



Picture shows: Landscape designer Susanna Brown (top left) with volunteers who are helping to create 'The Paradise Moghul Garden' in Small Heath Park, Birmingham

Joining the TV Army

Take a chunk of wasteland in Birmingham, a pinch of Charlie Dimmock and eager local kids, mix well with landscape designer Susanna Brown and you've got the ingredients for a TV programme with a difference! Bradstone meets Susanna Brown, an avid Outlook reader to discuss her latest project.

With a wealth of TV experience Susanna Brown was the natural choice for project manager of a challenging community project in Birmingham for BBC programme 'Charlie's Garden Army'.

Susanna is managing the transformation of a piece of wasteland in Small Heath Park, Birmingham into a beautiful retreat for the whole community, "We've enlisted the help of many volunteers and are creating something that they can be really proud of."

'The Paradise Moghul Garden' is a collaborative design by Charlie and Susanna and will provide a colourful urban retreat. Hard landscaping products form the backbone of the garden with the focal point being a raised star shaped pool featuring a mosaic floor with walkways branching off and separating planting areas. There will also be 2 raised seating platforms and 3 Pavilions, all of which will be surrounded by bright, vibrant plants and trees.

As project manager, co-ordinating everyone involved hasn't been easy! "We've had a lot of people involved, from kids helping out after school to adults lending a hand during part of their evening jog. Everyone is very enthusiastic - too much sometimes, particularly the kids who all want to be doing the good jobs like planting trees and tiling!" Susanna Brown says.

Filming can make things a little difficult with a project like this but Susanna takes it all in her stride, "The key is to ensure you're flexible because often the order of work changes depending on what is being filmed, making things a little topsy-turvy."

Susanna is well equipped for the challenges of managing a TV project. After leaving Pershore college with a HND in Horticulture, landscape and amenity management she went on to a post-graduate course in landscape architecture at the University of Central England and now runs her own Landscape design business in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Charlie needn't worry about her job though as Susanna is happy utilising her talents away from the camera, "I thoroughly enjoyed the Small Heath project and would always be keen to help out with TV work. It's very rewarding to see your efforts on the screen - but even more so when people from all walks of life will enjoy the result for years to come."

The garden has taken 4 months to complete and is due to open to the public at the end of July. Charlie's Garden Army is due to start in August.



