



Photo: The National Memorial Arboretum

New Award Winning Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum

Plant Hunters' Fairs have been coming to this inspirational, national venue now for 9 years and we have watched the arboretum grow and mature whilst building a loyal following of plant enthusiasts for these three friendly and free to enter events.

There's always something new for garden lovers to discover at the arboretum.

A new garden space was officially opened at the National Memorial Arboretum in October 2017, donated by the Institute of Quarrying (IQ) as part of its centenary celebrations.

The multiple award winning IQ Quarry Garden featured at this year's RHS Chatsworth Flower Show and was designed by garden expert Paul Hervey-Brookes. It won Best In Show, Best Construction and a Gold Medal. The garden has been reimagined to fit a bespoke space just inside the entrance to the National Memorial Arboretum.

Paul, an old friend of Plant Hunters' Fairs, having attended our events for several years with his then nursery in Gloucestershire, is responsible for interpreting the IQ Quarry Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum. "The new design is true to the spirit of the original IQ Quarry Garden, which represented the life cycle of a quarry, from extraction to reinstatement and sustainability. It incorporates many of the features of the RHS Chatsworth show garden, including elements of 'Passing Light', a three metre tall, distressed Corten steel sculptural artwork created by artist Ann-Margreth Bohl. Hidden amongst the planting are a number of slate monoliths, acknowledging the garden's quarrying roots.

"We have created a linear 'walk-through' space, providing a beautifully planted corridor linking elements of the Arboretum. It's wonderful to think that the garden will now be enjoyed by future generations, as well as providing a lasting legacy to the Institute's centenary."



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The garden brilliantly tells the story of how plants can recolonise the harshest environments and the rusted features illustrate how disused man-made features can be transformed into something beautiful. Part of the motto of the Institute of Quarrying is carved into the uprights: "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's, but the earth he hath given to the children of men."

Sarah Montgomery, Managing Director of the National Memorial Arboretum, said: "The Arboretum lies at the centre of the Trent Valley's valuable sand and gravel resources and, with active working for minerals close by, we have a daily reminder of the origins of our site. This new garden will help explain to visitors the evolution of the landscape and illustrate the wonderful uses that former quarries can be put to."

"The ICS Quarry Garden is not only a beautiful addition to the Arboretum, it will also play an important role linking several of our other gardens and memorials, helping visitors explore this area of our grounds in a new way."

Thanks to the National Memorial Arboretum for the quotes used in this article.

We have our usual three plant fairs at the arboretum in 2018:

Saturday 17th March

Saturday 12th May

Saturday 28th July 2018

Times: 10am - 4pm (Venue open at 9am)

As always, the plant nurseries will be setting up along the Yeomanry Avenue near the main Armed Forces Memorial.

Free entry to fair and arboretum
(Pay & Display Car Park)

Dogs are not permitted in the arboretum but there is a dog walking circuit around the perimeter of the venue.

Restaurant open throughout.

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