

Opening session

The value of management & science

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#VLConf2018



RHS & LI
Sue Biggs,
RHS Director General

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Our Heritage

- The Horticultural Society of London est. 1804
- 1861 received the Royal Charter > Royal Horticultural Society
- 1904 moved into Vincent Square
- 1929 LI (BAGA!) formed at RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- 2018 RHS at LI conference, and then



What do we stand for?

Our mission - To be the world's leading gardening charity by inspiring passion and excellence in the science, art and practice of horticulture

Our vision - To enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place



The changing face of the RHS (or what we do to reconnect people and places and with nature)

- Shows
- Gardens
- Gardening science
- Horticulture
- Education & Learning, Qualifications and Careers (Horticulture Matters)
- Community Gardening
- Libraries & Art
- Publishing – The Garden, books and online
- Our Members
- Our Industry
- Government



Why are we investing £160m in horticulture?

- Plants are vital to life, to the environment, and to the health, wellbeing and happiness of us all
- Help strengthen communities, build a more resilient society, support biodiversity, cool cities, protect against flooding, improve air quality
- **To enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place**



Our Strategic Investment £160m

- 1. RHS Garden Wisley**
 - Hilltop Science & Learning
 - New Welcome building & re-emergence of the historic core
 - A vibrant community in Wisley village
- 2. RHS Garden Hyde Hall**
- 2. RHS Garden Harlow Carr**
- 3. RHS Garden Bridgewater**
- 4. Greening Communities**
- 5. RHS Lindley Library**
- 6. Horticulture Matters**



Bridgewater



Bridgewater Location



Our Industry, Government and Public Policy

- Core asks:
 - ❖ Commercial
 - ❖ Education
 - ❖ Research



Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable

Action Plan 2015–2020

Helping the UK ornamental horticulture industry reach its full potential



Our Future Collaboration?

(post Brexit)

- ❖ Closer ties between horticulture and landscape, we're all the same industry
- ❖ Advice on plant health and environmental issues
- ❖ Health and wellbeing
- ❖ International development
- ❖ RHS Flower Shows



Thank you and any questions?

