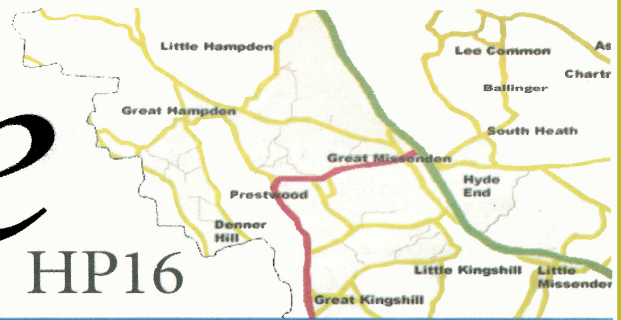


The Source



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Great Missenden nursery in RHS feature



Many will have seen The Plant Specialist vans heading out from Whitefield Lane, Great Missenden, though it seems many in HP16 do not know what they do. They have, however, also come to the attention of the Royal Horticultural Society as one of the top nurseries in the country and

since the publication of an article about them in 'The Garden' magazine they have been very busy with enquiries from all over the UK and beyond.

Great Missenden residents Keith Pounder and Sean Walter first opened their nursery to the public in 2006 after taking over

privately owned allotments on Whitefield Lane. Having gardened for some local families for some time, they decided to expand their portfolio by becoming a nursery for herbaceous plants and ornamental grasses. They always aimed to be a specialist nursery, not a garden centre with the associated café etc. Growing everything on site, they sell only what they produce, which is, as the name suggests, high quality plants, and the design and maintenance of beautiful gardens.

The development of the nursery has been a long term project. They now have excellent parking and are currently building a new sales and design office. Each year they publicise the nursery through gardens at flower shows such as Chenies. This year they have been invited to display at the prestigious Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair. On Sunday 24 June at the Woburn Flower Show they were not only awarded a gold certificate for nursery display, but also The Duchess of Bedford Award given to the stand that 'catches the eye' and is most appreciated by Her Grace, the Duchess of Bedford. (read more on page 7)

The Plant Specialist (continued from page 1)

Some years after opening Keith and Sean were able to buy the land and begin investing in the development of a beautiful space more akin to the display gardens we see at Chelsea or Hampton Court. Sean, originally from South Africa, is a garden designer and plantsman with many years of experience. After building the nursery, Keith, who is also a plantsman, has developed a busy maintenance division which incorporates specialist garden maintenance and grounds care for schools and sports clubs. They have decided not to continue with the landscaping division and use contractors where necessary.

Everything is grown in the nursery, and they have chosen to use just one small unheated greenhouse (below) and one large polytunnel. They have specialised in a wide range of herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses, particularly hardy and late season plants. Sean said, "A mistake many make is to focus their planting on early plants which then wither, leaving the garden looking drab for the majority of the year. We aim to help gardens remain colourful and vibrant through the majority of the year."

On their website they say, "The projects we undertake, both locally and further afield, range from small urban gardens to larger country estates. Wherever possible our garden designs and landscapes are predominantly plant led with the hard landscaping playing an important supporting role.

We take a realistic approach to creating beautiful, lasting gardens often developing them in stages over many years and pride ourselves on the quality of our hard and soft landscaping with particular emphasis on thorough preparation thereby ensuring the best results in the long term." Well worth a visit to the Whitefield Lane nursery!



(left to right) Keith Pounder and Sean Walter in their greenhouse
Below are two of the flower shows they will be displaying.

CHENIES MANOR PLANT & GARDEN FAIR
Sunday 15 July 2018 10.00 am – 5.00 pm
Chenies Manor House, Chenies, Bucks WD3 6ER
www.cheniesmanorhouse.co.uk/the-plant-fair/
SUSSEX PRAIRIE GARDEN
Unusual Plant & Garden Fair

Sunday 2 September 2018 11.00 am – 5.00 pm
Sussex Prairies, Morland Farm, West Sussex BN5 9AT
www.sussexprairies.co.uk/events-courses/unusual-plant-and-garden-fair