



Growing inspiration in your garden...

PRESS RELEASE

Chelsea Pensioners name new sweet pea Scarlet Tunic after Royal Hospital and Public Votes (MRF585)

Chelsea Pensioners were on hand at Mr Fothergill's Kentford, Suffolk, trial ground in mid August 2016 to name a blend of sweet peas in red shades aimed at raising funds for the Royal Hospital Chelsea. It has been called Scarlet Tunic, after the Pensioners' distinctive apparel, following a ballot of the residents of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and a public online vote. Mr Fothergill's will donate 25p to the Royal Hospital Chelsea for every £2.19 packet of 20 seeds sold. It will be on sale from its own counter-top display at garden centres and other retailers nationwide from autumn 2016.

The Suffolk seedsman says it hopes Britain's gardeners will help it to raise more funds for the Royal Hospital Chelsea with the launch of Scarlet Tunic for the 2017 season and in the years ahead. Mr Fothergill's supportive retailers and gardeners have already helped the company raise more than £50,000 for the Royal Hospital Chelsea through sales in 2015 and 2016 of its poppy Victoria Cross. Sweet pea Scarlet Tunic continues that backing for the veterans of the British Army. Mr Fothergill's was recently honoured by being granted Corporate Patron status by the Hospital.

Rachael Ferguson, corporate partnerships officer at the Royal Hospital Chelsea said "We are delighted at Mr Fothergill's continued support, which is well known among and appreciated by the Chelsea Pensioners. The backing from the company and its thousands of customers, for which we are grateful, is quite remarkable".

Mr Fothergill's joint-managing director David Carey commented "Our continued commitment to the Royal Hospital Chelsea is testament to the generosity and loyalty of our garden centres stockists and their customers, of whom we are proud. Their support provides tangible benefits to the men and women who have served our country".

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was established in 1682 by Charles II to provide a safe home for military veterans 'broken by age or war'. The Christopher Wren-designed Royal Hospital admitted its first pensioners in 1692.

For more information on Mr Fothergill's 2017 retail seed range, please telephone 01638 554111, log on at www.mr-fothergills.co.uk or e-mail info@mr-fothergills.co.uk

Ends

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To download hi-res images please click on the pictures below.

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