

RHS
GARDEN

April 2019

Bridgewater

Newsletter



Harris Bugg Studio Kitchen Garden, RHS Garden Bridgewater



Grade II listed Garden Cottage, RHS Garden Bridgewater

Welcome to our April newsletter



I'm delighted to be joining the team as Head of RHS Garden Bridgewater at such an exciting time. I have been so impressed with all of the hard work undertaken so far by our

contractors and our small team of staff, supported by hundreds of volunteers. With the physical structure of the future Garden starting to take shape, my priorities will be to establish the on-site team ready to run the Garden, to continue to develop external partnerships and to increase public engagement with horticulture and our heritage, all against the backdrop of an ongoing fundraising campaign to raise the remaining £4.8million needed to meet our

target for opening the garden in 2020.

My background is in the leadership and day-to-day running of museums and leisure attractions, most recently with the Science Museum Group and Chill Factor and I'm thrilled at the opportunity to play a part in developing a world-class Garden that enriches Salford's communities and their environment. There's a huge amount to do before we can open the gates in 2020, but if you want to come and take a look behind the scenes of Europe's largest gardening project, we're currently running pre-opening tours – details of how to book rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater/tours. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Richard Green, Head of Site,
RHS Garden Bridgewater**



RHS Garden Bridgewater horticulturalists wiring the walls of the Weston Walled Garden

Weston Walled Garden

The Weston Walled Garden is beginning to take shape! In February local contractor AE Yates Ltd started to lay out 1.5km of main paths and 1.4km of smaller paths in the Paradise Garden and Kitchen Garden. Below ground, 1km of irrigation and 1km of ducting forms the invisible infrastructure that will allow the gardens above to flourish.

From *Paeonia* 'Black Pirate' and *Phlomis italica* to *Agastache* 'Blackadder' and *Lotus hirsutus*, creating Tom Stuart-Smith's Paradise Garden will take over 27,000 plants and nearly 1,000 species. The Kitchen Garden, designed by Harris Bugg Studio, will form a beautiful and productive garden, growing a wide range of edible fruit and vegetables that will supply the café in our new Welcome Building, as well as showcasing permaculture growing techniques.

Our Garden team have spent weeks painstakingly wiring the walls of the Weston Walled Garden in preparation for training a huge array of climbers and fruit trees, including Bridgewater's heritage pear and apple collections. With over 5.5km of wiring required, this is no small task!



Paradise Garden and Kitchen Garden, Weston Walled Garden, RHS Garden Bridgewater



Sue Biggs, Director General RHS & Dr Lee Kai Hung, founder of the Chinese Streamside Garden Founding Committee, February 2019

Chinese Streamside Garden at Bridgewater

In February we welcomed Dr Lee Kai Hung and the Chinese Streamside Garden Founding Committee, the Consul General for the People's Republic of China in Manchester, and senior horticulturalists

from China to Bridgewater. The Committee have pledged to raise £500,000 to support the creation of the Chinese Streamside Garden and presented the RHS with an initial £155,000.



RHS Staff and the Chinese Streamside Garden Founding Committee

Inspired by the flora and diverse natural landscapes of China, the Chinese Streamside Garden will represent a unique fusion of Chinese and British horticulture in seven acres of existing woodland, and celebrate the huge contribution made to British horticulture by Chinese plants. We look forward to sharing our plans with you as they develop.



Ozichi Brewster, Therapeutic Gardener,
RHS Garden Bridgewater

Social Prescribing Project

In March we celebrated the first International Social Prescribing Day by signing our first social prescribing contract with partners Salford Primary Care Together and the University of Salford. Bridgewater's innovative social prescribing project starts this month. The year-long pilot will see up to 75 individuals referred to the Garden by their GP's to take part in supported volunteering under the guidance of our newly appointed Therapeutic Gardener, Ozichi Brewster. Staff and partners have received training from leading Horticultural Therapy charity Thrive. The University of Salford are working with us to evaluate the effects of gardening on participants' physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Outreach & Communities Team

Back in February the RHS Garden Bridgewater Outreach & Communities team, in conjunction with Salford CVS and Salford Clinical Commissioning Group, funded 15 community green space projects within Salford designed to promote health and wellbeing. We also received a huge number of applications for this year's Greening Grey Britain programme and have awarded funding and support to seven projects within Salford. We look forward to sharing updates with you as each project develops.

Meanwhile, our ongoing project with local charity Veterans Garage was given a huge helping hand by Bridgewater contractor AE Yates Ltd, who spent a day working with veterans and RHS staff to build the infrastructure for a new wellbeing garden at their headquarters at Barton Aerodrome. Teamwork at its best!



AE Yates Ltd working on the foundations of the Veterans Garage garden.

Events

We're really excited to share the news that award-winning landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith will be creating the biggest Show garden at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show with a garden celebrating the creation of RHS Garden Bridgewater! Tom's design will be on the 'Triangle' site, which is double the size of other Show gardens, and is designed as a collage of the proposed garden around the new Welcome building at Bridgewater. The planting is made up of varieties adapted to the mossy soils of that part of the Bridgewater site and will include many moisture loving plants like *Iris siberica*, *Rodgersia* and *Darmera*, with the garden being relocated to Bridgewater after the show. rhs.org.uk/chelsea

Closer to home, **King Street's Manchester Flower Show** returns on the 1st and 2nd June 2019, showcasing the region's best floristry, produce & gardening talent. We'll be there and look forward to meeting you.

<https://cityco.com/news/call-for-entries-manchester-flower-show-king-street-festival>

Also at Chelsea, our friends at Marketing Manchester will unveil The Manchester Garden. Designed by Exterior Architecture the garden celebrates Greater Manchester's resilience and adaptability and will raise important questions about how cities manage urban green infrastructure in the face of climate change.

manchesteratrhs.co.uk



Tom Stuart-Smith's Bridgewater Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show

We'll be celebrating **our countdown to opening** with a Bridgewater inspired Show garden at **RHS Flower Show Tatton Park**, 17th-21st July 2019. We're delighted to be working with Manchester based Flint Landscapes, who have designed a Show garden inspired by our plans for children's

play at RHS Garden Bridgewater. Reflecting the natural woodland at Bridgewater, and using materials from the site, the Show garden aims to engage all ages as they move through the various spaces, tunnels and structures – some of which will be relocated back to Middlewood.



Tour group in front of the Grade II listed Garden Cottage

Site Tours

‘Come on a tour and see how this historic site is gradually being transformed into one of the greatest gardens of our time’

Lynda Anderson,
RHS Garden Bridgewater Guide

We’re just about to release more dates for pre-opening tours of RHS Garden Bridgewater. If you fancy a look behind the scenes of Europe’s largest gardening project, we’d love to welcome you. Tickets will be announced on Bridgewater’s Facebook and Twitter platforms but you’ll need to be quick – we sold out in 24 hours last time! Tickets cost £5 per person and all proceeds go back into creating RHS Garden Bridgewater.

rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater/tours



Pigs on the move!

And finally, back in early March we moved our small herd of rare breed Berkshire pigs across a 154 acre building site, with a little help from staff, volunteers and contractors! Having done a fantastic job of digging over the ground in what will be the new orchard, the girls have been relocated up to their new home in a birch glade near the historic lake and are making light work of clearing the ground there too. Happy pigs!



RHS Members Appeal tops £200,000

The Funding team have been busy over the last few years raising money from Trusts, Foundations, Companies and individuals, who have enabled us to create so much already at Bridgewater. This year we launched our members appeal, asking the 500,000 RHS members to give a donation and help open the gates at Bridgewater. Already within just a few months, our generous members have given over £200,000, with particular support from our members living in the North West. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, visitors, donors and supporters who have helped the appeal, and continue to do so by being RHS Members.

Guide Book thanks for donors

As a special thank you to all donors who give £100 or more, we'll include your name in a unique, first edition of the RHS Garden Bridgewater Guide Book. This exclusive edition will just be for Bridgewater appeal donors, becoming a lasting memento of your support for the creation of the newest RHS Garden. You can choose to have your own name in the book, or perhaps your family name, or that of a loved one. You can donate online at **rhs.org.uk/bridgewater** and you'll receive your Guide Book when published.

Note, the name to be included is limited to a maximum of 30 letters, including spaces & punctuation.

Thanks to the generous support of Salford City Council and Peel Holdings, work is well under way at RHS Garden Bridgewater. To open the garden to the public in 2020 we need to raise £4.8 million. We would like to thank our generous supporters the Garfield Weston Foundation, Arcadia (a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin) the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the Oglesby Charitable Trust and the Chinese Streamside Garden Founding Committee.



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/gardens/bridgewater**](https://rhs.org.uk/gardens/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**](#) on Twitter and Facebook, and on our website: [**rhs.org.uk/bridgewaternewsletter**](https://rhs.org.uk/bridgewaternewsletter)