

Case Study

Ratty's Refuge at the Chelsea Flower Show - Capel Manor College

Ratty's Refuge at the Chelsea Flower Show was designed by a team who have all studied at Capel Manor College, including Sylvia Ong-Mörtl who was awarded 'Student of the Year' on the OCN Plants and Planting Design course in 2006.

Ratty is the kind and good natured water vole who famous states 'there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats'. His exploits transport the reader into a gentle bucolic world in which the characters switch seamlessly from their natural animal habitats to living as humans.



This urban garden provides a green and peaceful refuge for people and wildlife, in particular the endangered water vole. It draws its inspiration from, and celebrates, the centenary of the classic children's book 'The Wind In the Willows' and its much-loved character Ratty, the water vole. Featuring a pond and native wetland plants, such as *Phalaris arundinacea* and *Iris pseudocorus*, the garden incorporates the elements required to attract water voles, showing gardeners how they can help to save this newly protected species.



For more information on the Capel Manor Garden Design Courses go to:
www.capel.ac.uk/courses/gardendesign/index.html