

Resin Bound Paving

Commercial Project



Cranford Community College's 'Circle of Life' memorial garden uses the unique qualities of resin bound paving to provide the community with a practical yet beautiful sanctuary for the remembrance of past students and colleagues.

"Over the past three years, several governors, staff and ex-students have died and, rather than have individual memorials such as benches or plaques, we wanted to create a memorial garden for anyone who needed peace and tranquillity," says Assistant Head Teacher Alan Fraser.

Families who have lost former members of the school community hold remembrance ceremonies in the garden and so it was crucial that the new design be accessible to everyone, in all weathers, and provide a peaceful haven in which to reflect.

The college already had an existing garden. "But maintenance was a problem," recalls Wendy Stokes, the landscape gardener tasked with the new design. Overgrown conifers made the garden seem dark and uninviting in gloomy weather; lawns and falling leaves meant maintenance was high.

"My brief was to provide a low maintenance, reflective and restful space that was clean and contemporary. I chose resin bound paving because it is low maintenance, wheelchair friendly and it keeps

looking good for years," says Wendy of Wendy Stokes Garden Design.

The flexibility of resin bound paving lends itself to the creation of pattern and design to symbolise a theme. In this case, the college wished the garden to represent 'The Circle of Life' with water as a central theme. The inherent qualities of water are evoked through a circular flow of aquamarine glass and a reflective steel ball within a surround of warm Sienna resin bound paving.

"Everyone is very impressed both with the design and what it represents," says Alan Fraser. Situated at the entrance to the school, the garden provides a calm and tranquil first impression.

As the college serves a wide community – gaining the Diamond Award for Cultural Diversity in 2011 – the garden needed to be as inclusive as the college: "It's there for everyone: people come and we direct them to the garden. It's a place where people can go and have peace and quiet," says Alan Fraser.

And Alan is delighted that the resin bound paving has made the garden accessible – whatever the weather. "The porous nature of the paving has worked well: no puddles and it's stood up to the extremes of weather we're currently experiencing – torrential rain one day and brilliant sunshine the next. As to maintenance – we have had to do nothing!"

Fuss-free paving and a fuss-free approach to laying it: "*The Clearstone team were very quick laying the surface, worked long hours and bent over backwards to get it all finished for the opening ceremony. In addition, when we had a problem sourcing the bespoke benches we wanted, they even managed to find someone to provide them within the time frame.*"

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Project milestones

- To liaise with the college, garden designer and landscape contractor to ensure clear communication in bringing together all design elements for the garden.
- Creating graceful curves with aluminium edging to form the 'circle of life' effect.
- Area **78 m2**, laid at a thickness of 18mm.
- Aggregate colour used **Sienna** and **Blue Glass**.
- Installed **April 2012**.

A satisfied customer

“ *The students find the garden a peaceful place and I am very pleased with the quality of workmanship of the Clearstone team* ”

Alan Fraser, Assistant Head Teacher,
Cranford Community College

Why resin-bound paving?

Resin-bound paving consists of aggregate material set in a polyurethane resin to create a smooth, tough, surface that's permeable to both air and water. Environmentally sensitive, long-lasting and attractive in appearance, it offers a wide range of benefits.

The surface of resin-bound paving is porous, allowing rainwater to drain away naturally. It's also flexible enough to allow movement, but tough enough to withstand high-pressure washing: this keeps the paving clean and weed-free.

Clearstone Paving uses a wide array of carefully selected natural aggregates such as real quartz, shingle or crushed granite in UV-stable colours.

The quality of the finish is superb, making it highly suitable for historic, heritage and prestige environments.

Why Clearstone Paving?

Clearstone is an established specialist company of resin bound paving designers and contractors committed to using a range of innovative materials including recycled aggregate. With very strong technical and design skills, superior project management and installation credentials, Clearstone can provide a durable and aesthetic finish for even the most extensive outdoor project.

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For more information, technical specifications and photographs of recent installations, please visit our website: clearstonepaving.co.uk
Or call **01273 358177** or email new@clearstonepaving.co.uk

**We install drives,
paths and terraces
for both domestic and
commercial projects**

Here is a selection of other commercial contracts undertaken by Clearstone Paving



Berkeley Homes: Paths and courtyards for All Saints Hospital heritage site conversion into private apartments. Eastbourne



DD Porter: Nuffield Hospital, Woodingdean, terrace with views over the South Downs. Brighton



Wimbledon AELTA: Press area private roof terrace and steps. Wimbledon, London



Martin Joyce: New build houses for Berkeleys Homes, White Gates, Esher



Cobalt Green Ltd: The Helix, contemporary new build project, Wimbledon, London



London Properties Ltd: Traditional styled new build with courtyard drive. Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.



Southern Housing Group: Tree pits. East End London.



Richard Norton Construction: Otford, Kent.