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## PRESS RELEASE

### **BBC Gardeners' World Live Special Edition overflows with inspiration at colourful and vibrant show**

Thousands of keen gardeners headed to BBC Gardeners' World Live Special Edition last week for the one-off late summer edit of the much-loved annual show.

The team returned to the NEC in Birmingham last Thursday for the first time in over two years. Running until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August, it was a fabulous four-day celebration of the best in flowers, plants and gardening.

The Show Gardens, Showcase Gardens and Beautiful Borders overflowed with inspirational planting ideas and were enjoyed by visitors and the Garden Assessors alike.

The Show Gardens including *What Lies Beneath* by The APL with Professor David Stevens, and *On Your Bike!* by Hana Leonard and Armstrong Landscapes Ltd, drew large enthusiastic crowds. The accolade of Best Show Garden and Gold medal was awarded to Woodland Fall on the APL Avenue, by Antony Nutley and Tom Wooldridge of TAW Landscapes.

The 24 Beautiful Borders sponsored by eBay reimaged how to create inspirational space, no matter how small, and gave plenty of design ideas to recreate at home. The honour of Best Border was awarded to Tina Worboys for her stunning 'The Meadow' Beautiful Border which received a Platinum award. Beautiful Border sponsor, eBay, presented a design created by Kate Mason Gardens, entitled 'Garden Envy', which also scooped a Platinum Award and was a firm favourite with visitors including careful detail such as eBay coloured snails and nesting boxes plus plants with heart-shaped leaves to represent the 'like' function on the online marketplace.

'The Crowning Glory' Border by Marie-Claire Edwards scooped a Platinum Award and The Best BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Subscriber Border. While Gold Award Beautiful Border winner Peter Seabrook moved visitors with his 'Rosebed In Floral Fantasia' which included a new Verbena 'Margaret's Memory' in tribute to his late wife who died of Coronavirus on Good Friday last year.

The Gold Award award-winning 'Health & Relaxation' Border designed by Chris Sellars and Nick Osborn brought nature's healing fractals to the fore. Also known as the 'fingerprints of nature', fractals are geometric shapes that contain similar repeating patterns. When viewed, they are said to reduce stress by up to 60% as they activate areas of the brain responsible for regulating stress and can induce a meditative state.

Larchfield Trees, from Coventry, was awarded a double honour of Best Exhibit in the Floral Marquee and Plant of the Year Award for the Best New Plant Introduction at the Show for their 45-year-old, *Taxus cuspidata*. The Best Display of Late Summer Plants was awarded to Moore & Moore Plants, while the Best Retail Area in the Floral Marquee went to Harts Nursery. The outdoor Plant Village was bustling with shoppers taking home a variety of plants including bulbs from bulb specialists Petrichor, who took home the Best Plant Village award.

A popular highlight in the Floral Marquee was the brand-new House of Plants feature, designed by Sam Theakstone, including plants from nurseries in the Floral Marquee. Inspirational new voice in indoor-gardening expertise and online houseplant guru, Joe Bagley assisted Sam in one-to-one advice sessions for visitors.

On the My Gardeners' World Stage, special guests including Monty Don, Carol Klein and Adam Frost, plus Toby Buckland, joined the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Editors in sharing expert gardening tips. The advice didn't stop there as David Hurrion and Professor David Stevens took to the stage to discuss the healing power of gardening for mental and physical wellbeing in daily sessions with Stage sponsor Legal & General.

One to one advice from gardening experts Saul Walker and Lucy Chamberlain also proved popular, with an abundance of visitors coming away with their problems solved.

Headline Show sponsor Lexus created an experience inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku, a term meaning 'forest bathing'. The Lexus Forest enchanted its visitors and demonstrated how the natural world can lower stress levels and improve wellbeing.

Visitors shopped until they dropped from food producers in the pop-up BBC Good Food Market offered a variety of tasty treats. Everyone enjoyed the toe-tapping entertainment on the bandstand sponsored by Marella Cruises.

Portfolio Director for *BBC Gardeners' World* events, Rachel Poletti-Gadd said: "It was an absolute joy to welcome everyone back to BBC Gardeners' World Live. It was wonderful to see visitors getting so inspired by the display of plants, flowers and gardening experts."

Rachel continued: "Visitors were keener than ever to learn more about how to transform their outdoor spaces and our experts and presenters loved sharing their passion and knowledge with them."

For more information visit [bbcgardenersworldlive.com](https://bbcgardenersworldlive.com)

For highlight images of BBC Gardeners' World Live Special Edition please download [HERE](#)

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITOR**

Find out more at [bbcgardenersworldlive.com](https://bbcgardenersworldlive.com)



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