

James Crebbin-Bailey

James is recognised as a specialist in Sculptural Topiary, creating new and innovative shapes, as well as classical Topiary designs such as Spirals, Cloud pruned Topiary, wave hedging or topiary Peacocks.

James can advise on all aspects of practical garden design and Topiary of any size or scale, from re-shaping Topiary that has lost its definition, to complete re-design.

His skills in creating topiary shapes have been recognised by industry leaders and his work and demonstrations have been featured in many classical exhibits displaying topiary – Chelsea, Hampton Court, RHS London and on TV. James' topiary and tuition are featured in several books.

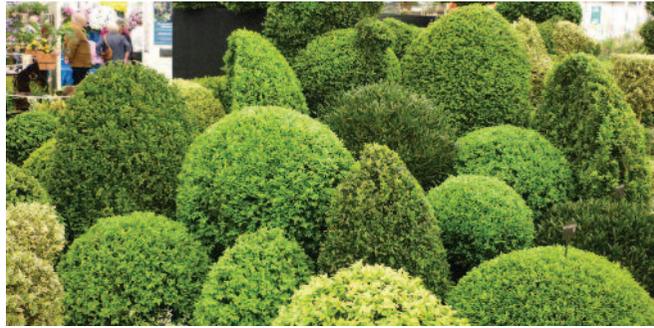
James was awarded 'Best Newcomer in Floral Marquees' at RHS Hampton Court 2002, Most Creative in Floral Marquees' RHS Hampton Court 2004 and is a Gold Medallist RHS London November 2005 and many other awards since 2002. **Gold Medallist RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011 and 2012.**

Topiary Arts adopts a conscious responsibility to protecting our environment with a commitment to continuous improvement in environmental performance and management, rain water harvesting, wildlife and biodiversity.

Topiary Arts grow healthy English topiary plants in a walled garden of Copped Hall, respecting the ecology of the earth's organism and overall delicate balance of nature. Where control measures are warranted we seek to use the minimum approach necessary to manage the plants by integrating environmental management procedures and best practice within our business.



James Crebbin-Bailey – RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2012, Gold medal



Sponsors - turf (Lindum Turf) / edging board (Everedge) and EBTS (European Boxwood & Topiary Society)



Topiary Arts

CELEBRATING
100
YEARS
OF TOPIARY AT
RHS CHELSEA
FLOWER SHOW



Topiary 1913 to 2013

In celebration of 100 years of topiary being exhibited at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

An exhibit showing topiary traditionally displayed by Herbert Cutbush (left) at the 1913 Chelsea Flower Show, leading into Topiary Arts more innovative style of exhibiting sculptural topiary in 2013, with contrast in shape and form, enhanced with herbaceous under planting.



Cutbush's exhibition of 1913

Herbert James Cutbush exhibited topiary plants at the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show in 1913. His slogan for the exhibit was Cutbush's 'Cut Bushes' and shows an arrangement of topiary set down on grass in oak barrels, with balls in the foreground and birds and sculptural shapes behind.



HISTORY

Wm. CUTBUSH & SON
Nurserymen by Special Warrant to His Majesty King Edward VII,
HIGHGATE NURSERIES, LONDON, N., and BARNET, HERTS.

CUTBUSH'S CUT BUSHES: An immense quantity of yews and box clipped into most curious shapes, such as birds, spiral columns, dogs, etc. Also an exceedingly fine stock of box and yew trees in pyramid forms and standard and pyramidal bay trees in perfect condition established in tubs.

TREES: A large and varied collection of hardy ornamental trees; also grand stocks of limes, planes, poplars, elms, sycamores, birch, etc., grown singly, specially for park and avenue planting.

LANDSCAPE GARDENING AND PLANTING: Plans and estimates may be had for the laying-out and planting of new, or the renovation of existing gardens in any part of the British Kingdom.

Topiary History - Time Line

- 7,000 BC Buxus growing in England UK – pollen grains discovered dating to this time – destroyed during Glacial epoch.
- 4,000 BC Egyptians clipped box hedges in their gardens.
- 800 BC In the tomb of King Midas a table made from the wood of Buxus was discovered in 1951.
- 300 BC Greek horticulturist Theophrastus recognised the virtues of Buxus.
- 100 BC Rome - In the reign of Emperor Augustus many villas were planted with Buxus hedging and Topiary. Roman gardener, Pliny grew Buxus for his garden and for making musical instruments. Romans re-introduced Buxus to England.
- Dark Ages Europe returned to topiary through hedges and galleries. One special form was the clipping of trees into tiers (wedding cake).
- 1494 During the reign of Henry V11 Tudor, Knots or Knotts first recorded with clipped box, thrift or cotton lavender, bordering them.
- 1509 - 1547 During the reign of Henry V111, individual specimens were cut for Hampton Court Palace. Cones, spheres, running greyhounds, deer, bears, urns, vases and boats, mostly in Cypress.
- 1549 Parterre – first used in France then used in England from 1639 which may have been influenced by Queen Henrietta-Maria wife of Charles1.
- 1603 - 1625 Clipping seems originally to have been done with very sharp but small knives. By 1606 during James 1 reign, sheers similar to those used today were in use.
- 1660 - 1685 During the reign of Charles11, John Evelyn writing in 1662, claimed to be the first to bring Yew into fashion.
- 1652 USA - Nathaniel Sylvester believed to have planted the first Buxus sempervirens at his Long Island home.
- 1720c Ha Ha – Sunken boundary – thought to be first created by Charles Bridgeman (1690 – 1738), instigator of the naturalistic landscape movement which caused the destruction of many formal parterre and topiary gardens.
- 1700 By the early 18th Century, several nurseries in Great Britain were producing already formed topiary specimens in containers, and some of their original creations are almost certainly still to be seen at Levens Hall in Cumbria.
- 1716 - 1783 Lancelot Brown (known as Capability Brown), renowned for natural landscape movement.
- 1854 – 1933 Harold Ainsworth Peto – originally an architect who sold his practice and his contract stated that he was not allowed to practice architecture for a period of 15 years. He became an interior and garden designer specialising in Italianate gardens – Iford Manor, Bradford-upon-Avon.
- 1869 – 1944 Edwin Lutyens – architect and a former pupil for one year of Harold Peto. Created many gardens in partnership with Gertude Jekyll.
- 1850c The latter part of the 19th century saw a vast influx of plants from South and Central America and South Africa, usually tender perennials which had to be over wintered and bedded out in late spring. This led to a return to the Knott garden and Parterre, with their clipped box edging and clipped cotton lavender, sometimes referred to as carpet bedding.
- 1913 Herbert J. Cutbush, a nurseryman, also specialising in topiary. Exhibited Cutbush's Cut Bushes at flower shows around the country and a display of Topiary at the present site of RHS Chelsea Flower Show 1913 – an arrangement of topiary including exotic birds and animals set down on grass.
- 1925 Nathaniel Lloyd – influenced by Lutyens – first published a book entitled 'Garden Craftmanship in Yew and Box. Father of Christopher Lloyd, Great Dixter.
- 1990c Cleve West, garden designer – modern sculptural topiary
- 2000 Topiary Arts – James Crebbin-Bailey, Topiary specialist