

**A list of the Chelsea Pensioners' plants and stories  
behind *Because*; an artwork created by Emma Smith,  
commissioned by Tideway**



Photo taken during research visits to RHC for the artwork *Because*, by Emma Smith, commissioned by Tideway.  
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Emma Smith has created her artwork using plants selected by Chelsea Pensioners. The names of the Pensioners involved are below, together with their plants and stories.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all those who took part in the project.



### **Albert Willis**

#### **Bird of Paradise (Strelitzia)**

*My wife and I used to like them.*

### **Alister Sword**

#### **Poppy**

*It means such a lot to us.*

### **Arthur Currie**

#### **Sunflowers**

*I was the 1<sup>st</sup> In-Pensioner who fought in the Gulf War. In the lead-up, strangers sent things out to us, out of kindness. In one of the letters was a packet of sunflowers with soil. I got an ammunition box and used some of my valuable water supply to grow sunflowers in the desert. I even had them on the tanks. Some grew as high as 3ft!*

### **Barbara Whilds**

#### **Medlar**

#### **Quince**

#### **Gooseberries**

#### **Raspberries**

#### **Blackcurrants**

#### **Cucumber**

#### **Whitecurrent**

#### **Chives**

#### **Thyme**

#### **Carrot**

#### **Grapes**

#### **Asparagus**

*I used to own a small holding and grew all sorts of things including beets and hay for the animals. I like to continue to grow things here at RHC, albeit on a smaller scale. We get meals provided on site so I focus on growing berries and fruits.*

### **Bob Garvin**

#### **Oak Trees and Acorns**

### **Brian Smith**

#### **Red Rose**

*It is on my cap badge.*

### **Dave Thomson**

#### **Orchids**

*I like the kind that are sold in supermarkets – white, pink and mauve (but not the ones that are dyed strange colours). I have a collection of 14 plants in my room.*

### **David Cooté**

#### **Bamboo**

#### **Oak**

*The bamboo reminds me of the Far East where I spent a lot of time. The oak links to RHC.*

### **David Griffin**

#### **Poppy**

#### **Cornflower**

#### **Oak apple**

*All plants associated with the forces / medals.*

### **David J. Griffin**

#### **Royal Oak Tree**

#### **Purple Crocuses**

*Both the purple crocus and the oak tree are in the grave yard at RHC at London Gate – there is a bench in front of the tree and both are important.*

### **David Lyall and Thomas Lyall (brothers)**

#### **Scarlet Rose**

#### **Thistle**

#### **Poppies**

*They're on the RH logo.*

### **Denis Shiels**

#### **Red Rose**

*I am a Lancashire lad. My father served in the Red Rose Battalion at Gallipoli and was wounded.*



### **Don Crassweller**

#### **Pale Pink Roses**

*I grow them in the Old Post Office Garden – they are lovely. I have also made wildlife habitats with fish, toads and tadpoles behind the greenhouses in the allotments.*

### **IP Frank HL Mouqué**

#### **Clematis**

*I had 2 over a shed: one was purple – a medium mauve – and velvety.*

### **Gareth Pugh**

#### **Liverstone Daisy**

#### **Cherry Tree**

#### **Silver Birch**

*I like the daisy because it comes out in the sun and the cherry trees because the blossom looks like snow. I like giant trees like the ones you get in the US – individual trees, not the manufactured pine forests. I used to enjoy running through the woods.*

### **Ivor Williams**

#### **Cosmos**

### **James Little BEM**

#### **Begonias**

#### **Peonies**

*I grew them both in my garden and they gave me a great deal of pleasure.*

### **Jim Lycett**

#### **Red Desire Potatoes**

#### **Leeks**

#### **Tomatoes**

#### **Cauliflower**

#### **Cabbage**

#### **Cucumbers**

#### **Runner Beans**

#### **Lettuce**

#### **Sprouts**

#### **Dhalias**

#### **Primroses**

#### **Hydrangea**

#### **Roses**

*All plants I like to grow and give to my family when they visit. I am currently experimenting with different coloured potatoes. I like the flowers because they add colour to a garden.*

### **John Carbis**

#### **Foxgloves**

*I used to have masses of these in my garden. I also remember a tall pale blue flower that butterflies loved. I used to cut it back every autumn and by mid-summer it would be in full bloom and covered in butterflies.*

### **John Denton**

#### **Oleander**

#### **Chrysanthemums**

#### **Snowdrops**

#### **Iris**

*I camped amongst oleander for some years in Cyprus, during the Eoka Campaign for Independence. My dad used to grow amazing chrysanthemum and had a lovely greenhouse. Snowdrops are for my mum and Iris is for a close friend.*

### **Marjorie Cole**

#### **Chrysanthemums**

*My grandfather used to win cups for them.*



### **Martin Geary**

#### **Buddleia**

#### **Fuchsia**

*I used to grow them in my garden because I like the big blooms, especially the red and white ones.*

### **Mary Johnston**

#### **Chrysanthemums**

#### **Lilac**

*Chrysanthemums are my favourite. I used to live in the Isle of White where I won a competition for best front and back garden 5 years in a row because of my colour scheme. I like many rounded flowers and lilac of all colours.*

### **Michael Funnell**

#### **Red Geraniums**

*Like the ones grown at RHC, in lead pots.*

### **Michael Murphy**

#### **Poppy**

#### **Thistle**

#### **Leek**

#### **Shamrock**

#### **Rose**

*The poppy is the symbol of what we do and are. The others are national emblems for each country.*

### **Michael Wickens**

#### **Crocuses**

*When I was in the Libyan dessert it was alive with crocus – they come out over night.*

### **Mick**

#### **Grapes**

#### **Carrots**

#### **Williams Pear**

*These are all plants I like to grow and eat.*

### **Mike**

#### **Fan Palm**

*I just like it.*

### **Mike Atkinson**

#### **Plane Trees**

#### **Fuschia**

*The plane trees on site at RHC are special trees because they absorb the London smog. I used to have fuchsia's growing in the garden and a passer-by showed me how to make cuttings so I made cuttings and strangely one plant of the red fuchsias grew white.*

### **Mike Dows**

#### **Runner Beans**

#### **Roses**

#### **Carnations**

*I enjoy eating runner beans. Roses and carnations were my late wife's favourite flowers.*

### **Mike Smith**

#### **Red and White Roses**

#### **Tulips**

#### **Carnations**

*Roses are my favourite flowers. M&S had an amazing stand at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2017 – the smell was just beautiful, unbelievable, amazing.*

### **Monica Parrott**

#### **Lavender**

#### **Rosemary**

#### **Delphinium**

#### **Echinacia**

#### **Bleeding Heart**

#### **Chrysanthemum**

#### **Nepeta**

#### **Fern**

*These are all plants I have grown myself.*

### **Raye Giles**

#### **Yellow, Red and White Roses**

#### **Bluebells**

#### **Hollyhocks**

*Before I came to RHC I had a bungalow and used to grow all manner of roses. I like bluebells and hollyhocks because I'm a country boy.*



### **Ray Pearson**

#### **Iris**

*Iris was my wife's name. In 2003 I went to Kenya. Apparently Iris' can't grow in Kenya. However, I stopped at a place with a little garden, surrounded by wild bare land, and there was one single iris in the garden. My wife had died 6 months earlier, so perhaps it was a sign from her.*

### **Richard Dows**

#### **English Rose**

#### **Gladioli**

*I just like them.*

### **Rick Graham**

#### **African Marigold**

#### **Crocus**

*My dad was stationed in Lagos where African marigolds grew and my mum told me off for pulling them out of the ground. When I was living in Penge, I would visit Crystal Palace park and pick flowers to take home to my mum. One time I was pulling crocuses up from the ground and the park keeper saw me and chased me home.*

### **Ron Catlin**

#### **Rose**

*This is a special rose from the flower bed in front of my berth. It was grown by my wife who is no longer alive. I brought it with me when I moved into RHC and I still look after it today.*

### **Stanley Michael**

#### **Orchids**

#### **Bamboo**

*Orchids remind me of the Borneo Jungle where I have been. In Japan, bamboo was used as a form of torture and grown through prisoners.*

### **Simon de Buisseret**

#### **Scented Rose, Pale Pink**

#### **Jasmine**

*I used to have a half acre garden with roses. I like jasmine because it has such sweet perfume.*

### **Stanley Fuller**

#### **Citrus fruit**

*Citrus trees remind me of Benghazi where poor people from the slums grew orange orchards.*

### **Ted Roberts**

#### **Dahlias**

#### **Gladioli**

*I grow them in Sheerness in my girlfriend's garden.*

### **Tony Bendry**

#### **Two-Toned Red Rose**

*My father used to grow them along the whole side of the path.*

### **Tony Hunt**

#### **Sweet William**

*This is a family flower and also my wife's favourite flower.*

### **Trevor Thomson**

#### **Red Roses**

*They represent Lancashire.*

### **Zulf Shaikh**

#### **Dahlias**

*I went to boarding school in the Himalayas, where there is no forest. The dahlias came out in early May and were a sign that hot weather was coming. They were wild and grew in all colours.*

### **Mr Wright**

#### **Red or White Roses**

#### **Daffodil**



## **Anonymous contributions**

### **Asian Lily**

*From the long forgotten past – I have fond memories of the East.*

### **Wood Anemone**

*This was always the first flower in my garden in the Spring, before the bluebells even. It's a simple flower but it makes a lovely white carpet.*

### **Daffodil**

*I used to grow them.*

### **Willow Tree**

*From Ranelagh Gardens.*

### **Thistle**

### **Calla Lily**

### **Sweet Pea**

### **Tulip Tree**

### **Calla Lily**

### **Wood Anemone**

### **Herbs**

### **Beetroot**

### **Mint**

### **Two-Toned Rose**

### **Double Delight Roses**

### **Pink Rose**

### **Geranium**

### **Acer Tree**

### **Oak Tree**

### **Cherry Tree**

### **Jasmine**

### **Purple Crocus**

### **Leek**

### **Peony**

### **Sweet William**