



RHS

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The Newt
in Somerset

2024 RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

SHOW GARDEN EXHIBITORS

Please note: All information is provided by exhibitors and is subject to change. For images and further information including full planting lists, please contact showspr@rhs.org.uk

1) *Muscular Dystrophy UK - Forest Bathing Garden*

Sponsor: Project Giving Back supporting Muscular Dystrophy UK
Designer: Ula Maria
Contractor: Crocus

Media Contact: Joy Baker

Media Contact Details: joy@bakerpr.co.uk / 07810 442659

Muscular Dystrophy UK - Forest Bathing Garden is a sanctuary for those affected by a muscle wasting condition. It seeks to showcase how an immersive, yet accessible garden can offer a place of refuge to patients, their families and clinicians at the time of diagnosis and beyond.



The design of the garden is inspired by the ancient Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku, which means bathing in the forest

atmosphere and reconnecting with nature through our senses. The garden seeks to awaken imagination and innate connection to nature by bridging the gap between us and the natural world.

A large random knapped flint wall has been chosen for its beautiful texture and form – reminiscent of muscle cells – which serves as a tool for explaining what muscular dystrophy is and the effect it has on one's muscles.

At the core of the garden is a central hub with sculptural flint walls. It provides a sheltered space for people to meet and share their experiences outside the clinical environment.

Planting/Colour Scheme

The planting is inspired by a birch grove, with more than 40 trees enveloping the garden and creating a forest-like atmosphere. The birch trees are under-planted with woodland edge style plants, varying from deep shade corners to more open, sunnier woodland glades. The majority of the plants have been selected for their foliage, creating a green tapestry rich in texture with an occasional burst of colour.

Relocation

The garden will be relocated to the Institute of Developmental and Regenerative Medicine in Oxford.

2) The National Garden Scheme Garden

Sponsor: Project Giving Back supporting The National Garden Scheme

Designer: Tom Stuart-Smith

Contractor: Crocus

Media Contact: Vicky Flynn

Media Contact Details: vicky@ngs.org.uk / 01483 213908

The garden has an 'edge of woodland' theme and appearance, laid out through an open hazel coppice with a collection of more drought tolerant woodland plants suited to the south east of the UK. Many plants have been contributed by National Garden Scheme garden owners, symbolic of the tradition of sharing and generosity in the charity.



The garden centres on a carbon sink timber hut where visitors and garden volunteers can congregate for tea and cake, synonymous with a National Garden Scheme Garden open day. The garden celebrates the National Garden Scheme's nearly 100 years of opening private gardens to the public and raising funds for nursing and health charities.

A hut made from UK grown cleft oak features on the garden and a portion of its timber comes from Hertfordshire where Tom Stuart-Smith and his family opened their gardens for the National Garden Scheme.

The style of the garden reflects the charity's increasing support of community and therapeutic gardens as well as its diverse portfolio of gardens that open. Enclosed by a native hedge, the garden offers a refuge to visitors.

Planting/Colour Scheme

The garden is a portion of a hazel copse, primarily planted with woodland and edge-of-woodland herbaceous perennials. The plant palette has been selected to cope with clay soil prone to drying out which reflects current climatic conditions.

Relocation

The garden will be relocated to a new Maggie's Centre at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

3) WaterAid Garden

Sponsor: Project Giving Back supporting WaterAid
Designer: Tom Massey & Je Ahn
Contractor: Landscape Associates

Media Contact: Laura Crowley

Media Contact Details: lauracrowley@wateraid.org / 020 7793 4537

The garden explores what a UK garden might look like in 50 years, focusing on sustainable water management and featuring a colourful array of drought tolerant species and materials that are reclaimed and repurposed with a lighter carbon footprint.



The central pavilion stands among stunning greenery, and plants such as *Hottonia palustris* and *Hesperaloe parviflora*. The pavilion is made of a steel subframe, clad with overlapping weathering steel sheets, giving it an organic and fluid form. Rainfall is harvested from the structure, filtering and slowing down its dispersal into the landscape.

Planting/Colour Scheme

Alnus glutinosa 'Pyramidalis' emerge through the pavilion, part of a planting scheme chosen principally for resilience and biodiversity. The planting is textured and colourful, shifting from denser, wetter, lowland areas to sparser, drier upland character with the garden's shifting topography.

Relocation

Plans are being finalised.

4) The National Autistic Society Garden

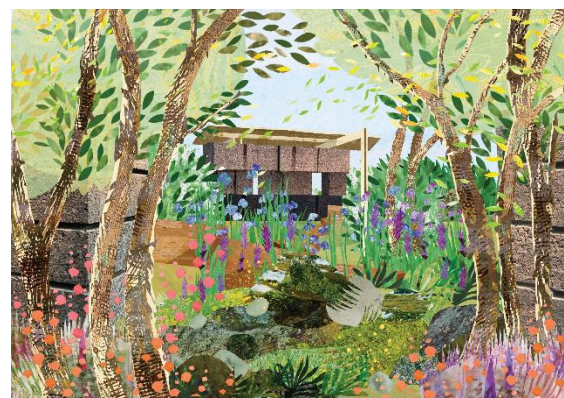
Sponsor: Project Giving Back supporting The National Autistic Society
Designer: Sophie Parmenter and Dido Milne
Contractor: Landform Consultants

Media Contact: Vickie Warren

Media Contact Details: press@nas.org.uk / 0207 903 3593

The National Autistic Society Garden seeks to capture an autistic person's everyday experience of the world, using walls of cork to create a series of spaces dedicated to different types of social interaction - at work, with friends and family, with partners, and with ourselves.

It highlights a strategy called 'masking' – a potentially draining process involving consciously or unconsciously hiding autistic characteristics in order to fit in. The cork 'masks'



encircle a central sanctuary with a mesmeric kinetic sculpture, alluding to the inner mind's complexity and beauty.

A strong ecological ethos runs through the garden, showcasing the circularity of regenerative systems and the interdependent relationship between natural ecosystems and man-made materials.

Planting/Colour Scheme

The planting scheme is multi-layered, evolving from wetland meadow to river birch woodland, with a vibrant colour palette at its boundary soothing to softer hues at its heart, textured curling bark sits alongside large crusted blocks of expanded cork.

Relocation

The garden will go to a National Autistic Society supported living site at Catrine Bank – alongside the river Ayr in Scotland.

5) Terrence Higgins Trust Bridge to 2030 Garden

Sponsor: Project Giving Back supporting The Terrence Higgins Trust

Designer: Matthew Childs

Contractor: Yoreland Design Ltd

Media Contact: Fraser Wilson

Media Contact Details: fraser.wilson@tht.org.uk / 020 7812 1625

The entrance into the garden is reminiscent of the flooded base of a rejuvenated quarry landscape. The water level rises and falls, revealing a monolith slate stepping stone creating a bridge to the 2030 vision of no new HIV cases. The tombstone, which once represented death and fear, is now a crossing, leading to a secluded terrace in which to enjoy a positive, hopeful future together.



The front of the garden is a crevice garden, which takes inspiration from natural areas where plants grow in gaps between rocks. This ornamental space transitions to a more natural look towards the rear of the garden.

Granite boulders are scattered through the garden, inspired by those found in the slate landscapes of North Wales. One of these boulders balances precariously from the raised bed on the boundary, looking as though it is about to fall. Beneath it, fragile sticks give the illusion they are supporting the weight of the boulder – an analogy for those people lost to HIV.

Planting/Colour Scheme

The planting in the garden is inspired by the recolonisation of plants in the redundant slate mines of North Wales by both nature and from the subtle intervention of ecologists and horticulturalists. Yellows are key to punctuating deeper tones of purples and reds at the front of the garden and connecting with a palette of greens at the rear. Resilient planting for a changing climate is a key theme in the garden.

Relocation

Plans being finalised.

6) The Octavia Hill Garden by Blue Diamond with The National Trust

Sponsor: Blue Diamond with the National Trust
Designer: Ann-Marie Powell
Contractor: The Landscaping Consultants

Media Contact: Sian Thomas

Media Contact Details: sian.thomas2@nationaltrust.org.uk / 07787 105833

Pioneering social reformer Octavia Hill (1838-1912), a founder of the National Trust, believed that ‘the healthy gift of air and the joy of plants and flowers’ were vital in everyone’s life. She worked tirelessly to improve urban housing and protect green space, yet today, one-in-three people in Britain still don’t have access to nearby nature-rich spaces.



Conceptually located on an urban brownfield site, this beautiful, plant-filled wildlife garden is designed to stimulate physical, mental, and social wellbeing. The garden increases urban biodiversity and encourages visitors to make intimate connections with plants and wildlife.

The garden is built around open-air sitting rooms, where visitors feel like they are part of nature. A timber retaining wall and hand-carved seating provide multiple views over the wildlife, feasting on the pollinator-friendly planting.

A steel-lattice canopy structure in the pattern of a dragonfly wing, forms a habitat hub for the wider garden – along with bird boxes hung within the trees which trail through the space. A contemporary wildlife pond and walkable stream add to the habitats of the garden, and fills the space with the calming sound of running water.

Planting/ Colour Scheme

Spires of digitalis and trailing geranium create a rich planting palette. Several edible species are included in the planting, primarily as food sources for wildlife, and for foraging. All have been included for their ornamental as well as productive values.

Relocation

The garden will be relocated to Bridgemere Show Gardens in Cheshire, an RHS Partner Garden.

7) St James's Piccadilly: *Imagine the World to be Different*

Sponsor: Project Giving Back supporting St James’s Piccadilly
Designer: Robert Myers
Contractor: Stewart Landscape Construction

Media Contact: Julie Holman

Media Contact Details: Julie.Holman@four.agency / 020 3920 0555

The garden celebrates the restorative power of green spaces in cities, illustrating a sense of hope and recovery and inspiring future generations to 'imagine the world to be different'. Inspired by the architecture of St James's church in central London, its bombing during the war and its existing and proposed gardens and precinct. The garden imagines an alternative world where St James's was only partially restored, becoming a biodiverse garden space built around remnant walls.



The 'borrowed' plane trees of the RHS Chelsea showground echo similar trees at St James's, as do the materials used including Yorkstone paving, Portland stone copings, window and archway mouldings, and brick planter walls. A tall, rammed earth wall represents the face of the church, and a small pool with water spouts references the fountain at St James's, with the Mary of Nazareth statue set in the centre.

Calm, contemplative and uplifting, it is a refuge in the city for humans and wildlife, offering lush multi-layered greenery and water to engage the senses.

Planting/ Colour Scheme

A place of dappled shade, with rich, biodiverse woodland planting, the palette has been selected to evoke the garden at St James's and the slightly eclectic planting of other urban 'pocket parks' with a good proportion of evergreens, plants for wildlife, and low maintenance plants. Textural greens are dotted with splashes of red, lime green, pink, purple and white. Shrubs are mixed with ferns and robust perennials, and walls festooned with climbing plants.

Relocation

The garden design will be the basis of the restored garden in Piccadilly, open to everyone, of all faiths and none.

8) Stroke Association's Garden for Recovery

Sponsor: Project Giving Back supporting Stroke Association

Designer: Miria Harris

Contractor: Landform Consultants

Media Contact: Miria Harris

Media Contact Details: miriaharris@purplepr.com / 07887 993197

Designed by Miria Harris, herself a stroke survivor, the garden has been shaped by her story and the stories of other survivors.

The garden is designed as a peaceful, sensory space for recovery. Colour, scent and the sound of water provide soft way-finding for those with visual or mobility impairments.



The trees frame views and a complimentary colour block planting scheme of pink, orange, yellow, purple and green offers soft way-finding to guide visitors on different routes through the garden. These interconnected pathways through a contoured landscape acknowledge the difficult road to recovery with its ups and downs.

Natural-built walls articulate spaces to rest and be with loved ones. A wildlife pond and stream add a soothing auditory dimension. A bridge across the stream is a metaphor for the mental, physical and emotional connections that have to be rebuilt after stroke. Undulating, accessible paths and a series of resting places invite respite from the world of hospitals and reconnection with the natural world.

Planting/ Colour Scheme

Wildlife-friendly and native perennials including *Salvia greggii* spp., *Lunaria annua* and *Ranunculus flammula* are placed according to the different planting conditions of the garden terrain, in a rich scheme that encourages reconnection with the natural world after the disconnecting experience of stroke.

Pinus sylvestris and *Pinus mugo* trees symbolise resilience in the face of stroke trauma. Their anthropomorphic shapes offer a comforting alternative structure to the built environment of the hospital, their scent, a transportive effect.

Relocation

The garden will relocate to the Stroke Unit at Chapel Allerton Hospital in Leeds, where patients currently have no suitable access to outside space.