [rob@sceniclighting.com](mailto:rob@sceniclighting.com) or via his mobile on 07766 051 000.

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