

Studio Elwes

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The Garden Dispatch

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New beginnings bloom

Welcome to the first edition of The Garden Dispatch, a semi-regular periodical published with the intention of giving subscribers a 'behind the scenes' look at the goings-on at Studio Elwes, as well as inspiration, topical commentary and further musings generally on the topic of gardens and design.

RHS Chelsea Flower Show x Country Life

With all eyes on Chelsea this month it seemed appropriate to write about our collaboration with Isabella Worsley for the Country Life trade stand.

The stand represents Studio Elwes's first foray into the world of show gardens, and we're thrilled to be linking up with such popular and established names. The brief for the stand was to create an indoor-outdoor 'drawing room', fusing the Italianate, loggia style room with the classic British aesthetic that Country Life is so well known for. The walls will be painted in warm, chalk wash tones of a golden turmeric shade, while Artorius Faber, the brilliant stone masons based in Somerset, have kindly built a stone fireplace and hearth, arched windows and a functioning water basin. To support this structure, we have introduced vines up the wall, carefully creeping across the wall as if, over time, they have worked their way through gaps in structure. Large pots, generously donated by Italian Terrace, will be filled with (hopefully) fruiting citrus trees and underplanted with mediterranean perennials like *Euphorbia myrsinites* to bring a pop of colour. The show opens to the public on Tuesday 20th May and runs until the 24th.

It's been a real pleasure working with the team on this project, there's been a wonderful energy to the process, spurred on by the opportunity that Country Life have allowed us, to create a trade stand unlike anything else one will see at the show.



Roses en Regalia

Meanwhile, the nation experienced the warmest Spring since we all found ourselves locked down in 2020. Given how wet and cold it was this time last year, it's a joy to see plants exploding into life. One such set of plants that has, in my garden at least, gone off like rockets are the roses. When we moved into our house, almost three years ago, there were only about 5 plants worth keeping, one of which was a rather underperforming David Austen 'Golden Showers' rose. With heavy winter pruning and the occasional feed, this climber has gone from strength to strength and now flowers for almost 9 months of the year. Previously I wouldn't have chosen a yellow rose, apart from, perhaps, the elegant *Rosa Banksiae* 'Lutea', but with its long season, its lush healthy green leaves and its habit of blooming in a bright yellow and fading to cream, I have fallen for this plucky survivor and hope to convince others of its virtue.

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