

**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 1st 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