

PRESS RELEASE

21 March 2017

Well dressing tradition celebrated at RHS Chatsworth Flower Show 2017

- Five local groups will design well dressings for display at the show
- Designs inspired by 'Design Revolutionaries' with local connections



The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has today announced the five local groups who will showcase their well dressing skills at the first RHS Chatsworth Flower Show (7 – 11 June 2017). Ashford Women's Institute, Buxton Well Dressing, Burton Closes Hall & Bakewell AJ Well Dressing, Chesterfield Town Pump Group and Tideswell Well Dressers will be working to create beautiful designs in natural materials such as flower petals, leaves and seeds for display at the show.

More than 62,000 tickets have already been sold for the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, for which the overarching theme is 'Design Revolutionaries'. The winning well dressing designs draw inspiration from the Derbyshire landscape and great innovators in design such as Sir Joseph Paxton and Lancelot 'Capability Brown', both of whom had a significant impact on the magnificent 1000-acre Chatsworth Estate.

Well dressing is an age-old custom unique to the Peak District and Derbyshire, which is thought to date back to Roman and Celtic times, when communities would dress wells to give thanks for fresh water supplies. The tradition continues in scores of towns and villages between May and September each year, when everyone from schoolchildren to grandparents pitches in to create living arts installations made from flower petals and other natural materials.

Liz Patterson, Deputy Show Manager, said: 'We are very excited to be hosting the first ever RHS Well Dressing Competition at our new RHS Show at Chatsworth. We have selected five well dressing entries to display at the show, giving visitors the opportunity to vote for their favourite.'

'We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response we have received from local well dressing groups. We received some really exciting designs and concepts, and can't wait to see the finished product. We don't have any wells or springs at the show but the technique and skill used will be the same and aims to bring this unique custom to a different audience. We are sure our visitors will love it, and plan that this becomes a regular feature at the show.'

Jo Dilley, Managing Director of Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire, the area's official tourist board, said: 'This a brilliant opportunity for the successful Well Dressing teams to showcase both age-old skills handed down through the generations and the Peak District and Derbyshire's unique and most ancient tradition at a world class event visited by tens of thousands of people from both the UK and overseas.'

'Many congratulations to all concerned, and we look forward to seeing their imaginative designs in full bloom in June.'

Further information on the winning designs can be seen at <http://press.rhs.org.uk/RHS-Shows/RHS-Chatsworth-Flower-Show>

Tickets to RHS Chatsworth Flower Show can be bought at rhs.org.uk/flowershows.

- Ends -

Notes to editors:

For more information, please contact Hannah Dolby in the RHS Press Office on 020 7821 3042 and hannahdolby@rhs.org.uk.

Images of the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show are available to download at www.photoshelter.com. Please email the RHS Press Office at showspr@rhs.org.uk for instructions on how to create an account.

Full details of all exhibitors are available on the RHS Media Centre. Please visit <http://press.rhs.org.uk/>

To apply for media accreditation to the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, please visit <http://press.rhs.org.uk/>

RHS Chatsworth Flower Show (7-11 June 2017)

6 June	Press Day
7 June	RHS members only
9 – 11 June	RHS members and non-members

7 – 10 June	10am - 6.30pm
11 June	10am – 5pm

Venue: Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1PP

To book tickets 0844 995 9664* or www.rhs.org.uk/chatsworth

* Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Ticket prices range from £21.50 to £39. Tickets are on sale now.

About the RHS

The Royal Horticultural Society was founded in 1804 by Sir Joseph Banks and John Wedgwood to inspire passion and excellence in the science, art and practice of horticulture. Our Vision is to enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place. We believe everyone in every village, town and city should benefit from growing plants to enhance lives, build stronger, healthier, happier communities and create better places to live.

We held our first flower shows in 1820, were granted a Royal Charter in 1861 and acquired RHS Garden Wisley, our flagship garden, in 1903. From our first meetings in a small room off London's Piccadilly, we have grown to become the world's largest gardening charity. At our gardens and shows and through our scientific research, publications, libraries and our education and community programmes we inspire a passion for gardening and growing plants, promote the value of gardens, demonstrate how gardening is good for us and explain the vital roles that plants undertake.

The RHS is committed to bring the joy of gardening to millions more people, inspire the next generation of gardeners and invest in the future to safeguard a £13 billion industry employing more than 300,000 people. We are entirely funded by our members, visitors and supporters. RHS membership is for anyone with an interest in gardening. Support the RHS and help us secure a healthy future for gardening. For more information call 020 3176 5820, or visit rhs.org.uk/join

RHS Registered Charity No. 222879/SC038262