

On the hedge of glory

THE Henchman Topiary Awards, launched last year, are expanding across the Continent. Judged by a panel that includes Petra Hoyer Millar, the editor of *The Dirt News*, and ‘Hedge Barber’ influencer Andy Bourke, winners will be named in two categories, Best Professional Topiary and Best Home Garden Creation, with separate accolades for the UK and Europe—to be announced at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, west London (July 1–6).

After more than 75 people entered, last year’s professional winner was West Sussex-based Harrie Carnochan and David Hawson of Aberdeenshire claimed victory in the Home Gardener category for his intricate scene featuring creatures inspired by *Moby Dick*.

‘Topiary is a timeless, traditional art form that has taken on a new lease of life in the garden in recent years, which was evident in the creativity of the entries we received,’ comments Owen Simpson, Henchman managing director. ‘We can’t wait to see what works of art are submitted this year.’

Submissions are open until May 31; visit www.henchman.co.uk/pages/henchman-topiary-awards to enter.

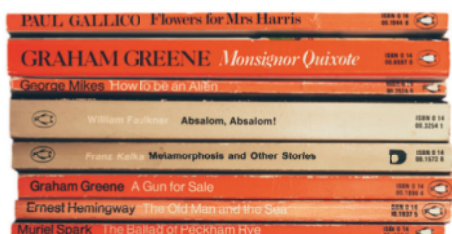


Entrants may be interested in visiting a returning exhibition at RHS Wisley’s Old Laboratory in Surrey this summer. ‘On the Hedge’ (June 13–September 28) will feature work from 30 photographers that ‘delves into our relationship with hedges and topiary... from their role in shaping our landscapes and homes to their environmental benefits’. It includes a special commission from photographer Anna Kroeger, who uses materials from hedges and shrubs to process and tone her photographs.

Topiary to strive for: the astonishingly clipped gardens of 17th-century Château de Marqueyssac, Vézac, in the Dordogne area of France

‘The response to last year’s show was absolutely astonishing, with so many visitors confessing to a secret passion for hedge photography; it was like a self-help group for topiary obsessives,’ explains Gareth Gardner, exhibition curator and architectural photographer. ‘This expanded exhibition not only showcases incredible photographic talent, but also highlights the vital role hedges play in our ecosystems and everyday surroundings.’ Visit www.rhs.org.uk/wisley for more details.

To celebrate 90 years of Penguin, the publishing behemoth will launch a community-led project, 90 Little Book Stops, in collaboration with Little Free Library. These mini book-exchange spots will appear in public parks and street corners throughout the UK. If you’d like to apply to have one in your neighbourhood, visit www.penguin.co.uk/discover/campaigns/90-little-book-stops; the deadline is May 1



An architectural champion

FORMER Editor-at-Large of COUNTRY LIFE Clive Aslet has won the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art’s (ICAA) prestigious Arthur Ross Board of Directors Honor award. Founded in 2002 and based in New York, US, the ICAA is a not-for-profit members’ organisation that seeks to promote and preserve ‘the practice, understanding and appreciation of classical design’ via educational programmes and annual accolades, including the Arthur Ross Awards, which were established in 1982. In listing Mr Aslet’s achievements, the ICAA notes that he co-founded Triglyph Books in 2019. Incidentally, Triglyph will publish his latest of more than 30 tomes on May 1: *King Charles III: 40 Years of Architecture* (£20; www.triglyphbooks.com); previous seminal works include *The Last Country Houses* (Yale University Press, 1982). Mr Aslet has also been a visiting professor at the University of Cambridge, he was a founding member of the Twentieth Century Society in 1979 and, earlier this month, he and John Goodall, COUNTRY LIFE’s Architectural Editor, launched their *Your Places or Mine* podcast. In collaboration with the ICAA, Mr Aslet delivered a lecture about COUNTRY LIFE and Sir Edwin Lutyens in 2023, which can be viewed online (www.classicist.org/articles/sir-edwin-lutyens-and-country-life). Peter Lyden, ICAA president, says: ‘Clive is truly invaluable to our world of Classicism.’

