



RHS / CHRIS BULL

Countdown to Tatton Park

RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2016 (20-24 July), supported by Bruntwood, is tailor-made for new and expert gardeners alike. The show will include inspiring Show Gardens and Blooming Borders, emerging talent in design and floristry, the best nurseries and floral exhibitors, and much more

From unusual plants to fantastic floristry, from inspiring design to masterclasses and family events, the range of gardens and exhibitors at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park will leave visitors spoilt for choice. Many designers will embrace the Society's Greening Grey Britain campaign, which this year focuses on Health, Happiness and Horticulture. This is also the theme for the RHS Young Designer competition.

Not only will the Show Gardens inspire visitors with ideas to take home, many of the designs will be relocated after the show to benefit the wider community. 'Lest We Forget' will be rebuilt at Combat Stress, Newport, and 'A Drop of Urban Green' will be relocated as part of Nottingham City Homes' Decent Neighbourhoods scheme.

New show supporter Bruntwood is also making a difference in local communities. At the show it will be creating a 10 x 15m (33 x 49ft) Show



RHS / GEORGI MARE

Feature, 'The Bruntwood Field Office', a diverse garden exploring greener ways of working in a naturally inspired workspace.

Encouraging new talent remains an important part of Tatton Park with the RHS Young Designer joined by the new RHS Young Landscape Contractor (supported by BALI) and RHS Young Planting Designer competitions (see p68). Family Day, 23 July, includes events and activities to inspire budding gardeners of the future. ● >>

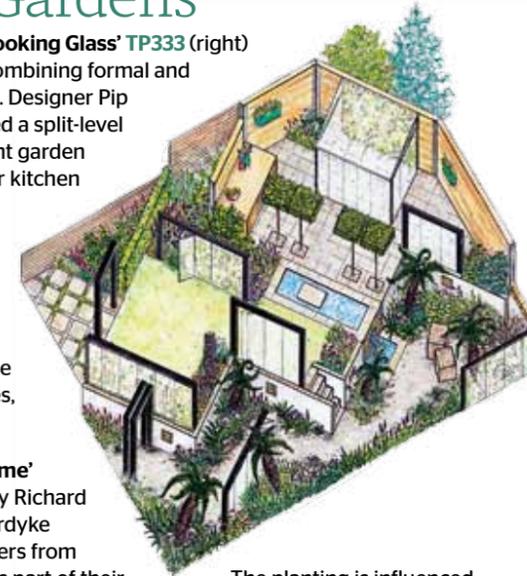
Show gardens to look for

The gardens at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park offer excitement and ideas to take home on both big and small scales, with bold designs, unusual planting and a spectrum of themes. Among the five Show, three Evolution, one Water and 17 Back to Back Gardens, some of this year's highlights include the following. **STAND NUMBERS IN GREEN**

Show Gardens

❖ **'Through the Looking Glass' TP333** (right)

A family garden combining formal and informal elements. Designer Pip Probert has created a split-level space with different garden rooms. An outdoor kitchen offers space for entertaining and a glass garden room provides shelter in bad weather. The planting will be mainly fresh whites, greens and pink.



❖ **'Pulling Back Time' TP332**

Designed by Richard Heys, Audra Bickerdyke and female prisoners from HM Prison Styal (as part of their rehabilitation work), this design aims to show the positive effects of gardening. The colour and texture of the planting will reflect the women's emotions during different stages of their lives.

❖ **'Trafford Housing Trust Rainbow Garden' TP429**

Alan Nugent has created a design that is inspired by the values of the Trafford Housing Trust. The garden will form an urban community space with an outdoor classroom and areas for growing vegetables.

The planting is influenced by the seven visible colours of the rainbow spectrum.

❖ **'Lest We Forget' TP331** (below)

A garden to remember fallen service personnel, and to highlight the plight of those living with the psychological effects of war, especially post-traumatic stress disorder. Carolyn Hardern's design encompasses a reflection pool with a sculptural centrepiece. Around the pool, white planting will symbolise peace and create a tranquil space for contemplation.



Back to Back Gardens

A popular category, these small gardens are just 6 x 4m (20 x 13ft) and arranged 'back to back' along an axis.

❖ **'Inner Sanctum' TP324** (right)

This design is inspired by the Fibonacci number sequence that is at the root of some spiral patterns seen in nature. Rosalind Rosewarne and Charlotte Khan will reflect the sequence in as many areas as possible, including the arbour, water feature, curvature of the path and proportions of the planting.



❖ **'A Drop of Urban Green' TP408**

Hosta Consulting has designed an 'urban pocket park' that provides an area to relax and help increase biodiversity within the bustle of a city. The design will include reclaimed materials, and a planting scheme of warm colours.

❖ **'Hultons Landscapes Ltd - Sitting Below the Mulberry Tree' TP329**

Designed by students at Reaseheath College, Cheshire, the garden will be a place for people who have been diagnosed with an illness, to spend time with their family. The calm space will include curved seating, moving water and a mulberry tree.

Evolution Gardens

This category challenges designers to interpret the theme 'Evolution' with a conceptual or futuristic design.

❖ **'From Hall to Home' TP436** (below right)

This garden displays the evolution of garden design through the development of stately homes, with a focus on the work of 'Capability' Brown.

Michael John McGarr has created a design with a Palladian-inspired arbour, topiary and pleached trees.



❖ **'ACE Kids Spectrum of Genius' TP435**

Shea O'Neill's design is a sensory space for children with autism and additional social and emotional needs. The garden promotes positive mental health in children and is planted with different edibles, including some rare and unusual cultivars.

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Don't miss: the heady scents and contemporary planting in 'Fryer's Roses – Roses Through Thyme' Back to Back Garden, designed by Peter Shirley, stand TP321. >>

Nurturing new talent

Alongside the various gardens are several categories supporting up-and-coming garden designers and landscapers. These gardens offer a springboard into the industry, an opportunity to demonstrate skills and the chance to gain valuable experience. Many designers go on to design at other RHS Flower Shows and national events.

RHS Young Designer 2016

Open to people younger than 29 years old, the competition gives budding designers the chance to kick-start their careers. The theme for this year's gardens is Health, Happiness and Horticulture. After judging, one of the three finalists will be awarded the title RHS Young Designer of the Year.

❖ **'A Home from Home' TP400** (right)
Robin Dwiar's design is a relaxing urban oasis, where owners can improve their wellbeing by escaping city life. It contains elements that have been inspired by the countryside, including hedging, a rill to represent a river, and tactile grasses. A sunken seating area, with a tree canopy overhead, will be surrounded by a pared-down planting palette of greens, whites and purples.



❖ **'A Space to Ruminare' TP402** (left)
Intended as a back garden to a terraced house, Lilly Gomm's design includes raised areas for growing edibles, an entertaining space, and a private area in which to relax and ruminare with reclined seating. Many of the materials used in the design are reclaimed or recycled.



❖ **'Nature & Nurture' TP401** (right)
Caitlin McLaughlin has designed a garden that highlights the importance of hedgerows and field margins as well as the benefits of green space in urban areas. This city garden will be planted with wildflowers and has an island seating area surrounded by a large shallow pond. Height will be provided by hedging and multistemmed trees.



APL WorldSkills Landscaping Competition

A semi-final of the WorldSkills Landscaping Competition, run by the APL, will take place during the show. Students and apprentices who have made it through regional heats will provide live action, demonstrating their skills as they each build a 6 x 2m (20 x 7ft) garden in just 18 hours over three days of the show.



School Gardens

This year 20 local schools will make gardens inspired by their favourite musicals. The School Gardens are an exciting chance for children to get involved in gardening and create designs that thousands of people will see at the show.



RHS Young Landscape Contractor and RHS Young Planting Designer

New RHS competitions will look for the best emerging talent. Three pairs of young landscape contractors (supported by BALI) and planting designers will work together to create a garden (right) to a brief by RHS Young Designer 2015, Tamara Bridge. The hard materials will remain consistent, but the planting will have different themes: Sam Hunt and Lizzi Mills have 'countryside planting'; Ewan Sewell and Lydia MacKey take on a 'coastal garden'; and Matthew Beesley and Katie Maude will create an 'urban garden'.



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Don't miss: look out for Carol Klein (22 July) and Monty Don (23 July) at the Talks Theatre – where they will share their love of all things gardening.



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Floral highlights

RHS / TIM SANDALL

The showground will be bustling with the UK's leading nurseries and expert plantspeople, with exhibitors more than happy to share advice and growing tips.

From special-interest societies in the National Plant Societies and Plant Heritage Marquee to almost 100 exhibitors filling the Floral Marquee there will be a multitude of vivid and spectacular displays.

Exhibitors from the local area and further afield will be creating exhibits and selling

plants in the main Floral Marquee, including:

- ❖ **D&A Wright FM42** will stage a colourful display of fuchsias, geraniums, begonias and trailing plants in hanging baskets.
- ❖ **Mickfield Hostas FM19** will have an educational element to its exhibit with information about hostas, including hints and tips for growing them in your garden.
- ❖ **Dave Parkinson Plants FM1** returns to the show with an exotic display of South African *Disa* orchids, grown in East Yorkshire.

Floral Design Studio

Floristry and floral art is another unmissable part of the show with not only fine floral arrangements but also the chance for visitors to get involved in the Have a Go workshops.

The final of the UK Florist of the Year competition, in association with the British Florist Association, will be held at the show for the first time this year. The finalists will create three floral arrangements for judging, all of which have a wedding theme.

SHOW DETAILS

Venue: Tatton Park, Cheshire

Times: 20–23 July 10am–6.30pm, 24 July 10am–5pm (sell off starts at 4pm).

Special days: Ladies Day, Friday 22 July. Family Day, Saturday 23 July.

Tickets: can be purchased on the day or in advance. Call 0844 338 7502*, or visit www.rhs.org.uk/tattonpark

LATEST NEWS

❖ For up-to-date information on RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2016, and to see the gardens as they are unveiled, visit www.rhs.org.uk/tattonpark

* CALLS COST 7P PER MINUTE PLUS YOUR PHONE COMPANY'S ACCESS CHARGE.

The Vineyard, supported by Viking Cruises, will be an ideal place to relax and learn more about wine production. Visitors will be able to take part in tastings, learn how to grow vines at home and find out about the recent boom in English wine.



RHS / BETHANY CLARKE

New: RHS Masterclasses

A new feature this year, RHS Masterclasses offer visitors the chance to make their day even more memorable by joining sessions led by industry experts and renowned gardeners. Masterclasses must be booked in advance, and include:

- ❖ **'Let's Look Again - Garden Photography'** with **Clive Boursnell, Wednesday 20 July:** a chance to find out what makes a perfect garden photograph. The session will take place in the Masterclass classroom and out around the showground.
- ❖ **'Getting the most from your borders'** with **Paul Hervey-Brookes, Thursday 21 July:** find out how to plant a border to create seasonal interest; includes a tour of the Floral Marquee.
- ❖ **'Summer Table Display'** with **Jonathan Moseley, Saturday 23 July:** learn the techniques required to create a floral table centre. **Tickets for RHS Masterclasses start at £50 and include light refreshments. For more information, details of all the speakers and to book, visit: www.rhs.org.uk/tattonmasterclasses**

Don't miss: seven humble sheds will be transformed for the Garden Hideaways category, including an entry from Blooming Bridgewater.