



**PRESS RELEASE: 16.01.12**

**Britain's leading gardeners to give talks for Horatio's Garden**  
*Events to help fund pioneering rehabilitation garden for spinal cord injury patients*

Sarah Raven, Alys Fowler, Toby Buckland, Bunny Guinness and Jekka McVicar are among the speakers who have agreed to give talks to help fundraise for SSIT and Horatio's Garden, the planned rehabilitation garden at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre in Salisbury.

From courses on flowers for cutting and growing your own veg, to advice on transforming your garden and how to grow and cook with herbs, there will be a talk to appeal to every gardener. The events, which are organised by the Southern Spinal Injuries Trust and sponsored by Yeo Valley, will take place at Yeo Valley's beautiful Organic Garden overlooking the Blagdon Lake. A delicious lunch using locally sourced organic produce is included in each of the days.

Sarah Raven, who is leading two courses, explained why she's keen to support the Appeal:

"I know that if I lost the ability to walk, one of the main things I'd want to do would be to spend more time gardening. It's an occupation which is quickly and intensely rewarding, tapping into so many different sides of human nature. That's why Horatio's Garden is such an important development for those with spinal cord injury and I am delighted to be able to help with the Appeal."

All funds raised from the events will go to support Horatio's Garden Appeal. The first phase of the Appeal is to fund the building of a pioneering rehabilitation garden at the Salisbury Spinal Treatment Centre. Horatio's Garden will give spinal injury patients, their families and friends, an important outside social area for use during their long stay in Salisbury as well as offering them the opportunity to use gardening as part of their rehabilitation. The garden will also serve as a lasting tribute to Horatio Chapple who was killed in a polar bear attack in Norway last August.

Designed by the award winning landscape designer Cleve West, it is hoped that Horatio's Garden will be ready for use in the summer. Plans are already under way for phase two of the project, which will see the addition of a greenhouse and potting shed to allow patients to learn to propagate and grow new plants.

The events start with two courses at Yeo Valley's Lakewood Centre and will be followed by four talks at The Organic Garden. A tour of The Organic Garden with a member of the garden team will be included as part of the talks package.

The dates for the Horatio's Garden Talks & Courses are as follows:

### *Courses*

- 13 March The Cutting Garden with Sarah Raven (£95)  
14 March Year Round Veg with Sarah Raven (£95)

### *Talks*

- 13 April Edible Gardening with Alys Fowler (£75)  
4 May Flowers: Planning & Planting for Continuous Colour with Toby Buckland (£75)  
22 June Transforming Your Garden with Bunny Guinness (£75)  
13 July Herbs: More Than Just A Garnish with Jekka McVicar (£75)

For further details, including online booking, please visit [www.ssit.org.uk](http://www.ssit.org.uk)

### **For further press information please contact**

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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 and people with spinal cord injury in the South and South West of England.

To view the first video blog for Horatio's Garden Appeal please click on the link below:

<http://www.ssit.org.uk/ssit-page.php?pageID=34>

### **Yeo Valley**

Yeo Valley Farms Production Ltd is an independent, family-owned farming and dairy-processing business based in Blagdon, North Somerset. Yeo Valley Organic is the largest organic brand in the UK, purchasing organic milk from farms in the south-west, as well as from its own herd of pedigree British Friesian cows.

Yeo Valley began making yogurt in 1972 and now has four production dairies at Blagdon, Cannington, Crewkerne and Newton Abbot. The company employs over 1400 people and holds the Queen's Award for Enterprise for Sustainable Development. Mary Mead, co-founder of the business, received an OBE for her services to sustainable dairy farming in the 2012 New Year's Honours list.

### **The Organic Garden**

Situated in beautiful surroundings beside Blagdon Lake, the Organic Garden is one of just a handful of Soil Association certified ornamental gardens in the UK. The culmination of many years of work by a small team led by Sarah Mead, the 6½ acre garden reopened to the public on 2010; its appeal is widespread, aided in no small part by its wonderful tea room. Everything from the cakes and scones through to the potting compost is home-made and the garden is truly an inspirational place.