

April 2019

## **Roots to Fruit join BBC Gardeners' World Live 2019**

**13-16 June 2019 | Birmingham NEC**

BBC Gardeners' World Live 2019 sees the realisation of a dream held for the best part of a decade by childhood friends Jon Ensell and Adam Holder.

They established the not-for-profit Social Enterprise 'Roots to Fruit' in the latter part of 2013, and since then have worked tirelessly to create a business that delivers education and therapy through horticulture, gardening and the natural world to the broadest spectrum of people imaginable.

"We've always seen Roots to Fruit as a patchwork quilt" Jon told us. "Our services are accessed by such a diverse group of people; as a provider registered to deliver nationally recognised horticultural and land based qualifications, we're helping adults from various backgrounds to work towards, and achieve, their career goals. Running alongside all of this is our work with literally hundreds of primary school children every week, embedding and enriching the National Curriculum in around 10 schools across the region."

"Gardeners' World Live this year is giving us our first opportunity to bring all of those separate strands together in one place to create something really unique and quite special."

The boys have taken on a Beautiful Border, with the design, construction and cultivation of the plants undertaken by every person involved with Roots to Fruit.

"We want our people – the children and adults – to attend the Show and to see a little something of themselves in the finished border. To see some element of it that has their fingerprint on it."

Roots to Fruit will also be entering 6 of their schools in the Schools Wheelbarrow competition – where children are encouraged to grow and cultivate the native plants from a country of their choosing – and to then plant-out an entire wheelbarrow with what they've produced.

Finally, the Show will see Roots to Fruit install a mini allotment, complete with several raised beds, in which the visitors – specifically children – can drop-in and try their hand at the various techniques involved in sowing seed and raising plants, with the RtF Practitioners on hand to instruct and guide.

With close links to the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and specifically their 'Go Landscape' initiative, Roots to Fruit will be showcasing the myriad of career opportunities that exist in landscape gardening, and will be offering taster sessions at which visitors can experience first-hand some of the skills that can be mastered in the field.

“This is perhaps our biggest ever undertaking.” Jon said, “But we’re ready for it. Gardeners’ World Live is a celebration of the wellbeing horticulture can bring. We’ve always known it, and it’s why we operate by the motto – cultivating great plants AND people. This is our opportunity to prove it.”

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## Ends

For more information please contact Nathalie Farrugia on [Nathalie.Farrugia@riverstreetevents.co.uk](mailto:Nathalie.Farrugia@riverstreetevents.co.uk) or call 020 3405 4286.

To apply for **The Wheelbarrow Competition** or to find out more information please contact Lucy at [lucy.tremlett@riverstreetevents.co.uk](mailto:lucy.tremlett@riverstreetevents.co.uk)

Read more about the Show here: [www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com](http://www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com)

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