

PRESS RELEASE
Monday 6th June, 2022

**BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF THE BBC
WITH GARDEN FEATURES INSPIRED BY POPULAR PROGRAMMES**



Caption (L-R): The Archers inspired feature designed by Paul Stone; Only Fools & Horses inspired feature designed by Jon Wheatley

Marking 100 years of the BBC, BBC Gardeners' World Live is set to showcase a series of special features in the Floral Marquee to celebrate the national broadcaster's centenary year.

The four-day **BBC Gardeners' World Live** event - which takes place from **16-19 June** at Birmingham's NEC - is an inspirational day out for all gardening enthusiasts, filled with beautiful Show Gardens, informative on-stage demos, live entertainment, shopping and appearances from the UK's favourite gardening experts.

In this special year, the Show's Floral Marquee will mark the centenary with a collection of displays inspired by popular BBC programmes - from *The Archers* and *Peaky Blinders* to *Only Fools and Horses* and *Top of the Pops!*

The celebratory features include a **Pebble Mill** inspired display that was personally designed by **Peter Seabrook**, who passed away earlier this year. The display, which is now being brought to life as a tribute to Seabrook and his long-running association with BBC Gardeners' World Live, pays homage to the *Pebble Mill at One* show, which was filmed in Birmingham and hosted by Peter from 1975 until 1986.

Peter produced the design and illustrations for the display, as well as personally selecting Pebble Mill memorabilia to feature within. The display will include a myriad of new plant varieties and plants grown by local school children, two areas of horticulture that Peter particularly championed.

A **Peaky Blinders** inspired feature, designed by **Alexandra Froggatt** who was awarded Platinum for her 'Watchmaker's Garden' at BBC Gardeners' World Live 2019, is a moody and industrial space. The feature incorporates antique artefacts from the Black Country Living Museum where much of the series was filmed.

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Taking inspiration from the iconic old dock yard space in the hit show, the feature includes a battered and weathered shack, which looks fitting for a Shelby, a safe for the gang's valuables and a horse drawn 'getaway' cart, while the table is set for a hard-earned Whiskey.

Award-winning designer **Paul Stone** returns to the Show, with his first ever feature in the Floral Marquee, inspired by BBC Radio 4's **The Archers**, which is recorded in Birmingham. Celebrating the BBC's centenary, this unique display pays homage to the series through its legendary characters, the Grundy Family.

Alongside the infamous Cider Club, its bottles, barrels and benches this rural farmyard scene is replete with wild flowers, rambling honeysuckle, a gnarled and mossy old cider apple tree and the pony trap loaded with cut flowers - no doubt one of Eddy's new ventures! A scene inspired by the engaging fictional world of *The Archers*, the garden is a celebration of the everyday story of country folk. Paul's previous Show Gardens include the 'Nostalgia Garden' designed as a celebration of 50 years of BBC Gardeners' World in 2017.

Other BBC-inspired displays in the Floral Marquee include:

- Lincolnshire Pond Plants, headed up by David Reynolds, will display a garden dedicated to **Mortimer and Whitehouse: Gone Fishing**. The display, which represents a typical jetty or 'fishing peg' at the edge of a pond, shows that even in a small garden you can create an aquatic wildlife haven, and will be finished with all the rods and nets that Bob and Paul might need on a day's fishing trip. Giant Bullrushes and Gunnera are interspersed with marginal planting including starry-flowered *Anemopsis californicum* and pink *Butomus umbellatus* and is topped off with a planting of unusual grasses and the fluffy white heads of cotton-grass.
- Master grower **Jon Wheatley** will present a garden homage to **Only Fools and Horses**. Featuring Del Boy's iconic three-wheeled car and a fruit and veg trading stand, the garden has been inspired by the hit show which aired on BBC One from 1981 – 2003.
- The **House of Plants** indoor gardening feature returns, this year transformed into a house plant house party of '70s and '80s plants, inspired by **Top of the Pops!**

Plus, the Floral Marquee tearoom gets a make-over this year as the **Paso Doble Cafe**, inspired by **Strictly Come Dancing** with music and ballroom dancing hosted by Stuart Holdham.

Additionally, **The Marshalls Sustainability Show Garden** design features a Corten-steel '100' in a nod to the BBC 100 anniversary theme.

A one-stop shop of spectacular displays, quality plants to buy and seasonal inspiration, visitors can also enjoy an exciting schedule of talks and demos, Q&As with the BBC Gardeners' World presenters, top tips and advice for every green-fingered enthusiast.

Rachel Poletti-Gadd, Portfolio Director at BBC Gardeners' World Live, said:

"BBC Gardeners' World Live is a wonderful opportunity for like-minded gardening enthusiasts to come together and celebrate the wonders of plants and the natural world. We're delighted

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that our much-loved Floral Marquee will this year host a number of special displays to mark the BBC's 100th year. From Top of the Pops to The Archers, I can't wait to see how these iconic TV programmes have inspired some of our award-winning garden designers. It promises to be a must-see for every keen gardener and we look forward to opening the doors to this year's event."

For more information and to book tickets to **BBC Gardeners' World Live**, please visit www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com

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Notes to editors:

About the Black Country Living Museum

The [Black Country Living Museum](http://www.blackcountrylivingmuseum.co.uk) is an open-air museum of rebuilt historic buildings in Dudley, West Midlands, England. It is located in the centre of the Black Country, 10 miles west of Birmingham.

About BBC Gardeners' World Live:

BBC Gardeners' World Live takes place from Thursday 16th June- Saturday 19th June at Birmingham's NEC. Standard adult tickets start from £26 per day.

This year, the Floral Marquee will host **The Plant Experts**, including **Lucy Chamberlain**, **Saul Walker** and BBC Radio WM's 'Laughing Gardener' **Darren Rudge**, on hand for one-to-one advice. New for 2022, the Plant Experts will also lead special morning Plant Expert Tours of their plant highlights at the Show. The Woodland Trust team also return with talks at their Tree Surgery with help and advice for visitors.

Also in the Floral Marquee, the **My Gardeners' World Stage** will welcome exhibitors, special guests and the BBC2 Gardeners' World presenters for a fascinating discussion about how we can all play our part for sustainability and the environment - being mindful of our gardening activities and the wider impact on wildlife and plants.

The **Floral Marquee** and **Plant Village** will also play host to a dazzling array of new and returning floral exhibitors, showcasing a stunning selection of quality plants for visitors to browse, buy and be inspired by.

Find out more and book tickets at bbcgardenersworldlive.com. Details correct at time of print.

In the event that either BBC Gardeners' World Live 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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