



# **Medway Court -** *celebrating 70 years with a rejuvenated community garden*

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1955-2025

foodscape  






# Design Brief

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To rejuvenate the Medway Court community garden to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the estate

- ▶ Using the flora of river Medway estuary as inspiration, to create a Kentish fruiting hedgerow on the south wall of the site in the raised bed
- ▶ Refurbish and revitalize the large, original, conical concrete planters to plant fruiting architectural plants .
- ▶ Introduction of a new planting scheme to make the garden a thriving community garden and asset
- ▶ The addition of fresh compost to the raised beds and low maintenance flowering perennials with ground cover plants for continuous flowering throughout the summer while creating a natural mulch retaining moisture in the drought vulnerable raised beds
- ▶ Installation of draped, solar powered hanging lights across the gazebos to bring the garden to life in the evening
- ▶ Site deep-clean



Area to have compost added to raised beds, removal of dead and diseased existing shrubs and addition of fresh flowering perennials as well as pruning and training existing wisteria.

Proposed fruiting hedgerow on south wall.

Existing concrete planters to be planted with fruiting architectural trees and moved.







## Architectural Plants





# Sea Buckthorn

## *Hippophae Rhamnoides*

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Large deciduous shrub with narrow, willow-like, silvery leaves and thorny shoots. Very small, yellow-green flowers in racemes during spring, are followed by small, bright orange berries on female plants.

This plant would be well suited as an architectural plant, to be planted in one of the three large conical concrete planters or as part of the hedgerow. Although not a native plant they are common sight around the salt marshes of the Medway.









# Dwarf Strawberry Tree

## *Arbutus unedo compacta*

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Compact, dense evergreen shrub about 2.5m tall, with red-brown bark and mid-green leathery leaves. Sprays of pink-tinged, white, urn-shaped flowers appear in autumn, together with the previous year's red fruit which make delicious jam or can be eaten fresh.

This plant would be well suited as an architectural plant, to be planted in one of the three large conical concrete planters









# Olive Tree

## *Olea Europaea*

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Has a rugged, much-branched habit and slow growth, eventually 4.5-9m. Leaves are narrowly obovate or oval, to 7.5cm long, leathery, silvery beneath. Very small white flowers are borne in axillary racemes to 5cm long. Many cultivated varieties have been developed from this species, some of which may fruit in UK under favorable conditions.









# Blue wattle

## *Acacia Dealbata*

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An evergreen shrub to 10m or more, with finely divided grey-green leaves and fragrant yellow flowerheads, borne in terminal clusters.









# Chinese Magnolia

## *Magnolia sieboldii*

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Large, deciduous shrub or spreading, small tree to 8m tall, with dark green leaves, downy grey-green beneath to 15cm long. Strongly scented, cup-shaped flowers appear in late spring and early into midsummer, with 12 white petals and a large boss of deep red stamens in the center. Ornamental fruits turn crimson-pink in autumn









Fruiting Hedgerow Plants





# Apple Tree

## *Malus Domestica*

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Cordon apple trees are space-saving mini trees that have just one main stem with short branches that carry the fruit and flowers.

Establishing a small row of Cordon apple trees on the south facing wall would be easy to maintain and provide apples as well as pears, plums and sloes depending on the fruit tree planted. The trees are of a relatively low cost at around £30-£40 per tree.

This would be in keeping with the river Medway theme as a combination of Sloe (black thorn) apple and hawthorn are typical of a Medway Delta hedgerow









# English Hawthorn.

## *Crataegus Laevigata*

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English hawthorn is widespread and native from Europe to North Africa. It is found along forest edges, in shrub lands and in uncultivated open spaces. It prefers warmer, moister and more nutrient-rich locations than *Crataegus monogyna*. English hawthorn thrives in partial shade, is quite hardy and is highly tolerant of wind and damage from cuts. It typically grows 2 to 6m tall and wide.

These attributes make it a great candidate for the perimeter beds to form a natural hedge row. Can also be purchased in tree form.









# Bilberry

## *Vaccinium Myrtillus*

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A deciduous, suckering, usually prostrate shrub to 30cm high with dense, bright green, angular stems and ovate, glossy leaves that are often flushed red in autumn. Pendant, rounded to urn-shaped, pink flowers borne in the leaf axils in late spring to early summer are followed by blue-black, edible berries.

This native relative of the blueberry is well suited to container growing, inexpensive and drought resistant compared its North America cousin and would work well in the raised beds.









# Ground cover & flowering perennials

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# Necklace Vine

## *Muehlenbeckia Complexa*

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A deciduous climber, forming dense masses of slender, wiry, much interlaced stems, reaching 2.5-3m but vertical height usually not relevant. Dark green leaves are small, to 2cm long, variable in shape (roundish, heart-shaped, oblong and fiddle-shaped). Flowers greenish, borne in small terminal and axillary spikes in autumn. On female plants only, the perianth persists to a fruiting stage, becoming enlarged, glistening waxy white, enclosing a black, shining nutlet.

Adding Necklace vine to various strategic places in the beds will provide an attractive ground cover and will cascade over the sides of the raised beds. Easy to prune and maintain and will reduce watering requirement of nearby plants in summer.









# Chameleon Plant

## *Houttuynia Cordata*

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A wide-spreading herbaceous perennial to 30cm in height, with multi coloured leaves and dense flower spikes in late spring.

The leaves can be used as an unusual vegetable and is very easy to maintain. Provides colour at times of the year when there is little activity in the garden.









# Wall Bellflower

## *Campanula Portenschlagiana*

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Low-growing perennial quickly forming an evergreen mound to 15cm tall of small, broadly heart-shaped, mid-green leaves. Tubular to funnel-shaped, violet-blue flowers 2cm in length are borne freely on loose branching stems spreading to 50cm or more, in summer.

Although quite common, Campanula are inexpensive and will have an instant effect when planted.









# Mexican Fleabane

## *Erigeron Karvinskianus*

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A semi-evergreen perennial, forming wide mats to about 15-30cm in height, with wiry branching stems bearing narrow, hairy grey-green leaves. Yellow-centred, daisy-type flower-heads 15mm in width, open white but soon turn pinkish-purple, during the summer.







# Purpletop Vervain

## *Verbena Bonariensis*

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A tall herbaceous perennial with erect, branching stems to 2m in height, bearing sparse, oblong leaves. Numerous branched clusters of small, lilac-purple flowers appear from summer to autumn; these are a good nectar source for pollinating insects.











## Salvia 'Hot Lips'

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A bushy plant, about 100 x 100cm, evergreen if not cut back by frost, with small, ovate, aromatic green leaves. Flowers are borne in loose terminal racemes, red in midsummer, bicolored red and white in July and August, sometimes completely white when the days shorten. Very floriferous in all its colour stages, continuing to the first frost







# Indicative Costs

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- ▶ Plants & Materials - £1,786
- ▶ Professional Services - £2,116

**Total - £3,902\***

*\*Costs exclude VAT*

