

EPICUREAN LIFE

A WORLD OF LUXURY...FOR THOSE WITH DISCERNING TASTE



VOLUME II / ISSUE V
SUMMER 2012 £6

5

HONG KONG – LIVING THE HIGH LIFE
CONRAD KOH SAMUI – ISLAND PARADISE
PATEK PHILIPPE – PERFECT TIMING
THE CHIC EASY – 1920s FASHION

Margaret Kemp plans a visit to the

RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW '12



■ NEED TO KNOW:

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has launched an advisory page on its website providing advice and suggestions to gardeners wanting to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics by creating red, white and blue planting schemes.

The charity has gathered a selection of plants with red, white and blue flowers that go well together. The RHS Members' Advisory Service has even anticipated the challenge of getting these colours in the garden in time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. Plants to look out for are white verbenas, lobelias and *Nemesia* 'Wisley Vanilla', red pelargoniums (geraniums) and blue *Lobelia Panthera* 'Cobalt'. All four RHS Gardens will be featuring planting displays to celebrate both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics. One, RHS Garden Harlow Carr, is extending the idea by planting red ('Highland Burgundy Red'), blue ('Purple Majesty') and white ('Elisabeth') potatoes!

May 22-26th 2012
www.rhs.org.uk

garden project last summer and will no doubt be following up on his entry: Rooftop Workplace for Tomorrow. "This garden will challenge our perceptions of workplaces, and offer inspirational ideas for tomorrow", promises Mr Moore. The concept is about "Technology meets Tranquility", and how our workplaces might look in tomorrow's world", he adds.

Chelsea kick starts the English social season of Ascot, Wimbledon, and Henley. Held in the grounds of Chelsea Royal Hospital each year since 1913 (not during the wars though) there are four categories of garden: Show: Artisan: Urban, and Generation - exhibitors come from all over the world hoping to win medals, prizes, whatever, they take away unique experiences, a prize in itself.

Celebs, often keen gardeners themselves, adore the Chelsea Flower Show, expect to see HM The Queen, and The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Anne, Ringo Starr and Barbara Bach, Rolf Harris, Gwyneth Paltrow, Steven Fry, Stella McCartney, Damian Hirst, Heston Blumenthal, Hélène Darroze, Tilda Swinton, Hugh Grant, Liz Hurley, Jemima Khan, Mayor Johnson, etc. Pick up souvenirs in the niche boutiques and check out the RHS Tent where you can join the society and buy great gifts.

Epicureans should note that there are restaurants, cafes and bars located in the four corners of the show. From menus by top celebrity chefs to fish and chips, garden salads or designer sandwiches. During the 2011 show, 12,120 sandwiches and baguettes, 24,191 cakes and pastries and 1,128 seafood platters as well as 5,567 glasses of champagne and 35,900 cups of tea were served! Find me at the Laurent-Perrier Champagne Bar! ■

"The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth, one is nearer to God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth" wrote Dorothy Gurney. OK, so you're a non-believer but, believe me there's a strong spiritual feeling at The Chelsea Flower Show, a traditional favourite with the Royal Family who visit every year. Chelsea is the showcase for garden design, as Paris is for haute couture, Milan for furniture and Hollywood for movies.

The Royal Horticultural Society, who organise the Chelsea Flower Show as well as the Hampton Court Palace and Tatton Park shows, is the world's largest gardening charity committed to providing a voice for all gardeners. Chelsea takes 25 days to set up and can be a nightmare if the weather's bad. There are 550 exhibitors this year, official sponsors for the last three years are M & G Investments www.mandg.co.uk/chelsea

Inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement, award-winning landscape and garden designer Andy Sturgeon will create a 'New English' design for M&G. Sturgeon says it's inspired by the epic English gardens of Sissinghurst and Hidcote Manor as it encapsulates the 'New English' style of strong, formal features set within informal cottage-style planting.

Recently I met Kevin Moore creator of the very exciting www.walworthgardenfarm.org.uk The Duchess of Cornwall visited his