

MEDIA INFORMATION

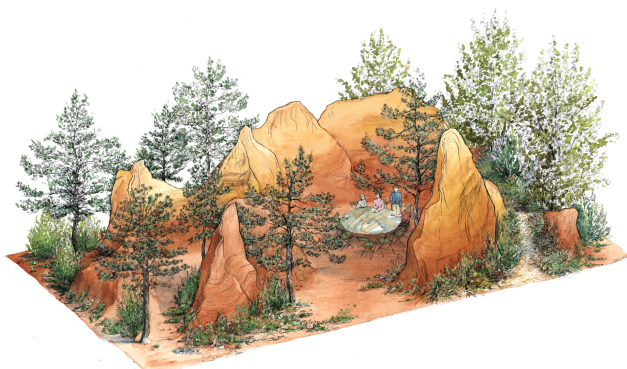
RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2026

THE PROJECT GIVING BACK GARDEN – 286

In summary

- Project Giving Back has funded 63 gardens for good causes at RHS Chelsea Flower Show since 2022, with a combined investment of over £23m.
- The Project Giving Back Garden, designed by James Basson for RHS Chelsea 2026, brings the dramatic landscape of the ochre mines of Roussillon in Provence (southern France) to the show for the first time, a striking statement marking five years of funding gardens for good causes that have helped to reinvigorate the show and amplify the work of charities across the UK.
- The garden is both a celebration and a quiet call to action - an invitation to pause, to look at the world differently and to recognise the role that creative philanthropy and thoughtful giving can play in strengthening communities across the UK.
- Over 2,000 plants from the PGB Garden at RHS Chelsea 2026 will be relocated to The Wonky Garden in Widnes to help complete a new area of the garden. Run entirely by volunteers aged between 8 and 91, the Wonky Garden supports a wide network of individuals and groups across the Borough of Halton. Its work includes promoting physical and mental wellbeing, delivering outdoor learning for schools and colleges, and providing spaces for community groups ranging from young carers and Brownies to dementia and cancer patients and bereaved families.

The Project Giving Back Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026



Designed by: [James Basson](#)

Built by: [Mark Whyman Landscapes](#)

Plants supplied by: [Kelways](#) (some trees and specialist plants sourced locally)

Planting team lead: [Marc O'Neill](#)

Rendering of structures: [Guy Valentine](#)

Relocation partners: [The Wonky Garden](#), [Widnes \(plants\)](#)

Original garden artwork: [Noémie Baracco-Scherer](#)

MAY 2026

THE PROJECT GIVING BACK GARDEN, DESIGNED BY JAMES BASSON, CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF GARDENS FOR GOOD CAUSES AT RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

The Project Giving Back Garden, designed by James Basson for RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026, marks the grant-making charity's final year of funding gardens for good causes at the show. The garden, inspired by the ochre mines of Roussillon in Provence, celebrates five years of funding gardens that have helped to amplify the work of charities across the UK. It celebrates the legacy of PGB's funding of more than 60 gardens since 2022 - and the enduring impact those gardens continue to have through relocation, reuse and community benefit.

Designed by celebrated garden designer James Basson of Provence-based Scape Design, the Project Giving Back Garden will offer a dramatic, other-worldly landscape, never before seen at RHS Chelsea. Towering red sandstone cliffs, coloured by natural ochre pigment and gently weathered over time, sit among pine woodland. Planting is wild, with a light touch, relying more on restraint than control. Every plant has fought for its place here, from the spring blossoming wild pear (*Pyrus pyraster*) that uses spiny thorns to protect itself, to the beautifully fragrant yet understated common thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) that colonises crevices and is an essential plant in Provence, deeply rooted in local identity.

The garden is dramatic, rich in biodiversity that supports a wide and diverse range of life. It has been designed to start a conversation about the unique approach PGB has taken to make an impact on the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and charity sector in the UK. Speaking about his design, James Basson says:

"Taking inspiration from the ochre mines of Roussillon in Provence, Southern France where I live and work, the garden presents a powerful image of quiet regeneration. These mines were once heavily damaged landscapes but over time, through natural succession and soil regeneration, an extraordinary landscape has emerged. I wanted to bring a little of its drama and raw beauty to RHS Chelsea, and I feel that its unique story provides an appropriate backdrop for Project Giving Back to celebrate its legacy and inspire others to give back in their own way."

Basson, who last designed a show garden at RHS Chelsea in 2017 for M&G Investments (winning RHS Gold and Best in Show) describes his design as a 'tended landscape' - a garden that has emerged from wild beginnings, requiring regular, gentle care. He continues:

"I am excited to be working with Project Giving Back, alongside my French studio team

and the brilliant Mark Whyman Landscapes and Kelways in the UK, to bring something to RHS Chelsea that we hope will encourage lively conversation. I hope this garden conveys the incredible energy that immersive landscapes give us and allows Project Giving Back to talk about the creative energy it has seeded at RHS Chelsea, championing the power of opportunity, over its five transformative years.”

Hattie Ghau, CEO of Project Giving Back, says:

“This garden reflects what Project Giving Back set out to do - and what we are proud to have achieved in a relatively short period of time. Over five years, PGB has partnered with the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and used this global platform to champion good causes, support charities and show how gardens can become powerful vehicles for generosity and change. This garden is both a celebration and a quiet call to action - an invitation to pause, to look at the world differently and to recognise the role that creative philanthropy and thoughtful giving can play in strengthening communities across the UK.”

As with all gardens funded by Project Giving Back, plans are in place for the garden to live on beyond the show, continuing its story in a new setting. The Wonky Garden, an award-winning community garden in Widnes, will receive more than 2,000 plants from the PGB Garden, helping to complete its final phase of development and further expand its impact on the local community. The plants will be transported directly from RHS Chelsea to The Wonky Garden, a thriving volunteer-led green space based at Ditton Community Centre in Widnes, Cheshire. Further plans to rehome the structures and trees are underway.

Find out more and follow the story of The Project Giving Back Garden at givingback.org.uk/thePGBgarden

ENDS

For media enquiries about Project Giving Back, please contact Clare Johnson at Bloom PR & Communications at clare@bloom-pr.co.uk

Garden visuals and photographs can be downloaded via [Google Drive](#) or [Dropbox](#).

About Project Giving Back

Project Giving Back (PGB) is a unique grant-making charity that provides funding for gardens for good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. PGB was launched in May 2021 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating effects on UK charitable fundraising - effects that have since been exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis. PGB will fund 11 gardens at RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2026 and a total of 63 gardens inspired by a range of good causes at the show from 2022 - 2026.

<https://www.givingback.org.uk/>

Project Giving Back in numbers:

Over five years (2022-2026) PGB has:

- 🌱 Created 64 gardens for good causes (including the PGB Garden in 2026)
- 🌱 Invested over £23million in gardens for good causes
- 🌱 Relocated seven gardens to Scotland, three to Wales and one to Northern Ireland
- 🌱 Generated over 6,700 press articles
- 🌱 Funded 70% of main show gardens

To date, PGB Gardens have won:

- 🏆 22 RHS Gold Medals
- 🏆 3 'Best in Show' awards for large show gardens

🌸 We estimate that charities involved in PGB funded gardens at RHS Chelsea Flower Show have raised in excess of **£20m**, representing funds they would not otherwise have had the opportunity to raise.

🌸 Of those charities that set out to fundraise as part of their RHS Chelsea campaign, we estimate they **doubled the investment made by PGB** in their gardens at the show.

🌸 To date, PGB funded gardens have appeared in over **7,000 media articles**, with an average annual audience reach of 1 billion and an advertising value equivalent of £60m.



About James Basson

James Basson (BA Hons Garden Design) specialises in sustainable, ecological and low maintenance gardens. Based in the South of France for over 20 years he works on projects in the Mediterranean and internationally. Inspired by the natural landscape, using a carefully selected plant palette that is perfectly adapted to each individual garden, the team endeavours to create results that sit comfortably in their surroundings. James is a fully accredited member of the Society of Garden Designers (SGD in the UK) and the Fédération Française du Paysage (FFP in France). <https://www.scapedesign.com/en/>



About Hattie Ghai, CEO, Project Giving Back

Hattie has a passion for philanthropy and a career that has spanned strategy, project management and consumer branding. She joined PGB in July 2021 as Project Director, helping to shape the organisation since its inception. She was appointed Chief Executive Officer in May 2022 in line with PGB being registered as a charity in its own right. She is responsible for managing the grant-making process, overseeing a total budget of ~£20m over 5 years, and overseeing the day-to-day running of the organisation. Prior to her role with PGB, Hattie was Research & Strategy Director at Wiser and programming lead for grant-making charity Tusk Trust in Kenya.

The Project Giving Back Garden

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026

Full plant list:

Trees & Shrubs

Acer monspessulanum (Montpelier maple)
Ligustrum vulgare (wild privet)
Pinus sylvestris (Scot's pine)
Pyrus pyraister (wild pear)
Rosa arvensis (field rose)
Rosa canina (dog rose)
Rosa pimpinellifolia (burnet rose)
Ruta montana

Herbaceous & evergreen perennials

Anthericum liliago (St Bernard's lily)
Anthericum ramosum (branched St Bernard's lily)
Arabis alpina subsp. *caucasica* (mountain rock cress)
Asphodelus lusitanicus (asphodel)
Bellis perennis (common daisy)
Calluna vulgaris (heather)
Catanache caerulea (Cupid's dart)
Cistus x purpureus 'Allan Fradd' (purple-flowered rock rose)
Cistus salvifolius (sage-leaved rock rose)
Clematis flamula (fragrant virgin's bower)
Clematis vitalba (traveller's joy)
Daucus carota 'Dara' (wild carrot)
Dianthus armeria (Deptford pink)
Dianthus deltoides (maiden pink)
Dorycnium hirsutum (hairy canary clover)
Eryngium campestre (Dane's flower)
Eupatorium cannabinum (hemp agrimony)
Galium verum (Lady's bedstraw)
Genista pilosa (hairy broom)
Gladiolus italicus (field gladiolus)
Helianthemum nummularium (rockrose)
Hieracium pilosella (mouse-eared hawkweed)
Hypericum perforatum (St John's wort)
Isatis tinctoria (woad)
Jasione montana (sheep's bit)
Lactuca perennis (perennial lettuce)
Linaria vulgaris (common toad flax)
Linum perenne (perennial flax)
Lupinus angustifolius (narrow-leaved lupin)
Phuopsis stylosa (Caucasian crosswort)
Pilosella officinarum (fox and cubs)
Ranunculus bulbosus (bulbous buttercup)
Rubia peregrina (common wild madder)
Rumex acetosella (sheep's sorrel)
Sagina subulata (heath pearlwort)

Sanguisorba minor (salad burnet)
Scabiosa columbaria (small scabious)
Sedum album (white stonecrop)
Sedum ochroleucum
Sedum reflexum (Jenny's stonecrop)
Sedum sediforme (pale stonecrop)
Trifolium arvense (hare's foot clover)
Umbilicus rupestris (navelwort)
Valeriana officinalis (common valerian)
Viola odorata alba (sweet white violet)

Grasses & Annuals

Brachypodium pinnatum (tor grass)
Carex pendula (pendulous sedge)
Carex remota (remote sedge)
Carex sylvatica (wood sedge)
Corynephorus canescens (grey-hair grass)
Dactylis glomerata (cat grass)
Draba aizoides (yellow Whitlow grass)
Festuca rubra (red fescue)
Helictotrichon bromoides
Helictotrichon sempervirens (blue oat grass)
Juncus inflexus (hard rush)
Juncus effusus (common rush)
Lathyrus sphaericus (grass pea)
Luzula campestris (field wood-rush)
Luzula sylvatica (great wood-rush)
Phleum pratense (Timothy grass)
Plantago lanceolata (ribwort plantain)
Poa bulbosa subsp. *vivipara* (bulbous bluegrass)
Scirpoides holoschoenus (roundhead bulrush)

Herbs & Aromatics

Helichrysum italicum (curry plant)
Lavandula latifolia (broad-leaved lavender)
Mentha cervina (hart's pennyroyal)
Rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary)
Teucrium chamaedrys (wall germander)
Thymus vulgaris (common thyme)

Ferns & shade loving plants

Asplenium trichomanes (maidenhair spleenwort)
Hedera helix (common ivy)
Helleborus foetidus (stinking hellebore)
Polypodium cambricum