



jacq and wills landscapes
design - create - maintain

 www.jwlandscapes.co.uk

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Making the most of May

Dodging showers and celebrating sunshine.

Welcome to our May newsletter! 

May brings the Chelsea Flower Show, the Chelsea chop, and all the advice, ideas, extraordinary gardens, and lively opinions that come with it. It is a wonderful source of inspiration and, even more importantly, another opportunity for the gardening community to come together and celebrate nature, creativity, and new ideas.

Gardening reflects both our differences and our shared passions - and nowhere is that more evident than in the many ways we appreciate and connect with the natural world. 

Our May so far...

We're fully in the swing of spring at Jacq and Wills! Check out what we've been up to...

🌿 We are so excited to announce that we are now members of the British Association of Landscape Industries, aka BALI! BALI is the UK's leading network for landscaping professionals.



They're all about championing excellence and high standards in the industry. Because they vet every member for quality, it means you can always count on us to deliver top-notch work!

👏 This month we headed into Saffron Walden for Will to give a talk to the ladies at Gibson Women's Institute!

Will's talk was on Sustainable Approaches when designing, creating and maintaining a garden. We had a fantastic time chatting to everyone and are excited for more talks this year! 😄

🌸 We headed to Chelsea Flower Show this week!

It's always a highlight of our year to take a look all the beautiful show gardens, see what's new and chat to other professionals in the industry.

A great way to head into a lovely sunny long weekend! ☀️



May Garden Showcase

The Contemporary Dry Garden

Created in 2021, this contemporary dry garden is a celebration of resilient planting, natural materials and thoughtful design, a space shaped to meet the demands of modern life while still feeling warm, characterful and connected to its surroundings.

What began as a simple brief for low-maintenance planting and parking for two cars has evolved into a striking, climate-responsive garden that continues to flourish five years on.



At the heart of the design is a carefully composed palette of gravel, sandstone paviours and river cobbles, chosen for their durability and natural texture. A curved raised bed, crafted from vertical oak sleepers, forms the central structure of the space and is echoed by a matching curved sleeper wall. These elements introduce soft, organic geometry that guides the eye through the garden and complements the sweeping pathway leading to the front door.

A beautifully woven willow fence lines the longest boundary, adding warmth and a handcrafted quality that enhances the natural feel of the design. The planting, a mix of drought-tolerant species with a gentle cottage-garden influence, brings movement, colour and seasonal interest while remaining easy to care for.



Five years on, the garden has matured beautifully and continues to thrive in all conditions. Its success has been recognised with a Gold Award at the 2023 Association of Professional Landscapers Awards, as well as features in Garden News and Pro Landscaper. We are incredibly proud of this garden and to this day, it remains one of our favourites! 🥰🌿

Looking for a garden transformation?
[Get in touch!](#)



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A Spring Clean of
the Mind

Taking care of yourself come rain or shine.

A Book to Get Your Nose in

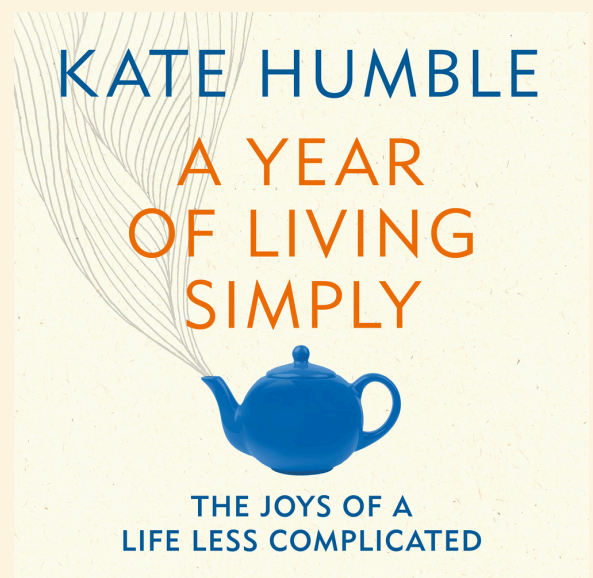
I am currently reading the wonderful book *A Year of Living Simply* by Kate Humble. It is such a beautifully written book, full of warmth, honesty, and inspiring ideas. Kate explores gardens, food, recycling, building, crafting, and the people embracing more sustainable ways of living with great thoughtfulness and curiosity. 📖

It is an uplifting and comforting read, filled with gentle encouragement to slow down, appreciate nature, and live more simply.

I would highly recommend this wonderful book.

Find it here! ❤️

www.waterstones.com/book/a-year-of-living-simply/kate-humble



“The earth laughs in flowers.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Elderflower Champagne

A lovely recipe recommended by my friend Kay. I haven't tried it yet, but I definitely will!

The elderflowers are almost ready for picking, and it's the perfect season for bubbles, sunshine, and garden celebrations.

Here's the recipe! 🥂

<https://tinandthyme.uk/2020/06/elderflower-champagne>



Photography by: Andy McLaughlin, Fraser-Cave Photography, Anna Omiotek-Tott and Jacq and Wills Landscapes