



Supporting people
with sight loss

RNIB's Community Garden





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RNIB's Community Garden

at the RHS Hampton Court Palace
Flower Show 2018

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Stand HC/426

Welcome to our Community Garden

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are proud to present our Community Garden, designed by Steve Dimmock and Paula Holland.

Our garden celebrates 150 years of our work in supporting blind and partially sighted people. The plants in our garden have been selected for their sensory qualities, making it a welcoming community space that can be enjoyed by everyone, whatever their level of sight.



Seeing through another person's eyes

In the centre of our garden you will notice windows cut into steel screens. The panes in the windows have filters that allow anyone looking through them to get an idea of how vision can be affected by four common eye conditions: glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts and age-related macular degeneration.

Our attendants are on hand with “sim-specs” – spectacles which simulate different eye conditions – should visitors want to briefly experience seeing the world through the eyes of someone living with sight loss.

If you would like to find out more about eye conditions, or would like support or advice on living with sight loss, please call the RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999.



“Our community garden is designed to encourage people to think about different ways of seeing the world.”

Eleanor Southwood, Chair of RNIB

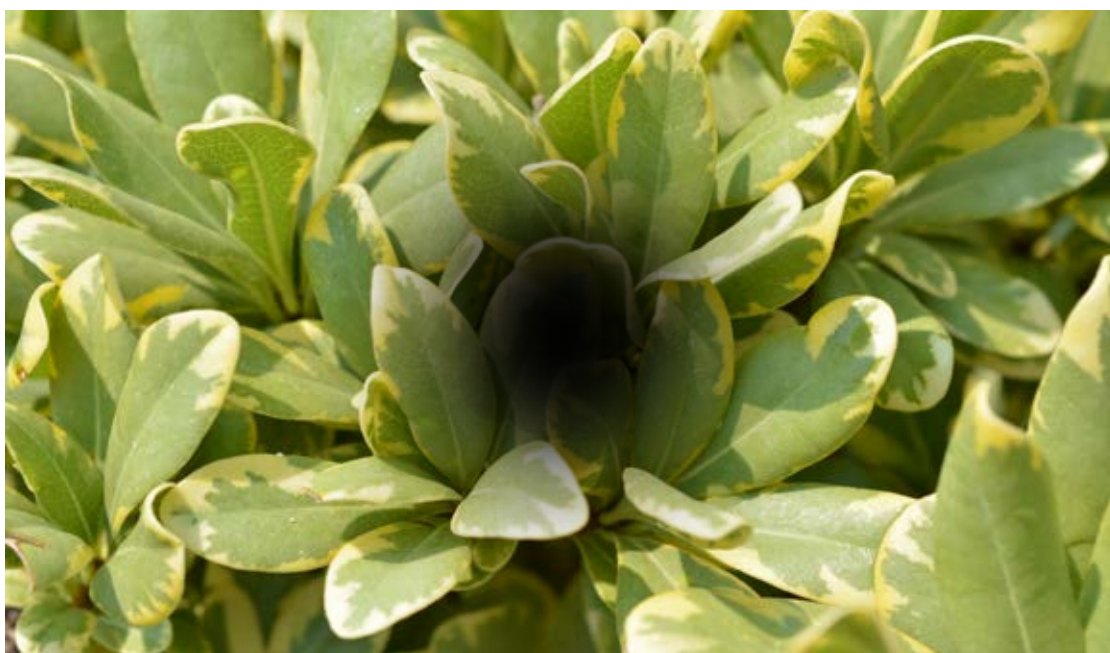
Seeing through another person's eyes

The reality of sight loss varies for each individual. Here are examples of how someone with one of the four most common eye conditions might see.



Glaucoma

Glaucoma is a condition that damages your optic nerve and causes loss of side vision in the early stages and central vision in later stages.



Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)

AMD is a condition where damage to the macula causes loss of central vision.

Seeing through another person's eyes



Cataracts

Cataracts causes your sight to become cloudy or misty and some people report dazzle at night or in bright sunshine.



Diabetic retinopathy

Diabetic retinopathy can affect the blood vessels at the back of the eye which leads to patchy loss of central or side vision.

Sensory delights

Sight loss does not mean the loss of the capacity to enjoy horticulture, especially when a garden is filled with plants that are rich in fragrance, have vibrant colours and are highly tactile.

A few key plants with strong sensory qualities in our garden are:



Pennisetum villosum

The feathery, bob-tail tops of this tufted grass are a delight to explore by touch. Perfect for edging a path.



Achillea "Terracotta"

Its ferny leaves give a distinct aroma, and the rich colour of its flowers are eye catching. Good for attracting bees and other pollinators.

Sensory delights



Stachys byzantina “Silver carpet”

Forming a soft carpet, this drought-tolerant perennial has silver leaves which are soft and extremely tactile.



Lavandula x intermedia “Edelweiss”

An especially long-flowering variety with intensely fragrant blooms and aromatic foliage.

About the garden designers



Steve Dimmock

Steve won Best City Garden and a Silver-Gilt medal at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in 2016.

“It’s an honour to work with RNIB on this sensory garden in its 150th year. I hope the garden educates and inspires visitors to think about what it’s like to live with sight loss here in the UK.”

To find out more about Steve, visit stevedimmockgardens.co.uk.



Paula Holland

Paula, founder of Laurel Hill Gardens, specialises in planting design.

“The garden is a community space for blind, partially sighted and sighted people to enjoy and relax. It should stimulate the senses and has fragrant, textured, and contrasting colours of planting with gentle water features.”

To find out more about Paula, visit laurelhillgardens.co.uk.



RNIB’s Community Garden is sponsored by Magus Private Wealth

RNIB and Hampton Court

After the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, some of our garden will be moved to RNIB's Swail House in Epsom. Swail House offers supported living accommodation for people aged 18-65 with sight loss and additional needs.

Swail House is just one of the many ways which RNIB supports people with sight loss. We also offer practical advice and emotional support to enable blind and partially sighted people face the future with confidence.

Acknowledgements

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- Deepdale Trees
- Jacksons Nursery
- Hardys Nursery
- Tolworth Fencing Ltd
- Helpers – Rob Kinnes, Erkia Gibbins, Liz Smith, Darren Lincoln, Dave Potter, Paul Hart

To find out more about RNIB's work and our Community Garden, or to see a full plant list, visit rnib.org.uk/hamptoncourt.



RNIB

150th
anniversary