



PRESS RELEASE

The Curator of Chelsea Physic Garden is moving on

After nearly nine glorious years as the Curator of London's oldest botanic Garden, Rosie Atkins is stepping down.

Sarah Troughton, Chairman of Trustees, says: 'The Garden has been transformed under Rosie's leadership. She has made a vital contribution in promoting this historic Garden to a wider public keen to learn and experience the world of horticulture in all its forms. Her professionalism and enthusiasm have been infectious and everyone involved with the Garden will miss her very much'.

'It has been a great privilege to have worked in the Garden which is as relevant today as when it was founded in 1673,' says Rosie Atkins. 'I am particularly proud of the Horticultural Trainee programme, started in my first year, which has now launched twelve remarkable gardeners into the horticultural world'.

This summer a Jamaican Provision Ground was created at Chelsea Physic Garden to mark the 350th anniversary celebrations of the birth of Sir Hans Sloane, the Garden's benefactor. The display includes many of the medicinal and exotic plants Sloane brought back to Britain from his historic voyage to the Caribbean in 1687. This year also saw the launch of the Chelsea Physic Garden's adult learning programme.

Rosie Atkins launched the highly successful magazine Gardens Illustrated in 1992. She has been a member of RHS Woody Plant Committee since 2002 and she is a Fellow of The Linnean Society. Rosie plans to devote more time to voluntary work, which includes serving on the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society and chairing London Gardens Network. She is also a trustee of Great Dixter Charitable Trust and Gardening for Disabled Trust.

Chelsea Physic Garden attracts some 45,000 visitors a year plus nearly 3,000 students from schools around London. It also has a growing Friends and Patrons scheme.

The Trustees will be advertising for the post of Curator of Chelsea Physic Garden in October.

A two day Christmas Fair will take place at the Garden on Saturday 27th November (11am-4pm) and Sunday 28th November (10am-4pm). The Garden opens four days a week from April to October (Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sun) and all year during office hours to Friends of the Garden.

For further information please contact Neil Couzens on his direct line 020 7349 6450 or email ncouzens@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

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