

# WEALDEN COUNTRYSIDE INSPIRES DESIGNER

Kent landscape architect Marian Boswall has been awarded one of the most coveted prizes in the garden design industry at the Society of Garden Designers' annual award ceremony.

Marian won the Grand Award for her Reighton Wood creation, a part-formal, part-wooded garden in the Kent Weald designed for a botanist who wanted a garden both for pollinators and people.

The judges described Reighton Wood, which was also a joint winner in the Large Residential Garden category,

as "absolutely stunning" and that it demonstrated "sumptuous planting with texture, mood, atmosphere and playfulness." They also felt it made "an important and long-lasting change to the landscape in which it sits."

Marian, who used local materials and craftsmen for the details, with sculptures by Alison Crowther, was inspired by the Wealden countryside, with planting evoking the fields and hedgerows.

Turn to p150-152 for details of how to enter the 2019 Kent Life Garden Awards.



Photo: © Jane Higney

## FAMILY FIRST

Millbrook Garden

Company marked its 40th anniversary with a party at its Gravesend centre and a month of prize-giving at all three of its centres in Kent.

The independent family run business was launched in 1979 when entrepreneurial couple Dick and Sue Allen bought a piece of land in Crowborough and opened their first garden venture.

Twenty five years later they bought a six-acre field just outside Millbrook Gravesend.

When Dick died in 1997, Sue's eldest daughter Tammy took over as Managing Director and in 2013 Millbrook acquired its third centre in Staplehurst.

Today, Chairman Sue is also supported by Tammy's husband Ben as Finance Director; her granddaughter Kirsty is Design Coordinator.



Cllr. Jeremy Kite, David Mote, Mayor of Dartford, Gareth Johnson, MP for Dartford and Bluewater's Senior General Manager, Robert Goodman © RichardHanson

## BLUEWATER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS WITH 20 GOOD DEEDS

Celebrating 20 years since its opening on 16 March 1999, Bluewater has pledged to support 20 Good Deeds, investing both time and money in community initiatives throughout 2019 and in the years ahead.

Europe's leading retail and leisure destination quickly became a key landmark in the Kent landscape and it has always sought ways to support community development and local businesses.

Some of the good causes to benefit will include Bexley Deaf Centre, offering lip-reading services to help people with hearing loss, and The Hygiene Bank, providing essential toiletries to support those vulnerable and struggling within the local area. Dartford-based Elements

Gymnastics will be awarded funds and volunteer time to purchase and build specialist equipment to help advance their young gymnasts to an elite level.

All 20 projects will receive a mix of funds and staff time, by way of thanks to the communities that have in turn supported Bluewater for the past 20 years.

During that time, Bluewater has welcomed millions of guests from across Kent, the UK and the world and contributes £391m to the UK economy every year.

It supports 7,800 full-time jobs, paying £154m-plus in wages a year, and has brokered employment for more than 50,000 people, most of whom are from Kent, via its Learning Shop.



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