



BBC
Gardeners' World Live

Sponsored by: **LEXUS**

15 – 18 June | Birmingham NEC

Celebrating Gardeners' World at 50!

This year, 2017, we celebrate 50 years of BBC2's *Gardeners' World*! The TV team will be filming on the opening day of BBC Gardeners' World Live, catching up with presenters past and present, taking in the Show Gardens and Floral Marquee and enjoying the special birthday cake specially created by Nadiya Hussain. The hour-long anniversary episode will air on BBC2 on Friday 16 June, amidst the buzz and excitement of BBC Gardeners' World Live.

At BBC Gardeners' World Live we're marking this milestone in broadcasting history with two feature gardens designed by two of the country's most exceptional Garden Designers – **Paul Stone** with The Nostalgia Garden and **Professor David Stevens** with the Anniversary Garden.

The Nostalgia Garden

Designed by Paul Stone

When the swinging sixties in Britain were full on, a new BBC programme was launched to great acclaim and popularity – *Gardeners' World*. The rest is 50 years of amazing recorded gardening history!

BBC Gardeners' World Live 2017 looks back at how things were in the garden 50 years ago with a nostalgic scene from the 1960s designed by award-winning Garden Designer Paul Stone.



The garden invites the public to walk through a village scene typical of the period. The entrance is a humpback bridge with views down to a bubbling stream and flowering riverside plants in profusion. The first Flymo mower was sold 50 years ago and one can be seen keeping the grass in check on a section of the riverbank!

Look out for the typical period Garage, fuel pumps and even a classic 1960's Mini Cooper. There is also a Village store and of course a Garden Nursery Shop complete with hanging baskets and colourful annuals on display. Garden Centres were only just appearing in the 60s, with container grown plants available for sale for the first time.

Visitors will be able to see the top ten plants of the decade and compare them to those of 2017, and see if you can spot all the plants named after the *Gardeners' World* presenters over the years!

Paul Stone grew up in the 60s and started his gardening career in landscaping, going on to appear on *Gardeners' World* himself as well as designing and building Gold medal gardens at Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace Flower Shows. In 2016 Paul designed **The Canal Boat Garden** for BBC Gardeners' World Live, complete with narrow boat and all the colour, drama and naturalistic planting of the Midlands' famous waterways.

With thanks to Marshalls, St Andrew's Healthcare, Jiffy Pots

 **Marshalls**

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The Anniversary Garden: A Brief History of Modern Gardens

The past fifty years has probably seen a greater change in gardens than ever before. TV, radio and the media have made an enormous influence, publicising new ideas, trends and materials. *Gardeners' World* has been integral throughout, reporting and commenting on the day to day development of the horticultural world with an ever-changing band of enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters that brought their own skills to the programme.

Join Professor David Stevens and Peter Dowle as their unique creation puts the last 50 years of gardens on display in fascinating vignettes for each decade:



The **1960's** were still a time of relative austerity and domestic garden design was still in its infancy. Vegetables were widely grown while colour and vibrancy was the preserve of bedding plants. Patios and paved areas were built from materials to hand and the ever-present small lawn would fill the gaps.

During the **1970's** changes were afoot. Hard landscaping was available at the burgeoning range of garden centres. Planting became more sophisticated while fashion raised its head and many a garden sported a collection of heathers and conifers. Sweeping borders and geometric shapes became order of the day.

The 'Outdoor Room' came into its own in the **1980's**. Home owners wanted a place to enjoy with barbecues, sitting areas and easy to tend planting. The lawn often disappeared replaced by paving in defined patterns, design had become central to a new garden and this was very much reflected in the press and television.

As time passed and throughout the **1990's** there was a greater awareness in the environment and the wild flower meadow was popularised. The birth of the TV 'makeover' saw decking and gravel take centre stage and gardens were softer in style as well as being easy to maintain.

During the **2000's** the 'Room Outside' is being taken to new levels. New and elegant materials are readily available while growing vegetables returns to the fore. Planting styles embrace hardy perennials and grasses plus fruit trailed on walls and fences, harking back to gardens 100 years ago, the wheel has almost turned the full circle!

Professor David Stevens, designer of the Anniversary Garden, has a prestigious career with 26 RHS Chelsea medals, 11 of which have been Gold plus three Best in Shows. David opened the first ever BBC Gardeners' World Live with Geoff Hamilton, 25 years ago, and we're proud to welcome him back in this landmark year. **Peter Dowle, contractor for the Anniversary Garden**, is a Chelsea, Malvern and Hampton Court Gold award winning landscape designer, based at Howle Hill Nursery.

With thanks to Marshalls, Rolawn, Quercus,



Plus...The Jubilee Bed!

A huge commemorative flower bed will be planted at BBC Gardeners' World Live this year to celebrate the 50 years of *Gardeners' World*. A veritable feast for the eyes, the bed, planted with up to 75,000 ageratum and marigolds, will be on a bank overlooking the outdoor area of the Show.

BBC Gardeners' World Live, 15 – 18 June NEC Birmingham. www.bbcgardenersworldive.com. For more information, interviews or promotions: Sarah Sandys-Renton 020 3405 4286 / sarah.sandys-renton@riverstreetevents.co.uk