# Hospitalfield’s Chelsea Flower Show garden champions arts education and ecological resilience



Arbroath’s Hospitalfield Arts has made a splash at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show, marking a significant debut with a garden designed by RHS gold-medal laureate Nigel Dunnett. The garden, dubbed a “garden in the dunes,” drew the attention of several notable figures, including television presenter Zoe Ball, actress Dame Floella Benjamin, and sewing expert Patrick Grant. These celebrities participated in a vibrant protest advocating for the importance of arts education, underscoring the garden's broader message about creativity in schools.

The installation, which pays homage to the stunning sand dune landscape of Arbroath, integrates a unique ‘bothy’ studio at its heart, curated by the contemporary artist Bob and Roberta Smith. This space not only serves as a focal point during the show but also exemplifies the intertwining of artistic expression and nature. Dunnett’s design philosophy embraces experimentation and boldness, aimed at challenging traditional gardening approaches. He expressed this sentiment, stating, “Chelsea is a place for new ideas, for experimentation, and to take risks,” indicating the spirit driving the creation of the garden.

The accolades received at Chelsea reflect this innovative approach, as the Royal Horticultural Society awarded the installation a silver-gilt medal. This recognition is significant in a landscape where sustainability and resilience dominate contemporary garden design discussions. The garden's plantings, which encompass native coastal species and drought-resistant varieties, were established in sand—demonstrating the viability of using mineral materials as effective growing mediums. This methodology is particularly relevant in today's context of climate change and ecological resilience.

Lucy Byatt, the director of Hospitalfield, articulated the enduring legacy of the venue, which has been an artist’s haven for nearly two centuries, nurturing the talents of artists across various stages of their careers. She highlighted the garden as a platform for promoting the essential need to foster creativity among young people. Post-show, the garden is set to return to its roots, relocating to Ladyloan Primary School in Arbroath to be transformed into an outdoor creative space. This strategic move not only reaffirms Hospitalfield’s commitment to community engagement but also aligns with educational objectives aimed at inspiring the next generation of thinkers and creators.

The Hospitalfield garden embodies a significant fusion of art and environmental consciousness. Its picturesque design reflects a deep connection to the local landscape, showcasing how contemporary art practices can awaken appreciation for natural beauty while fostering educational opportunities. This integration aims to resonate with visitors and the local community alike, illustrating that gardens can serve as dynamic spaces for learning and creativity. As it finds a new home at Ladyloan, the garden’s impact is bound to extend far beyond the confines of the Chelsea Flower Show, nurturing a culture of artistic engagement for years to come.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: Sources 1, 2
2. Paragraph 2: Sources 3, 5
3. Paragraph 3: Source 6
4. Paragraph 4: Source 4
5. Paragraph 5: Sources 2, 7
6. Paragraph 6: Sources 3, 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5251053/chelsea-flower-show-hospitalfield-arbroath-garden/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/gardens/2025/hospitalfield-arts> - The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) provides detailed information about the Hospitalfield Arts Garden designed by Nigel Dunnett for the 2025 Chelsea Flower Show. The garden draws inspiration from the sand dune landscape of Arbroath, Scotland, featuring a sculptural representation of dunes and coastal planting. At its center, an artist's studio, referred to as a 'bothy,' is nestled within the dunes, symbolizing the fusion of art and nature. The garden emphasizes resilience and sustainability, with planting established in sand to demonstrate the viability of mineral materials as growing mediums. After the show, the garden is set to be relocated to Ladyloan Primary School in Arbroath, continuing its mission to inspire and educate young people about the environment and creativity. The design reflects a strong sense of place, connecting the local landscape with contemporary art practices supported by Hospitalfield Arts.
3. <https://www.gardensillustrated.com/chelsea/hospitalfield-arts-garden-nigel-dunnett> - Gardens Illustrated offers an in-depth guide to the Hospitalfield Arts Garden designed by Nigel Dunnett for the 2025 Chelsea Flower Show. The article highlights the garden's sculptural and abstract representation of the coastal habitat, with dramatic dune topography and resilient coastal planting. Central to the design is an artist's studio, or 'bothy,' integrated into the dunes, serving as a workspace for artists during the show. The planting scheme focuses on texture and foliage, incorporating native coastal plants and drought-tolerant species. The garden's relocation to Ladyloan Primary School in Arbroath post-show is discussed, emphasizing its role in providing an outdoor creative space for the school community. The piece also touches upon Dunnett's design philosophy and his approach to creating a garden that is both artistic and functional.
4. <https://www.houseandgarden.co.uk/article/chelsea-flower-show-2025-gardens> - House & Garden provides an overview of the gardens featured at the 2025 Chelsea Flower Show, including the Hospitalfield Arts Garden designed by Nigel Dunnett. The article describes the garden's inspiration drawn from the sand dune landscape of Arbroath, Scotland, and its focus on sustainability and resilience. It details the central artist's studio, or 'bothy,' nestled within the dunes, and the use of planting established in sand to demonstrate innovative gardening techniques. The piece also mentions the garden's relocation to Ladyloan Primary School in Arbroath after the show, highlighting its educational and community engagement aspects. The article offers insights into the design elements and plant selections that contribute to the garden's unique aesthetic and purpose.
5. <https://www.theenglishgarden.co.uk/news-and-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/hospitalfield-in-arbroath/> - The English Garden magazine features an article on the Hospitalfield Arts Garden designed by Nigel Dunnett for the 2025 Chelsea Flower Show. The piece delves into the design elements of the garden, including the Apple Orchard Meadow Parterre inspired by Hidcote Manor and the use of perennials like Rudbeckia fulgida var. deamii and annuals such as Eschscholzia californica to extend the season. It also discusses the walled garden's lower section, featuring white clouds of Anaphalis triplinervis and compartments divided by beech hedges, creating a resilient garden of non-invasive plants. The article highlights the innovative and artistic approach to garden design, emphasizing the garden's evolution and the involvement of artists and volunteers in its development.
6. <https://www.gardensillustrated.com/chelsea/nigel-dunnett-chelsea-2025> - Gardens Illustrated announces Nigel Dunnett's return to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2025 with a remarkable sand dune garden for Hospitalfield Arts. The article provides details about the garden's design, reflecting the coastal location of Hospitalfield Arts in Arbroath and mirroring the sand dune environment. It mentions the planting established in sand and the inclusion of a dune pool that collects rainwater from the studio and surrounding dunes. The piece also notes that after the show, the garden will be relocated to Ladyloan Primary School in Arbroath, adapting it for the use of children and teachers alike. The article highlights Dunnett's design philosophy and his approach to creating a garden that is both innovative and connected to its location.
7. <https://www.easterneye.biz/chelsea-unveils-flower-show-plans-for-sustainable-gardens/> - Eastern Eye reports on the RHS's plans for sustainable gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show, including the Hospitalfield Arts Garden designed by Nigel Dunnett. The article discusses the garden's inspiration from the east coast of Scotland, featuring dramatic dune topography and coastal planting. It highlights the use of planting established in sand to demonstrate how mineral materials can be used as a growing medium to encourage more diverse plants. The piece also mentions the garden's relocation to Ladyloan Primary School in Arbroath after the show, emphasizing its role in supporting gardens for good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.