

Royal Horticultural Society

Don't cut the flower... of your staff

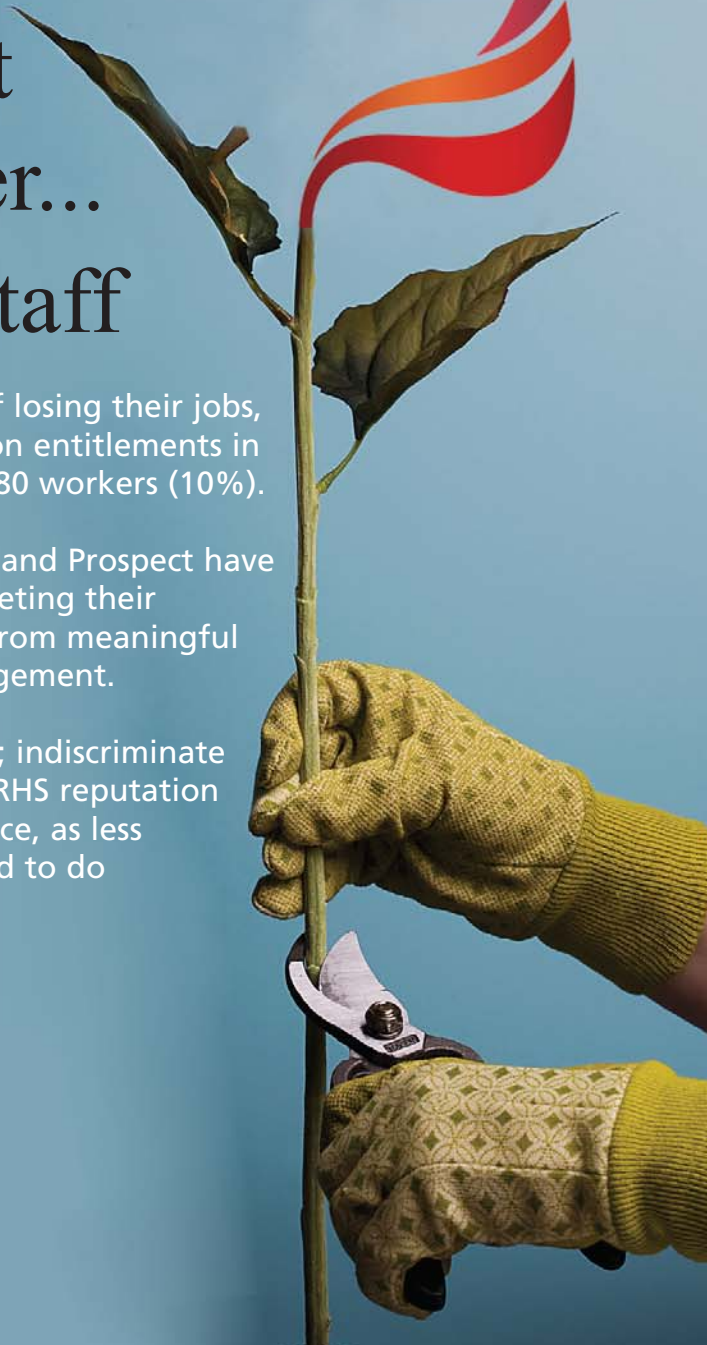
RHS staff are in fear of losing their jobs, tied houses and pension entitlements in planned cuts of up to 80 workers (10%).

Yet their unions Unite and Prospect have been banned from meeting their members on site and from meaningful discussions with management.

Unite the union warns; indiscriminate cuts will threaten the RHS reputation for gardening excellence, as less gardeners will be asked to do more work.



unite
the UNION



We ask these questions:

'If the RHS is making substantial surpluses, why the plan for draconian cuts?'

RHS Committee Member Dougal Philip is quoted as saying; contingency funds must be protected 'if Chelsea is cancelled because of terrorism or the Queen's Funeral'- is this sufficient reason for the cull?

Unite National Secretary Chris Kaufman says: 'We are appalled at the high handed attitude taken by RHS management towards a loyal, skilled and dedicated workforce. What happened to transparency and openness?'

I will be calling on Director General, Inga Grimsey for top level talks and for proper consultation on the business plan. Unite is not opposed to changes but they have to be rational and justified. I will also be asking Vice-Presidents like Alan Titchmarch whether they approve of what is being done in their names.

Meantime I have put Unite's parliamentary, legal and campaigns departments on the alert – including taking our message to thousands at the Tolpuddle Rally on 19 July 2009:

CUT THE GRASS, NOT THE STAFF

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