

NEWSPRINT

What's new in the world of garden design *Compiled by Zia Allaway*

BELOW The RHS Hilltop Wellbeing Garden at RHS Garden Wisley.



Image: ©RHS Neil Hepworth

Tickets selling fast for SGD symposium

TICKETS ARE SELLING fast for the SGD symposium on 9 and 10 June at RHS Garden Wisley. The theme is Past, Present, Future, and promises to inspire debate about the importance of using nature-based solutions for a more sustainable approach to garden and landscape design. Keynote speakers are Dan Pearson FSGD, California-based designer Bernard Trainor, Charlie Harpur, the new Head Gardener at the Knepp Estate, and Marian Boswall MSGD, award-winning designer and co-founder of the Sustainable Landscape Foundation. See also pages 15 and 25, and sgd.org.uk/events/symposium.aspx



Image: Annie Spratt/Unsplash

New plant import rules to apply from July 2022

NEW RULES THAT will affect nurseries and designers importing plants to Great Britain from the European Union, Liechtenstein and Switzerland come into force this July, strengthening the import rules introduced in 2021 and on 1 January 2022.

From July, all plants and plant products, apart from those listed as deregulated, will require a Phytosanitary Certificate, which the EU exporter is required to supply. A summary is available on BALI's website at bali.org.uk. See also Provender Nurseries story on page 9.

SGD MEMBERS CREATE HOSPICE GARDENS

A HOSPITAL IN Surrey and a hospice in Norfolk have each commissioned a member of the Society of Garden Designers to create a garden for use by people receiving palliative care, and their families and friends.

Rae Wilkinson MSGD (raewilkinson.com) is to design a green sanctuary (above) at St. Peter's Hospital in Chertsey. 'The Eternal Garden will provide a nurturing green space within a courtyard at St. Peter's, offering an escape from the clinical environment within the surrounding hospital. It has been designed as a welcoming space, to allow people to take a moment or two to be together, particularly at the end of life,' says Rae.

The secluded courtyard, which includes a garden room suitable for hospital beds, will provide a beautiful space where family and friends can spend precious moments with loved ones. Staff will also be able to use the space, to have difficult conversations and reflect on challenging days. 'I have kept the design simple, focusing on green structure in the form of pleached trees and an ornamental tree canopy to soften the space,' says Rae. 'Textural shade planting will provide year-round interest and a water bowl feature will be an additional sensory element. A pergola connects the hospital to the garden room, adding to the sense of enclosure. Seating will nestle within the planting, while views from the windows to the inner courtyard will be lightly screened.'

Meanwhile James Alexander-Sinclair MSGD (jamesalexandersinclair.com) has designed extensive gardens (right) for the new Priscilla Bacon Hospice, which will be built on a semi-rural site close to the Norfolk & Norwich University

Hospital. 'Every in-patient will have their own private garden which will be enclosed by a yew hedge and with a little patch of colourful planting designed to be visible from their bed,' says James. 'The gardens will include year-round plant interest, with lots of early bulbs, especially snowdrops since Priscilla Bacon, after whom the hospice is named, has a snowdrop named after her.'

The plans also include a communal area for outpatients and visitors which features a large herb garden, an avenue of trees, and an enclosed, slightly Moorish, courtyard at the main entrance for outpatients. In addition, James has designed a wheelchair and mobility garden for use by the physiotherapists, various raised formal ponds, and a planted area for the exclusive use of the staff.

A campaign to raise the £12.5m needed for the Priscilla Bacon Hospice and its garden was launched in 2019 and while more than £10m has been secured for the building, another £2.2m is still needed for the garden. To donate, visit priscillabaconhospice.org.uk

