

Happy 21st Birthday to the Hillier Gardening Club!



When a stunningly youthful **Andrew McIndoe** and a very gorgeous **Philippa Bensley** launched the Hillier Gardening Club back in 1990 as part of the HTA's national 'Gardening for Beginners' campaign, it was planned to last for just one season.

Today, 21 years later, Hillier Gardening Club has over 250 000 enrolled members, runs a series of exciting workshops and events at its 14 garden centres across England and a programme of gardening holidays, and produces the highly regarded Hillier Gardening Club Magazine.

The Hillier Gardening Club Magazine

Right from the very first issue, The Hillier Gardening Club magazine was unashamedly quirky and subjective. "We really wanted to give information to our garden centre customers on the Hillier way of doing things," recalls Philippa Bensley, who has edited and contributed extensively to the magazine for the full 21 years. "We wanted to share up-to-date, relevant gardening news and advice with them direct from our nursery, all written in a personal style." Indeed, one of the most popular sections in the magazine is 'Pip's Plants' where Philippa gives herself free rein to extol the virtues of her favourite plants.

The Hillier Gardening Club Workshops and Events

Throughout the year, Hillier Garden Centres stage free talks and informal workshops in store for their Gardening Club members on topics as diverse as basic propagation techniques, basket and container planting, growing orchids, planning for drought and growing roses.

The Hillier Gardening Club Holidays

The Hillier Gardening Club has now been everywhere from the island paradise of Madeira to The Floriade exhibition in Holland on bespoke gardening holidays, hosted by Hillier staff including Andrew McIndoe, now Managing Director of Hillier Nurseries.



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