

Llandaff Campus Natural Dye Garden Project: Phase One

Dr Keireine Canavan (CSAD Textiles)

'There are no known natural dye garden facilities, linked to an academic dyeing laboratory in a UK university'.

Lucille Junkere

The Cardiff Metropolitan University Student Experience Fund is backing the opportunity for interested students and staff from Llandaff Campus to join the project. **Phase One** will generate a group of interested people and propagate lots of ideas, which will then bloom into a feasibility study (costings and creative possibilities etc) for **Phase Two: The Big Build**.

What is the dye garden for?

The Natural Dye Garden Project is in direct response to student interest in **colour and dyeing**, and will revitalise endangered **natural dyeing skills** and techniques in Wales. It will create **design projects** opportunities (think raised plant beds of metal or wood, lazer cut signage and unusual seating, pagodas, interactive media links....and more). It will enhance the academic delivery of **colour theory** across the School of Art & Design and provide a lovely place to Sit and draw, while enhancing the environment and **campus eco-system**.

(Listen to: BBC Radio 4 I-Player: David Hockney and Stephen Fry's discussions about the 'Language of Colour')

What's been accomplished to date?

- Ground to the rear of the Art Block building has been agreed by the Llandaff Campus Estate management team, as well as an important ongoing maintenance programme for the garden
- Staff visits to the Horniman's Dye Garden in London, for information and inspiration have taken place, and experts and consultants have been contacted for advice and will be visiting Llandaff campus
- Prof Olwen Moseley, CSAD Dean supports the idea!

What's next?

Group meeting: **'Natural Dye Garden Project: Getting to the Root of Things'** for all interested enthusiasts on **Thursday 21 April at 1.00-1.45pm in the CSAD Room B1.06** with Keireine.

- Two students will join Keireine and Helen Watkins on a car journey to Wales National Wool Museum to see a new dye garden facility - all expenses paid
- Local Dye expert Jane Meredith, will be invited to the campus to provide important horticultural advice
- Campus awareness will commence by building a small garden plot/ tub/ other at the front of the Art Block, complete with dye plants and imaginative signage.

Interested? How can you get involved? No gardening experience needed – lots of ideas required!

Email Keireine now and come to the meeting on **Thursday 21 April at 1.00pm Room B1.06**

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