

THE REEP McLAREN SCHOLARSHIP 2016

During their three weeks in England, Ines, Nezha and Rhiannon will be visiting various historic gardens from the time of Shakespeare, comparing them with horticulture and design in their own country and getting a sense of historical context. In the time of Shakespeare our three countries were at war – now we want them to be gardening!

Last year REEP exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show with a version of the Anglo-Moroccan Shakespeare garden that had been made at Cadi Ayyad University in Morocco. The idea is that there is a link from Islamic garden form up through Europe to Renaissance garden forms. On this basis REEP has created an Anglo-Moroccan Shakespeare form that can be adjusted to different conditions, planting possibilities and climates in any country. Over 40 of the plants mentioned in Shakespeare can be found in Morocco in some variety, and even more in Spain. Gardens like this can be made quite easily and are great outdoor performance spaces and stimulants for learning. One of the things the Scholars have discovered at New Place is that the design and planting of the parterre (knot garden? Herb garden?) could easily be redesigned for successful growth in Morocco or Spain. Maybe that will be on the agenda in future.

For more, see www.reepinfo.org/gardens-in-morocco

THE SCHOLARS

SPAIN

Inés Parias Cervera

Inés' completed a degree in Agriculture Engineering at the University of Seville, Spain, before travelling to England and France for practical horticultural training with the Royal Horticultural Society at RHS Wisley and with Entre Ciel et Vert in Paris. She then went on to complete a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture and Garden Design, followed by advance training in the Rehabilitation of Historic Parks, Gardens and Cultural Landscapes at the Polytechnic University of Madrid in Spain. Today Inés works in Spain as a freelance landscape architect and garden designer, responsible for a number of major design projects.

MOROCCO

Nezha Kejaat

Nezha is young and relatively new to horticulture but she is passionate to learn more about plants and gardens. She has been involved in REEP projects for a number of years, including the creation of the Shore to Shore garden *Le Jardin Rendezvous* at her school, Lycée El Jadida, Essaouira in 2014. In 2015 Nezha and other students from El Jadida College visited London as part of the Shore to Shore 2015 programme, which included a trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Shortly before beginning the REEP McLaren Scholarship Nezha enjoyed work experience in the newly established market garden at Jereca Farm in the Ourika Valley – Morocco's main growing region – where she studied traditional and modern methods of plant care in Morocco. Nezha graduates from El Jadida College this year and hopes to undertake further training in gardens after completing the REEP McLaren Scholarship.

ENGLAND

Rhiannon Matravers

REEP Development Officer, Rhiannon Matravers, organised the activity programme for the REEP McLaren Scholarship in England during June and July 2016. For this first scholarship programme Rhiannon is also operating as the English scholar, gardening alongside Nezha and Inés in addition to her other responsibilities. After completing BA (Hons) and MA degrees in fashion, Rhiannon retrained as a gardener with the National Trust at Chartwell in Kent, completing a City & Guilds Diploma and a National Trust Academy Diploma. Rhiannon was fortunate to be involved in the creation of REEP's three Shore to Shore gardens in Morocco in March 2014. Last year she was one of the first English students to take part in the

TRIAD Fellowship, spending 4 months each at the National Trust at Hidcote Manor Gardens, Kiseki no Hoshi Botanical Museum and other gardens in Japan, Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, USA. She has been working for REEP since September 2015.

THE REEP McLAREN SCHOLARSHIP 2016

This new three-way scholarship between the United Kingdom, Morocco and Spain gives opportunities for young people who are interested in gardening, landscape design, history and cultural exchange. Through both innovative Scholarship projects and projects of our partner organisations, such as the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, participants can deepen their practical knowledge and wider cultural understanding – and make new friends in all three countries. We are developing a network of people interested in creating new opportunities for the future and we are using the Scholars' experience to provide learning for people outside the scheme, for example through new English Language Teaching video based on the Scholars' experience as they work in historic gardens such as New Place this summer.

Future rounds of the Scholarship will take place in Morocco and Spain.

The Scholarship itself has grown out of the Martin McLaren Memorial Scholarship, which has been giving opportunities to young British and European gardens since 1989 and is now run by the National Trust.

SHORE TO SHORE – Creative Collaboration

THE SHORE TO SHORE project is REEP's intercultural, interfaith project creating spaces where young people from Britain and Morocco can explore and work together through the arts (drama, music, cookery, dance...), discussion and gardening.

The project is unusual in having a double focus on historic and modern times. For nearly a millennium the countries have had very active trade links – in the 17th century these included the import of British slaves to the Barbary Coast and the export of spices and gold to Britain. As the 17th century is also the time of Shakespeare, Shore to Shore can make connections through the culture of his age.

ABOUT REEP

In a world of argument, conflict, greed and misunderstanding, how can we build bridges and keep a sense of awe, wonder, respect and purpose? This is the vital question that has motivated REEP over the last twenty five years. Our aim is to foster changes in attitude through experience – spiritual as well as practical – and we do this through innovative projects in education, horticulture, the arts and faith traditions.

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