

PRESS RELEASE: 7 April 2022



## Garden inspiration at the BBC Gardeners' World Spring Fair

### 'Down Your Way' themed Beautiful Borders and Showcase Gardens

- Celebrating the BBC's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2022 with 'Down Your Way' inspired Beautiful Borders
- Hampshire-inspired designs by Longstock Park Landscapes, Sparsholt College, Heather Stevens, Ann Stow and Alton's Local Food Initiative
- NEW Hope Street Garden, representing the development of the Hope Street Hub in Southampton
- Wozel Gumidge inspired design by 'Best Border' winners 2021, Fairweather's Garden Centre

Spring garden and planting inspiration will be in abundance at the BBC Gardeners' World Spring Fair, at Beaulieu in Hampshire, from Friday 29 April to Sunday 1 May. As part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the BBC, the theme of the Borders and Showcase Gardens is 'Down Your Way'. As with the popular BBC Radio programme, each design will be infused with the essence of what makes a local area unique and special, to inspire even the smallest area of the garden.

Step into spring with a selection of garden inspiration that awaits you at the Fair:

### The Hillier Experience

Headline sponsor **Hillier** present a large garden feature of two different design styles. A contemporary side focuses on outdoor living with hedging, defined lines and modern paving to lead visitors into an alfresco dining area decorated with pots and structural shrubs. A traditional side takes on a distinctive old English garden style, with vibrant colours and herbaceous border to take visitors on a journey of vivacity and scent.

## Showcase Gardens

**The Hope Street Garden** represents the tranquil and healing garden space at the Hope Street Hub in Southampton. A space for calm reflection and conversations, it is a place to step into when things get overwhelming, connecting to nature to bring back inner peace. **Aura Landscapes'** 'Out with the New, In with the Old' will be a celebration of Shou Sugi Ban, a centuries-old Chinese wood-burning technique to bring out the natural texture of wood and reveal an inner beauty. A third Showcase Garden by **Longstock Park Landscapes** entitled 'The Longstock Way' is inspired by 44-mile long Hampshire footpath, The Test Way, which follows a disused railway line and passes through the Leckford Estate. Sustainability as at the garden's heart, with reclaimed materials, wildflower meadow and pond.

## Beautiful Borders

The 'Down Your Way' theme for the Beautiful Borders promises a wealth of garden and planting ideas that take direct inspiration from the landscape of The New Forest and Hampshire. Working with Maggie's Southampton Centre, **Sparsholt College's** Beautiful Border 'Maggie's Way' will be an oasis of calm, featuring plants grown in Hampshire's chalk downs and the heaths of the New Forest. Also inspired by the New Forest, **Heather Stevens'** 'Coastal Cottage Border highlights what the region has to offer on the doorstep, encompassing seaside planting blended with a cottage garden feel. **Ann Stow's** design, 'A Sense of Place' represents Hampshire's Georgian market town, Alresford, with pastel shades, burbling streams, chalk-loving planting and steam powered Watercress Line.

Local Beaulieu **Fairweather's Garden Centre**, winners of Best Beautiful Border 2021, present 'May Day at Patrick's Patch'. Inspired by local school children, this fun scene will feature Worzel Gummidge and Aunt Sally, with birds are enjoying the produce! Inspired by the Alton's Local Food Initiative (ALFI) gardens, the **ALFI Committee's** 'What's It All About ALFI' Border will showcase how the group of enthusiastic volunteers have developed unloved plots of land over ten years to create productive spaces overflowing with tasty produce, that and will inspire visitors to grow and eat local, seasonal and responsibly sourced food.

Bringing inspiration from further afield, **Christine Mulinder's** Border 'Elementary My Dear Watson' is inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of Sherlock Holmes, and incorporates memorabilia with overhanging trees representing Undershaw and dark planting with pops of colour to represent clues. 'A Victorian Garden Folly' designed by **Damien Michel** who won a Gold Award in 2021, takes inspiration from The Crystal Palace exhibition of exotic plants to inspire visitors to be creative in even the smallest of spaces.

Ogwen Valley, Snowdonia is the home of **Aaron Marubbi** and his Border is a celebration of its natural landscape incorporating slate crawiau fencing, a slate ribbon to represent the river Ogwen and naturalistic planting akin to the local heath and woodland edge habitats. The glorious and bright colours of the

peacocks who freely roam the cobbled streets of the historic town of Corsham inspire Wild Thyme Designs' **Border 'Peacock's Paradise'**. A green wall featuring sustainable planting and inspired by Shinrin-Yoku, the Japanese practice of Forest Bathing, will be presented by the Fair's automotive sponsor, **Lexus**.

Returning to the Fair, master grower **Jon Wheatley** presents The Working Garden, an enviable plot overflowing with colourful veg and tasty produce. This allotment-style garden will be complete with shepherd's hut style home-office and members of the local group of the **National Vegetable Society** will be on hand to help visitors with growing tips and advice.

Visitors to the Spring Fair will be able to shop for a spectacular variety of plants and gardening kit, learn from experts including the editors from BBC Gardeners' World Magazine with **Adam Frost** (Friday), **Joe Swift** (Saturday), **Frances Tophill** (Sunday), and taste the flavours of the **BBC Good Food Market** and **Street Food**, all whilst enjoying a beautiful day out at **Beaulieu!**

For tickets and further information please visit **bbcgardenersworldfair.com**

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#### NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Press accreditation is open. To apply for a pass and for more information on the show, [please click here](#)

About the **BBC Gardeners' World Spring Fair**, Beaulieu, Hampshire S042 7ZN:

Friday 29 April	9.30am – 5pm
Saturday 30 April	9.30am – 5pm
Sunday 1 May	9.30 – 5pm (sell off starts at 3pm)

Book tickets: **bbcgardenersworldfair.com**. 1.30pm entry tickets exclude access to Beaulieu's motoring attractions and monorail. Event Contact: Sarah Sandys-Renton, 07500 762168 / [ssr@immediate.co.uk](mailto:ssr@immediate.co.uk). Details correct at time of print.

#### **Beautiful Borders:**

<i>Christine Mulinder</i>	Elementary My Dear Watson
Sparsholt College Garden Design Diploma Cohort	Maggie's Way
Wild Thyme Gardens	Peacock Paradise Garden
<i>Ann Stow</i>	A Sense of Place
<i>Heather Stevens</i>	Coastal Cottage
<i>Rachel Foster of Fairweather's Garden Centre</i>	May Day morning in Patrick's Patch
<i>Damien Michel</i>	Victorian Garden Follie
<i>Aaron Marubbi</i>	Ogwen Valley - Snowdonia
<i>ALFI Committee</i>	What's it all about ALFI?

#### **Showcase Gardens:**

<i>Longstock Estate Landscapes</i>	The Longstock Way
<i>Aura Landscapes</i>	Out with the New, in with the Old
<i>Jon Wheatley</i>	The Working Garden
<i>Hope Street</i>	Title TBC

#### **Floral Features:**

<i>Lexus</i>	Vertical Garden
<i>NAFAS</i>	Floral Crown making Workshops
<i>Beaulieu</i>	1928 Austin Twelve Clifton

In an event is postponed, cancelled or Immediate Live (the trading name of Upper Street Events Ltd & River Street Events Ltd) deem it unsafe to run the event in light of UK Government and Public Health England guidelines regarding Covid-19, visitors will be contacted directly with regards to transferring their booking to a future date or requesting a refund. Refunds exclude the transaction fee.

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