

Hillier Garden Centre in Redditch dabbles in the Burlesque at the Malvern Show!

Local gardening expert Stuart Beasley from the Hillier Garden Centre in Redditch has been dabbling in the world of the burlesque over the past few weeks, working closely with competitor Samantha Chaplin on the preparation of her 'Burlesque Garden' at the RHS Malvern Spring Gardening Show.

Hillier Nurseries are providing all the fabulous plant material for Samantha's bid to win a scholarship with TV gardening guru Chris Beardshaw. Down to the last 12 candidates, Samantha is creating a post-modern burlesque terrace garden inspired by lace, lipstick, pompons and feathers!

"When I first met with Samantha just 6 weeks ago, I was amazed by how creatively she had translated the burlesque theme into a garden area," says Stuart Beasley, Garden Centre Manager at Hillier Redditch. "Having exhibited with Hillier at Chelsea for the past four years and been a landscaped gardener before that, I was able to work with Samantha to source plant material that would both reflect the theme and be looking lush and luxuriant in time for Malvern."

"Early May is a tricky time for plants," explains Stuart. "Everything is growing like mad and plants are on the brink of flowering. The tricky part is assessing whether they will all be at their peak for judging day and for the 96 000 visitors to the show. Wondering whether a cherry blossom will have gone over or whether the peonies will be out can keep you up at night!"

Most of the plant material on display in the 'Burlesque Garden' is grown in the UK by Hillier Nurseries and is for sale at the Hillier Garden Centre in Redditch. With 63 consecutive Chelsea Gold medals under their belt, Hillier are well placed to advise a fresh RHS competitor. Samantha Chaplin couldn't be in safer hands!

Notes to Editors: 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. 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.

The Hillier Garden Centre at Redditch Redditch is the most northerly of the 14 Hillier Garden Centres. The garden centre is very easy to find just off the large Dog Island roundabout that marks the junction of the main A435 and the A4189. Redditch Garden Centre was almost totally refurbished and renewed at the end of 2001 and now offers wonderful facilities in a new shop and outside sales area. Also on site at Redditch are Heartwood Conservatories, Dai-Ichi bonsai and Go European Leisure (specialists in quality new and used Caravans and Motorhomes).



By appointment to H.M. The Queen
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