Press Release. Garden of Sanctuary 11/06/21

Mires Beck Nursery in North Cave has been working with Hull City of Sanctuary. Our aim has been to develop a Garden of Sanctuary, where sanctuary seeking people would be able to get involved in demonstrating their knowledge and skills around growing plants and could also learn new skills in helping to maintain this wonderful garden at our beautiful horticultural nursery. This long-term project, which is in its infancy, will mature both as a garden and as a reach to the sanctuary seeking community in our area. As a charity looking after vulnerable people in society, we felt strongly that our ‘Place to Grow’ was right for this garden project. www.miresbeck.co.uk

The original idea for the sanctuary garden was that it would demonstrate the migration of plants, both ornamental and edible, from many of the parts of the world, with many of the plants in the garden being East Asian, South American or South African in origin as these suits the conditions.

Our design has borrowed ideas from Nigel Dunnett’s naturalistic planting schemes around the Barbican which seek to recreate a central Asian Steppe landscape (including many Middle Eastern plants). The garden is roughly divided into a Middle Eastern/ central Asian zone, a strip of edibles, an African/South American tropical zone and an East Asian woodland wet and dry shade zone.

Alice the garden designer says ‘’I was also inspired by pictures of Jimi Blake’s Huntingbrook gardens in Wicklow, which in true Irish style is more tropical and includes bananas, grasses, amaranthus, dahlias, crocosmias and melianthus as a background!  The melianthus was my own idea as it looks fabulous in my own garden.  In fact, my own garden was also a major inspiration. There will also be a selection of climbers grown chosen for their suitability for the site and I have grown some vegetables for the garden. Some plants of interest in the garden:  
Pineapple broom from Morocco, Musa sikkimensis from India, and Ensete ventricosum from Ethiopia. I have donated 3 banana plants (India and Ethiopia), 4 bamboo plants (China), 1 abutilon (Chile), 1 paulownia tree (China) and 1 mountain papaya tree (South America) all grown from seed at home.

We are delighted to be accredited with the award this week and will officially open the Garden at the start of World Refugee week on the 20th of June. The garden launch will be officiated by Martin Pliener, Secretary of Hull City of Sanctuary, and Cecil Jones from Hull Open Doors charity who has been involved in helping formulate the planting ideas and finding interested parties for the project. **Steve Ibbetson, Chair of Hull City of Sanctuary said "For me the Mires Beck project is so appropriate because it meets the basic human needs of food, warmth and shelter. The food that is grown and the warmth and shelter of the welcome offered to refugees seeking a new life of safety in this country."**