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Chelsea pavilion plants a seed in our minds



Green and pleasant land: The dome greenhouse amongst the beds at OmVed Gardens in Highgate and, right, the new Chelsea pavilion exhibition by the pond. Photos John Lawrence.

By John Lawrence

For anyone unable to get tickets to this year's Chelsea Flower Show, there's still a chance to enjoy one of the award-winning highlights of the event by visiting OmVed Gardens in Highgate Village.

The gardeners and designers there have brought back the spectacular exhibition and pavilion they created for

Chelsea to live permanently at their hillside site, which is tucked away at the bottom of Townsend Yard.

Saving Seed

Saving Seed is the theme of the walk-in mirrored pavilion and it explores the ways we can all save seeds from the plants, fruit and vegetables we grow. Inside, visitors are immersed in a soundscape featuring seeds erupting from their pods and the activity inside a garden compost heap.

The pavilion is approached by walking along a meandering path of circular beds planted with vegetables, herbs and flowers all grown from seed.

"This exhibition is a tribute to tiny beginnings and an invitation to join a movement to improve biodiversity, strengthen our food systems and fill us with joy," says the OmVed team.

The impressive pavilion structure has been placed on a newly cleared site next to OmVed's lily pond and close to its established market garden area. From there winding paths lead up to a glass-covered kitchen and meeting space where demonstrations and supper clubs are held throughout the season.

Twice-weekly openings

OmVed's Chelsea Flower Show pavilion exhibition will be open until Sunday 23 October every Wednesday from 12pm to 5pm and every Sunday from 9am to 2pm. More information and free booking can be found at: www.savingseedbyomved.com

Many hands make light work of ribbon cutting

By John Lawrence

Three young volunteers eagerly assisted Barnet's Mayor to cut a ribbon officially opening a refurbished shelter and path at Long Lane Pasture.



The opening of the Long Lane Pasture pavilion. Photo Noel Lynch

Jenny, Seband and Thea, the three youngest volunteers at the nature reserve opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3, stepped up to assist Councillor Alison Moore at the event in June.

The pasture's gazebo overlooking the pond has been given a new paved floor and a robust new path surface has been

laid from the entrance to the gazebo, making wheelchair and pram access safer and easier. The money for the works was provided by the Barnet Council Area Committee Fund.

Alison Moore thanked the committee and volunteers for maintaining the pasture, and described how the two-acre nature reserve was a green oasis of calm for people to walk around during the pandemic, helping maintain both physical and mental well-being.

The pasture has reopened fully for the summer every day from 10am to half an hour before sunset and looks set to have a bumper crop of blackberries this year. Volunteers still meet every Saturday from 10am to noon and new helpers are always welcome.

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