

## Hillier Chelsea People – a 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and a 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Hillier is the **only garden centre group** exhibiting at Chelsea 2009 following the departure of Squires and Notcutts and as Chelsea fast approaches, Andrew McIndoe is appointing **the team leaders to head up section planting**. Drawn from the 500 employees in the Hillier Group, these chosen few are entrusted with aspects of the Hillier exhibit working to the grand plan in Andrew McIndoe's head. Among them are the stalwarts and Chelsea veterans – Philippa Bensley (Editor of the Hillier Gardening Club Magazine, **15<sup>th</sup>** year at Chelsea), Sue Robinson (Visual Merchandising Manager, **10<sup>th</sup>** year at Chelsea), Kevin Hobbs (Nursery Director designate, **7<sup>th</sup>** year at Chelsea) and the legendary Ricky Dorlay (pictured - **44<sup>th</sup>** year at Chelsea) – but every year their ranks are swelled by relative newcomers.



In this year's Chelsea Garden, the Hillier theme '**Gardening for the Time of Your Life**' portrays the journey of the British Gardener from starter home garden to the final resting place in a series of six interlinking gardens. Andy is looking to match the team leaders with the most appropriate garden for them (Pushing up the Daisies excepted!), so **Gary Newell from the Hillier Garden Centre in Chichester** is responsible for 'First Base' having just bought his first home and family man Stuart Beasley from the Hillier Garden Centre in Redditch is looking after the 'Coping with Kids'. Andrew McIndoe's design (his **20<sup>th</sup>** Chelsea) at the heart of Chelsea's Great Pavilion weaves the seven stages of our gardener's life together in a tapestry of colour and texture. Each and every step of the gardening life will be packed with ideas on **great planting schemes, fail-safe plant recommendations** and fantastic **design ideas**.



## The Hillier Chelsea Collection of Plants

The Hillier Chelsea Live magazine and the Hillier online shop [www.hillier.co.uk](http://www.hillier.co.uk) will be promoting the Hillier Chelsea Collection of Plants, including established ornamental Chelsea favourites such as *Acer palmatum* 'Emerald Lace' and popular newcomers such *Phormium* 'All Black', alongside the dwarf white mulberry *Morus alba* 'issai' which is perfect for growing on the patio and produces delicious mulberries from a very early age.

Also featured on the Hillier exhibit is a selection of Chelsea-sized Feature Plants, more mature shrub specimens. Grown on the Hillier nurseries in Hampshire, these **10L and 30L** specimens not only represent a significant plant mile saving over imports, they also are not in soil resembling concrete and so will establish quickly and well in the garden. There are over 190 different varieties available in the Hillier Feature Plant range. Please see the Hillier Wholesale Nurseries Plant List 2008-9.

### Organicstone

Organicstone always rise to the challenge of creating practical, beautiful surfaces both to enhance the Hillier Chelsea Gardens and to carry visitors through the exhibit. This year, organicstone's innovative **stonewaves Vintage** paving will take us on the journey through a gardening life, whilst their stoneisland designs will provide focal points in some of the seven gardens, in particular an amazing creation in concrete at the heart of the Grand Designs garden.

### Forest Garden

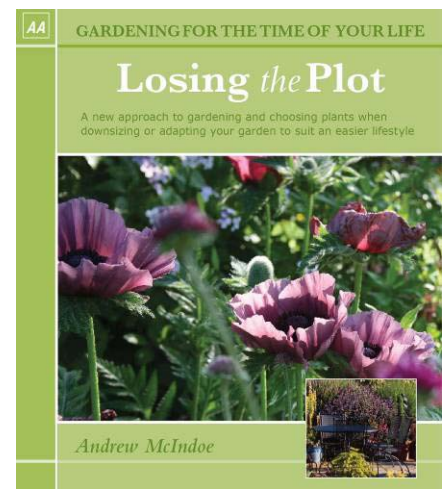
Always keen to use readily available materials in his design, Andy is using a selection of buildings and timber products from the Forest Garden range including a playhouse, garden storage ideas and raised beds.

### Pots & Aggregates

Gardening for the Time of your Life will feature pots in natural terracotta, glazed ceramics and recycled glass complemented by stone aggregates including Eco Granite, a bi-product of the china clay industry by Border Stone.

## Losing the Plot – the new book by Andrew McIndoe

Central to Andy's Chelsea Design will be the garden entitled 'Losing the Plot', inspired by his new book of the same name, which explains how to downsize successfully and enjoyably. Andrew McIndoe encourages readers not to dwell on the past, but instead embrace this period as a fresh start and the chance to indulge their horticultural passions. The book shows how to make your garden **less physically taxing** and more suitable to a lower maintenance regime, whilst a chapter on making the most of your garden gives valuable tips on creating a **place to relax** with some scope for pleasurable work. The section on planting schemes gives advice and guidance on narrowing the choice to '**hardworking**' plants – the all-round top performers – but leaving room for those horticultural 'guilty pleasures'. There are suggestions for Losing-the-Plotters and helpful ideas for stunning plant combinations.



### Hard Facts about Losing the Plot by Andrew McIndoe (published by AA Publishing):

Review Copies: available from 23 April

Publication Date: Chelsea Press Day Monday 19 April

Price: £17.99

Hardback – 160pp – over 400 photographs – 255mm x 226mm

To order your review copy, please contact either:

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## New Plant Releases

**Cordyline australis 'Southern Splendour'**: its upright sword-like leaves are striped with grey-green with rich pink margins. As the plant matures, its habit and growth rate is slow and it will rarely grow above 1.2m in five years with a spread of about one metre.

**Cordyline australis 'Sunrise'**: this is a softer, more tactile subject with gently arching leaves reminiscent of a phormium. The colour is truly electric: hardly any green is visible in the leaves so strikingly striped with fuchsia pink and bronze.

**Heuchera 'Tiramisu'**: Its chartreuse foliage flushes brick red in spring and autumn, the colour radiating from the midrib of every leaf and fading to pale green by the edges. In summer, the foliage turns to chartreuse with a silver veil over the leaf surface. It has a compact habit and carries small creamy flowers in midsummer.

**Gaura lindheimeri 'Rosyjane'**: Hillier are the only nursery to offer pot-grown plants of this new gaura. Launched by Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants at Chelsea 2008 this is the first gaura to display bicoloured flowers - white with a picotee edge of cerise-pink on 75cm branched stems – produced freely throughout the summer.



## Hillier – Great British Plants from a Great British Nursery

Today, the country's largest wholesale hardy plant and tree nursery, Hillier has been at the forefront of British gardening for the past 145 years, producing Great British plants for Great British gardens and exhibiting at Chelsea since the show's inception and will be at the core of this year's Chelsea theme – '**Celebrating British Horticulture**'. Founded in 1864 by Edwin Hillier, the nursery continued to be family-run for four generations, introducing over 230 new plants and expanding to become the largest producer of hardy plants and trees in the UK and one of the most respected institutions in the industry. Hillier have exhibited at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show since its inception, and have won 63 consecutive RHS Chelsea Gold medals to date, a Guinness World Record.



By appointment to H.M. The Queen  
Nurserymen and Seedsmen

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