

RHS  
GARDEN

January 2019

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# *Bridgewater*

## Newsletter



RHS Bridgewater staff & volunteers  
planting our first tree, January 2019.



## Welcome to our second newsletter, at the beginning of what will be a momentous year for RHS Garden Bridgewater.

As I write this, fat snowflakes are falling onto the sea of mud that currently surrounds our office, against the constant undercurrent of beeping and rumbling heavy machinery. By the end of this year all of the services, paths and beds will have been installed in the Weston Walled Garden, and the planting of tens of thousands of new plants will be underway. Our first two apprentices will have joined the team, along with the first members of the retail, catering, education and visitor services teams. Our outreach team will have supported around 25 different community

groups to create new green spaces in their neighbourhoods. And our exciting social prescribing pilot project will be nearing completion. All this against the backdrop of an ongoing fundraising campaign to raise the remaining £5.5 million needed to meet our target for opening the garden in 2020. We got the New Year off to an auspicious start by planting our very first tree on site – a beautiful beech – with help from our latest group of hard-working volunteers.

**Anna da Silva, Programme Director, RHS Garden Bridgewater**

# Weston Walled Garden walls restoration complete!

We say goodbye to local contractors Maysand at the end of January, who've been with us for 6 months restoring the walls of our 19th century walled garden. Through a scorching summer and a wet winter, they've repaired 1.4kms of wall, salvaging and

reusing 80,000 original bricks and repointing 40% of the overall wall face. The team will now spend several months wiring up the walls in preparation for fruit tree training, which will require a small matter of 5.7kms of wire, 5590 vine eyes and 570 tensioners!



The Maysand team, January 2019

Architect's impression of the new Welcome Building, RHS Garden Bridgewater



## BAM and the Welcome Building and new lake

As we say goodbye to Maysand we say hello to local contractor BAM, who will be on site until April 2020 building our new Welcome Building and new lake. Stephen Hodder, the local architect behind the design for the Welcome Building said: 'Being part of the largest gardening project in Europe makes us proud, but it's about more than the architecture we're creating at RHS Garden Bridgewater. Seeing how the RHS is engaging with the people of Salford, the volunteers coming in to support; it's exciting to be part of that wider spirit'. The Welcome Building will house our visitor services, gift shop and café, and two dedicated classrooms for educational visits.

## Bridgewater on prescription!

We're delighted to announce that RHS Garden Bridgewater, along with partners Swinton Enhanced Care Team and University of Salford, have received funding from Salford Primary Care Together to deliver an innovative social prescribing programme at RHS Garden Bridgewater in 2019. After referral and assessment, 75 individuals will have the opportunity to improve their health through supported volunteering placements on site, including helping to develop a dedicated Wellbeing Garden. Through the project staff and partners will also be trained in horticultural therapy. By working with University of Salford we'll be able to measure the difference this project has made to people's wellbeing, and explore how such activities can benefit more people in the future, both in and outside RHS Garden Bridgewater. This is the first time that the links between

health and horticulture will be analysed in such depth in the Salford area.

### RHS Garden Bridgewater Wellbeing Garden

We're also delighted to be able to share the design for our new Wellbeing Garden. Designed by RHS Landscape Architect Ben Brace, in close consultation with a range of potential future service users, the Wellbeing Garden will offer people with a wide range of mental and physical health conditions, the opportunity to connect with plants, gardening and nature. They will also be able to take advantage of a range of activities, such as music, crafts, nature watching, yoga and meditation.



## Communities & Outreach Team

RHS Garden Bridgewater's Communities & Outreach team are currently working on a wide range of community green space improvement projects in Salford, including helping to brighten up the Kenyon Residents Association garden, planting bulbs with volunteers at Ingleside Birthing Centre and creating a garden from scratch with the Veteran's Garage on their base at Barton Aerodrome.

By early February the team will have awarded up to 15 small grants to some fantastic community growing initiatives in

Salford through the Grow Well Fund, a unique collaboration between the Salford Clinical Commissioning Group, RHS Garden Bridgewater and Salford CVS.

Talking of which, is there a neglected space in your community that you'd love to transform? Do you have a community garden idea that could bridge the generation gap? The 2019 Greening Grey Britain community support programme is open for applications until February 28th 2019! [rhs.org.uk/ggbwithcommunities](https://rhs.org.uk/ggbwithcommunities)



## RHS Garden Bridgewater Tours


Fancy getting behind the scenes of Europe's largest garden project before it opens? Across 2019 we'll be releasing tickets for guided tours of RHS Garden Bridgewater, so if you want to come and see for yourself

how things are developing, this is your chance. Details announced on RHS Garden Bridgewater's Twitter and Facebook platforms and tickets available here – [rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater/tours](https://rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater/tours)

## Jobs & Opportunities

We're keen to maximise the social value and economic impact of RHS Garden Bridgewater by creating opportunities for volunteering, education, training & employment. We're currently recruiting a range of roles, including a Clerk of Works, a Site Administrator and our first ever Apprenticeships – an Arborist Apprentice and Mechanic Apprenticeship. [rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/work-for-the-rhs](https://rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/work-for-the-rhs)





Local resident Jim Grundy, who worked on the site in the 1940's

## Memories Project

We are running a Memories Project, in partnership with Salford University, inviting local people to share their memories of the site with us. In December, 84 year old Boothstown resident Jim Grundy, popped in to see us, to share his memories of watering the camellias in the glasshouses in the late 1940s. Do get in touch with us if you have a memory to share!

**[bridgewaterfeedback@rhs.org.uk](mailto:bridgewaterfeedback@rhs.org.uk)**



Original entrance gates to the site, being transformed into RHS Garden Bridgewater

## Help open the gates

Thanks to the support of Salford City Council and Peel Holdings the RHS has begun work on site. To open the garden to the public we need help to raise £17 million.

Thanks to The Garfield Weston Foundation and other funders, we have already secured £11.5 million.

In order to raise the remaining £5.5 million and open the gates, we are looking for support from individuals companies, trusts and foundations from across the North West.

### We need your help

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to contribute to a landmark project that will benefit future generations to come.

**There are a number of ways that you can get involved...**

### Donate

Every gift helps towards bringing our new garden to life.

Donate online at [rhs.org.uk/bridgewater](https://rhs.org.uk/bridgewater)

### Join the RHS

As a member, you're supporting our charitable work to enrich everyone's life through plants.

Join online today at [rhs.org.uk/join](https://rhs.org.uk/join)

### Stay in touch

Follow our progress [@RHSBridgewater](https://twitter.com/RHSBridgewater) on Twitter and Facebook, and on our website: [rhs.org.uk/bridgewaternewsletter](https://rhs.org.uk/bridgewaternewsletter)