

The Big Project: Update on our re-development

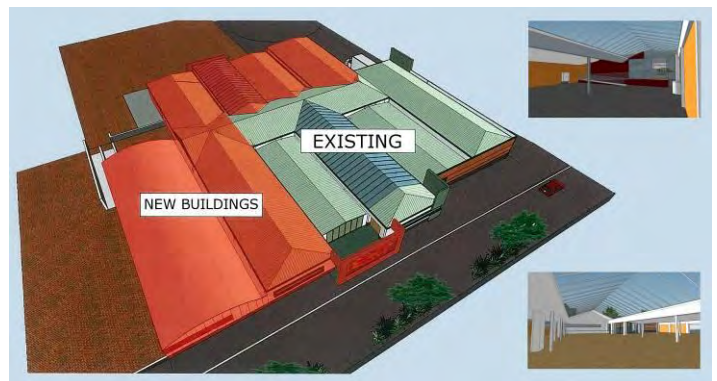


Our Garden Centre re-development is a major investment and it is important for us that all our customers and staff are made fully aware of the changes being made to ensure our continued success today and into the future.

When you next visit, please check out our four story boards outlining the development, which are located just through the checkouts in the windows of our Office and Talks Room. These explain exactly what is planned and how it will impact on your shopping experience.

Whilst all the building work is continuing, we thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we embark on our re-development. Please rest assured whilst works are going on we will continue to offer our same level of service across all departments. Products, alas, are being moved around, but please do ask any member of staff if you **cannot find a certain product, and we'll be able to take you to the stock you are looking for.**

The new building will be modern yet retaining our character, tradition and heritage whilst giving you a better **shopping experience. You'll no doubt be seeing a few new faces on the shop floor as the development is finally completed next spring.**



So, here's a breakdown of what's happening and when...

August/September 2010: Old production glasshouse removed/sheds including tractor barn demolished. Seasonal tunnel removed. Roundel and sales area prepared for foundations of new warehouse and shop extension.

October 2010: New warehouse completed and operational. New selling area ready to accept extended plant area, our wide range of decorative pots and greenhouses/sheds. New Goods-Inward Area.

November 2010: New internal road completed. First bay of the new shop fitted out.

December/January 2010-2011: 2 further shop bays in position and the new restaurant bay in place. Rest of the new shop area fitted out.

February/March 2011: New seasonal undercover area (plants) and new compost sales area. New Goods-In Road Entrance. Till Hall completed. Re-fit existing shop (insulated) and new flooring to match new build. Restaurant completed.

Aims: More shop space, a larger restaurant, improved facilities, merchandising and customer flow, a new Farm Shop is being planned - these are just a few of the

improvements. New underfloor heating will use an air (to air) heat exchanger, which is environmentally friendly and this will be in place in the old and new shop and restaurant. We are updating our FACEBOOK page with images of the development regularly, so you can see what is happening. www.facebook.com/BuckinghamNurseries

Wheelchairs

We would like to make all our customers aware that there are wheelchairs available for visitors to the Garden Centre. If you are visiting with someone who may have problems with our slopes, is visually impaired or for any reason would be better having a ride, do call at the Customer Service Desk in the shop and pick up a wheelchair. There are two available which is usually more than enough but if you want to be certain of there being **one available for you to use, just 'phone in advance of coming (01280 822133) letting the receptionist know roughly when you will be coming and we can arrange to reserve one for you.**

Open Gardens and Local Show dates

Saturday 11th September: Buckingham & District Horticultural Society Annual Autumn Show at Buckingham Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham MK18 1RP.

Entry to the Show is free. Opens to the public 12noon. At 2.15pm there will be a demonstration of growing bulbs in pots. Presentation and Awards is at 3.45pm.

National Garden Scheme local openings... more at www.ngs.org.uk

12th September (2-6pm): Tile House Farm, Finmere, Buckinghamshire MK18 4AS: ¾-acre farmhouse garden with a cottage garden atmosphere. Herbaceous beds, kitchen garden with raised beds, pond and gravel garden.

Admission: £3, children free.

29th September (11am-5pm): Upton House & Gardens, Banbury, Warwickshire OX15 6HT: Extensive valley gardens with elements from medieval through to 1930s. Cascading terraces of colourful borders descend to a rare kitchen garden, with pools and a bog garden in the valley below.

National Collection of Asters, splendid in the autumn. Wide lawns surround house famous for an internationally important collection of fine art and porcelain. **Admission:** House and garden £9, children £4.50, garden only £5.50, children £2.70.

16-17th October (2-6pm): Acer Corner, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6HQ: Medium-sized garden with Japanese influence and a large collection of Japanese maples. The enclosed front garden is oriental in style, whilst back garden is divided into 3 distinct areas; patio area surrounded by shrubs, densely-planted area with many acers and roses and an area recently developed with greenhouse, waste area and deck. **Admission:** £2.50, children free.

Events at the Garden Centre...

We still have a few places left for our visit to the Gardens of Beth Chatto on Wednesday 22nd September, but you'll need to be quick! Our next Garden Centre Talk will be the final one for this year as the re-development takes shape and we temporarily lose our Talks Room. It will take place on Wednesday 20th October (10.30am-12noon), when Buckingham Garden Centre's Chris Day will be tackling 'Gardening With Exotics: Putting Your Garden To Bed For Winter'. Full details of Chris's talk and our Beth Chatto trip are available at the Customer Service Desk.

Apple Weekend 2nd & 3rd October 2010

- 10am-4pm each day.

Our annual celebration of the apple is always a popular event and we hope you'll enjoy this year's line-up. We have renowned fruit expert Will Sibley on hand to give advice on all aspects of fruit growing, plus Marcus Roberts and Andy Howard from the Mid-Shires Orchard Group will be here to identify apples and offer advice on orchards. Local cookery guru and author Alli Templeton will be preparing apple related dishes.

New this year we are delighted to welcome the North Bucks National Vegetable Society, who will be on hand to offer tips and advice on veggie production. Garden designer Matt Brill will be able to offer some garden design tips and planting ideas. Jim Mayor, a dog behaviourist will be offering his unique 'Dogs at Heel' advice.



We'll also have a couple of alpacas from Richmond Hall Alpacas and you can chat with owner Marcia Oakley. Laura Donovan will be on hand to give advice on all aspects of keeping poultry. We'll have local wildlife groups as well. Finally with the kids in mind we've our Apple Treasure Hunt Competition.

We'll have stands featuring delicious local fruit for sale from New Creation Farm as well as vegetable produce, local honey and juices and finally home-made cakes courtesy of the local WI.

Welcome to one's Highgrove Garden

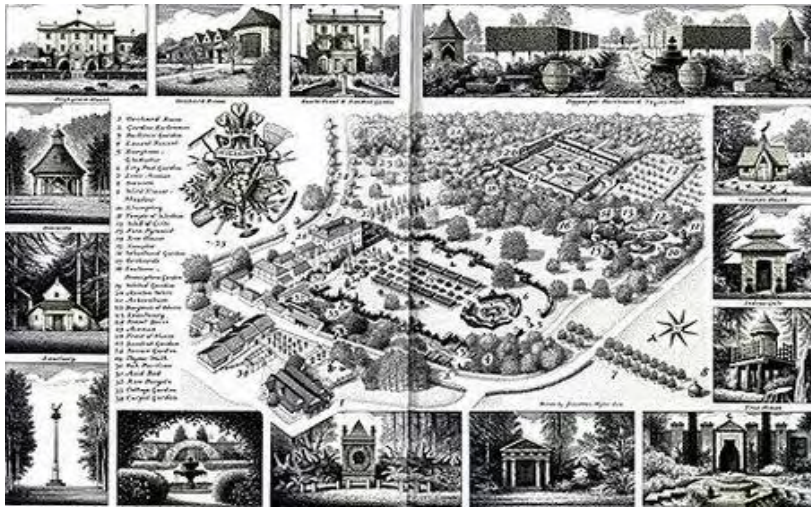
It's been one of our most successful garden visits. The 25 seats were snapped up in less than 2 days, so sorry if you were unlucky this time around.

If you are a garden lover then Highgrove, the home of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, must be on your 'must-see' list, writes Chris Day.

Some 30 years in the making Highgrove is Princes Charles's passion. The whole experience runs to precision just like the State Opening of Parliament or Trooping The Colour. The military precision starts from the time you arrive, the security brief (no camera, recording device, mobile phones) to identity checks, it somehow feels 'special'.



From the friendly greeting of the WPC to the Big Brother cameras, you know this is no ordinary garden. An 8-minute DVD introduction from Prince Charles, filmed at Highgrove and welcoming you to his garden, was rather different and surreal. His introduction tells a little of the garden, his passion and his charities visitors are contributing to.



Next we meet Heather, our guide for the next two hours. The weather is kind – cloudy and mild. We are told lots of things as we explore – first we are to keep together, Prince Charles likes gates and we are to **close them. Now, here's a thing HRH** likes the fact that when you approach a gate it is shut so when you open it, simply pulling back the door you are transported into a new dimension, the notion of gates opening to A Secret Garden sprung to mind, and that romantic notion works well at Highgrove. The gates themselves are works of art and as

we stand at the Lily Pool Garden, Heather reminds us of **Prince Charles' other passion: pots** - oriental pots, sherry jars and others - **you name it there's one on view. The garden is pot-ville, and apparently if you don't know what to buy the future Head of the Church of England, you buy him a pot!!** Pots and olive jars are used to great effect, in fact grouping them and then underplanting with box – to give the impression of floating - **is one of Prince Charles' trade marks** in the garden, and it works well. Box is now trimmed when in active growth to avoid the dreaded blight we are informed. In the past this has been a serious problem at Highgrove as the garden has been, well, blighted by over the years!

All around the planting is naturalistic, lots of trees (the lime avenue is particularly impressive), **yew hedges as we walk through the Woodland Garden filled with ferns, hostas (one of HRH's favourite plants hence he holds one of the National Collections), hellebores and shrubs.** We are told the compost heaps have a turn-around of just three months and the plants are incredibly healthy, all down to organic practice. We pass the Stumpery, a Victorian idea of displaying ferns in old tree stumps, and this is set behind a massive gunnera growing on redundant stone and **holey limestone set in a large pond. It's a folly of sorts, yet throughout the garden HRH likes to experiment and try different displays, plant associations, sustainability and organic gardening ethos etc,** which neatly moves us through to the thatched treehouse, **aptly named 'Holyrood House', where the young Princes played as children. Throughout the garden there are statues and sculptures, all with fascinating stories.**

More themed areas delight the eye, the Southern Hemisphere Gardens brings a touch of the tropics with tree ferns - he received 80 tree ferns as a gift a year or two ago - bananas and cabbage palms growing freely.

Further paths and walks take you through the wildflower meadow (must have been spectacular in spring with huge blue camassias naturalised) then through to one of the gems of Highgrove, the walled vegetable and fruit garden with its tunnels of sweet peas and apples, which dissects **the plot into quarters. There's plenty of colour as well as Prince Charles encourages pollinators into this area.**

We backtrack and finally reach Highgrove House itself and walk around the gardens nearest the **house which include the romantic Sundial Garden, which leads through the 'Thyme Walk'** (incorporating more than 20 varieties of thyme), along the pleached tree avenue to where the once famous Highgrove Cedar grew. Only one branch of the tree remains, although it is dead. **This is where HRH's collection of bird feeders hang.**

As the tour ends, we walk past the re-vamped cottage garden, now full of lavender, under the rose pergola, intersect the mini orchard (each fruit tree underplanted with lavender to encourage the bees) to the Carpet Garden (pictured, image from Guide Book). This amazing garden, inspired from a Turkish-style carpet, was originally designed and displayed at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2001, where it won a Silver Medal. After Chelsea it was rebuilt at Highgrove and contains hot, vibrant colours, Italian cypressus (yes, another favourite!) and

amazing ceramics (yes, more tasteful pots here) to echo the colours of the original carpet. After our walks through woods, glades and tropical jungles, this was colour to behold.

So our visit ends, apart from the essential Highgrove Tea and Cake stop off and browse of the rather **upmarket Highgrove Shop (guess who's giving Highgrove Christmas cards out this year!)** it was back to our mini bus to be whisked off a short distance to Westonbirt Arboretum for a **couple of hours of "tree hugging and tree appreciation"** before we finally headed home – full of joyous memories of a Royal garden with gates and a character and a half!

Our 'take home' idea from Highgrove...



In the walled kitchen garden, a line-up of apple (*Malus*) trees have been shaped (or correctly called festooned; a process of pulling down upright shoots, as shown in the picture, in the late spring, when they are most flexible, fixing them with string or wire, to encourage heavier cropping and a unique shape) like a coronet, so that in autumn the scarlet, or yellow in the case of 'Golden Hornet', pictured, crab apples gleam like jewels in the crown. A lovely idea, which would look good in your garden.

For more details on Highgrove, visit the website; - www.highgrovegardens.com

Picture Puzzler: Did you guess right?



We hope you solved the plant identification in our last newsletter (pictured to the right); the answer is **florets of Calabrese 'Romanesco'** in close-up. **This month's teaser** – just for fun – is can you name the plant from its distinctive seed pod? A clue: **you can spell this plant's name in many ways?** Answer in our next newsletter.



What's in store?

- Spring flowering bulbs featuring the likes of daffodils, crocus, narcissi and tulips are now available, and new for this season we have set up a special Customer Ordering Book, so we can **go through our supplier's catalogue with our customers who require something we haven't necessarily got on display or perhaps would like to purchase in larger quantities.**
- In the bulb displays there are also two offers to tempt you; Buy 3 packets at £4.99 for £12 and Buy 3 packets at £5.99 for £15.



- Our pots have moved temporarily to the hardware area, just past our Poultry Department. As you walk along, you'll also notice Hillhout fencing now has a whopping 75%* off. Once at the pots, you will notice we've got a large outdoor pot sale, with many pots being 50%* off. *Please note all sale items are subject to availability.
- Many furniture sets are now reduced* to clear, along with reductions on deck chairs, parasols and cushions.
- And finally... our Christmas build will begin in October, buy early to avoid disappointment!

Plant area news...

- You'll notice our Ornamental Tree section has been re-jigged to make it easier to navigate through the A-Z range. Trees sales have been strong this summer, despite the dry start and we still have a few 'sale trees' to clear if you need something a tad larger for your garden.
- If you are looking for particular fruit tree varieties and trained forms of fruit (espalier, cordon or fan), then don't delay as we start to source these from our UK growers now until late autumn, and, if previous years are anything to go by, they always sell out quickly! Please contact the Plant Information Office for details.
- Autumn bedding is now coming on stream, including winter-hardy Pansies, Violas and Ornamental Cabbage with Wallflowers, Bellis Daisies, Sweet William and Forget-me-nots following soon. Bare-rooted bunches of Wallflowers (mixed and single colours) follow from mid-September.



Must-Have Plants



In September we celebrate the Sedum as our Plant of the Month and in October, we focus on National Conifer Week (2-10 October 2010) but in fact all of the month will be devoted to Conifers.

Sedums are glorious in all their guises with their fleshy leaves and long-lasting flowers. This year many have been in flower earlier than usual encouraged by the drier weather, however good ones to look out for include 'Autumn Joy', salmon-pink flowers against lettuce-green foliage, 24in (60cm) tall; 'Brilliant', rose-pink flowerheads over grey-green foliage, 18in (45cm) tall; 'Rose Carpet', a real soil-hugging form with silver-blue foliage and clusters of pink flowers 6in (15cm) tall,

and 'Coca Cola' with starry, soft pink, flowers against silver-grey foliage, 9in (20cm). All Sedums are great at attracting butterflies.

Throughout the month of October the theme is 'The Modern Day Conifer', focusing on the creative, colourful and convenient way conifers can be used to add colour and shape into the open mixed border, your hedge line and pots. The featured conifers include *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Minima Aurea', *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Moonsprite', *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata Aureomarginata', *Picea abies* 'Ohlendorffii', *Thuja occidentalis* 'Danica,' *Juniperus x media* 'Gold Star' and *Picea glauca albertiana* 'J. W. Daisy's White'.

However, some of the best ways to use conifers effectively is when you mix them in strong plant associations, so this year we'll have many displayed with grasses, heathers, perennials and shrubs. Check out displays later in the month...

Jobs for September and October



GAP fill your veg garden and raised beds with Spinach, Salad Rocket, Lettuce such as 'Butterhead' and 'Cut & Come Again'; Brassicas: Cabbage 'Durham Early', 'Hispi' and 'Compacta' (pictured); Purple and White Sprouting Broccoli or Kale. Root crops: Carrots, Radish and Leeks. You can still sow some of these, or alternatively buy some plug plants. Keep lifting potatoes and harvesting root crops for storage.

HANGING baskets and pots can be re-vamped for winter now spring bulbs are available in great variety. Opt for dwarf forms of tulip, miniature daffodils and crocus and combine them with autumn bedding plants. Choose from winter-hardy Pansies and Violas, Wallflowers, Primroses, Polyanthus and Bellis Daisies amongst others. You can use conifers, hebes and other colourful evergreens as centre plants, which can be recycled into the open garden next summer.

STRAWBERRIES can be given a clean up before winter. Dig up strawberry runners rooted in the summer and set out a new row of plants with these. Improve the soil and work some planting compost around the plants together with bonemeal. Now is the perfect time to plant strawberries for next year. We have a good selection of varieties available such as 'Aromel', 'Florence', 'Honeoye' and 'Symphony'.

LAWNS are starting to green up, but they suffered in the dry weather, and feeding and overseeding is particularly important to make them grow well again next year.

Evergreen Autumn is the best fertiliser to use as it encourages root growth and makes the grass more frost tolerant, but it does not encourage soft green growth. It also kills moss. The prices are unchanged from last year, e.g. £19.99 for a 360m² bag.



Lawn Builder Autumn Lawn Food does not contain phosphorus and is less good as a root fertiliser. If the grass is thin and patchy it is a good idea to overseed at about half the rate for a new lawn with a variety that roughly matches the existing grass.



Johnsons Lawn Renovator (with ryegrass or without ryegrass) is an excellent choice as it includes an organic fertiliser to give the new grass a good start.

COLLECT seeds and beans to store for sowing next year. You may need to dry off the seeds in a tray on a bright windowsill. Make sure you carefully label each variety and record as much information as you can to help sowing them next spring easier. Autumn-sown Broad Beans are always a bit of a gamble, but if you are going to do it, do it over the next few weeks. The varieties 'Aquadulce Claudia' and 'The Sutton' (best under cloches) are particularly suitable for autumn-sowings.

TRIM back Lavender to stop the wind from rocking the

stems, dislodging the plants and causing die-back. A light trim will help stimulate new growth and discourage die-back of older stems, reducing the over woodiness of the stems (pictured). Late flowering perennials such as asters and late lilies need staking. Elsewhere **in the flower garden plan any new tree and hedge plantings. You'll need to get the soil** prepared in good time and get some advice on the best planting options from our Plant Information Team. Keep on top of roses, removing any mildew-ridden or blackspot infested growth. Cut and dispose of these, but never, never compost this material.

COOLER nights mean keeping the warmth in, so make sure greenhouse vents and doors are closed by late afternoon to hold the temperature. Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Peppers and other greenhouse crops will need careful watering from now on – try and water early morning to help reduce dampness later in the day. Continue to feed and start potting up a few primroses for some welcome early colour under glass.

COVER your fig trees with horticultural fleece in cold weather, on mild days the drape can be easily pulled back to allow air and light over the stems. Still on figs, you can propagate this fruit, and others such as gooseberries, grapes and currants from hardwood cuttings. This can be done as soon as the leaves have fallen. Harvest apples, pears and plums and store unblemished fruits of apples and pears by wrapping them individually in newspaper.

Complete any summer pruning of apple and pear trees by the end of September. Finally, remember to spray apricots, nectarines and peaches with a copper-based fungicide such as Bayer Fruit & Vegetable Disease Control at leaf fall to help deter peach leaf curl next season.

PREPARED hyacinths need to be planted soon if you want to enjoy their heady fragrance at Christmas.

Select bulbs at the same stage of growth, its a good idea to pot them up individually in 9cm (3.5in) pots into compost and then provide the conditions of dark and cool for 8-10 weeks.

Once through, select your bulbs so they are at the same stage of growth and plant these into bowls (pictured) so they flower at the same time. By staggering your plantings by around 3 weeks, this will ensure you have perfumed displays right into early 2011!



Buckingham Nurseries & Garden Centre

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E-Mail: enquiries@hedging.co.uk, Web: www.hedging.co.uk

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OPENING HOURS:

Mon.-Sat.: 8:30am to 6pm (5:30pm from Nov.),

Sun.: 10am to 4pm