

Plant Belles at the National Trust

Flower Power Plant Belles are now supporting plants in National Trust gardens of Devon and Cornwall

New for 2013, the garden team at Knightshayes Court, Nr Tiverton, Devon, have introduced over 80 additional Plant Belle designs to the wonderfully restored walled kitchen gardens. The Belles have been purchased to adorn, support and protect the plants, whilst also being in keeping with the Victorian origins of the setting.

The National Trust gardens, gardeners and visitors at Castle Drogo, Knightshayes Court and St Michaels Mount, have been enjoying the benefits of the rustic and ornamental grow-through plant supports since 2009.



John Lanyon, the former Head Gardener at Knightshayes first commissioned the Plant Belle team to create 'Wigwams'. In 2009 over 20 large wigwam structures were handmade exclusively for the gardens. Each year they are re-dressed to supporting the extensive collection of fragrant Sweet Peas.

The National Trust collaboration started back in 2008, with the former Head Gardener at Castle Drogo, Andrew Midgley.

Andrew commissioned a 'Grande' Plant Belle to cope with the large scale planting in the 'windy' formal gardens at Castle Drogo, to be named after George Dillistone. Together we created the 'George Belle' which now adorns many large established gardens, supporting plants in adverse conditions and creating sculptural interest throughout the winter months.

Castle Drogo, nr Drewsteignton, overlooking the Teign valley and Dartmoor, installed 70 Plant Belles and stem supports, which comfortably adorn the beautifully established formal 'Arts & Crafts' garden, designed by Edwin Lutyens and George Dillistone back in the early 20th century.

The borders at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall are also trialling the Plant Belles, against the buffering winds of the Atlantic.

Crowning an island off the coast of Cornwall is St Michael's Mount, the home of the St Aubyn family. A medieval castle, incorporating parts of an old priory that once stood there, surrounded by sub-tropical gardens, where exotic plants cling to steep granite cliffs.



Plant Belles can also be seen at RHS Gardens Rosemoor, among other open gardens. All the Plant Belle products are designed and handcrafted by Jenny & Alex in Devon. Our range can be purchased at the RHS Rosemoor shop, the Kew gardens shop, selected retailers and RHS flower shows. Mail order is available directly from the Plant Belles website. Plant Belles hope to be exhibiting at Chelsea Flower Show in 2014.

To view the complete album of great high resolution images by James Corbett contact jenny@plantbelles.co.uk or call 01363 84514 or 07970 825 755. Find out more on the website www.plantbelles.co.uk, and access a gallery of images us on our Facebook pages. Release updated 26/06/2013



Plant Belle photography by James Corbett <http://www.jamescorbettphotography.co.uk>
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