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Chelsea award winner to design Horatio's Garden

The Southern Spinal Injuries Trust (SSIT) announced today that Cleve West, one of the UK's leading contemporary landscape designers, is to design Horatio's Garden, the planned rehabilitation garden for patients in the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre at Salisbury District Hospital.

A six-time RHS gold medal winner who was awarded Best in Show at the Chelsea Flower Show this year, Cleve West grew up in Somerset and trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. He is a member of the Society of Garden Designers and has judged for the RHS at the Hampton Court and Chelsea Flower Shows. Cleve has built a reputation for innovative garden landscapes through his creative use of space and harmonious planting. He is a keen allotment gardener and regularly contributes to a number of periodicals.

Cleve's closest friend spent a year in the Spinal Treatment Centre 14 years ago when he broke his neck. Cleve visited him often and so knows the Centre and has an understanding of spinal cord injury. He commented: "I'm absolutely delighted to be involved in designing Horatio's Garden. Being asked to create something that will benefit the patients in the Spinal Treatment Centre and also mean so much to Horatio's family is a real privilege. I'm really looking forward to the challenge."

Horatio's Garden will serve both as an important part of patient rehabilitation and will provide patients and their families with a place of tranquillity and beauty to enjoy during their stay in hospital. It is hoped that Horatio's Garden not only acts as a place of healing, but also as a source of pride for the hospital and the wider community.

The garden is named in memory of Horatio Chapple who was killed by a polar bear in August. Horatio had planned to study medicine and had volunteered at the Spinal Treatment Centre where he became involved with research that identified patients' needs for a garden. Donations in memory of Horatio have already exceeded £120,000. It is hoped that further fundraising will enable the second phase of the project, which includes a greenhouse and potting shed so that patients can learn to propagate and grow new plants.

Luke March, Chairman of Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Horatio's Garden is an important project for the Spinal Treatment Centre and the hospital, but also for the Chapple family. We are privileged to be working with someone at the forefront of garden design and look forward to seeing the end result, which will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for the patients in the Spinal Treatment Centre."

To donate to Horatio's Garden appeal, please visit www.ssit.org.uk

Image attached: Cleve West

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Editor's Notes

The Southern Spinal Injuries Trust (SSIT) is a regional charity set up to support the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre at Salisbury District Hospital and people with spinal cord injury living in the South and South West of England.

The Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre at Salisbury District Hospital provides specialist care following a spinal cord injury. Patients come from all over the South and South West of England and the average length of stay is nine months.

SSIT

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