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Birmingham NEC

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Beautiful Borders and Showcase Garden shine spotlight on West Midlands at BBC Gardeners' World Live in June

Talented garden design teams from across the West Midlands will unveil stunning Beautiful Borders and Showcase Gardens at BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC Birmingham next month.

Much loved at BBC Gardeners' World Events', the Beautiful Borders competition is designed to offer inspiration for small gardens and challenging spaces. At just 9m², the small-space show gardens are packed with creative planting and design features. This year's Beautiful Borders theme is 'My Garden Escape'.

The **Cure Leukaemia Sunflower Display** has been designed by Kingswinford mum, Andrea Childs, as a tribute to her daughter, Beth, who sadly passed away from leukaemia in 2018, aged just 20. Andrea grows sunflowers in her garden in memory of her daughter, selling the seeds to raise money for national blood cancer charity, Cure Leukaemia. Andrea has raised thousands of pounds for Cure Leukaemia and will be selling fundraising sunflower seeds and plants throughout the show weekend. Also from Kingswinford are

Ashwood Nurseries who will present a stunning walk-through floral display in the BBC Gardeners' World Live Floral Marquee, depicting the history of the award-winning nursery and its landscaped gardens.

RHS Level 2 students from Winterbourne Centre for Horticulture, Birmingham have designed the **Wander and Wonder** border with Warwickshire garden designer, Paul Marshall, as a place to explore and escape. Under dappled shade, a meandering path resembling the bed of a once flowing stream lead through naturalistic planting to a secluded seating area, a tranquil pool and woodland sanctuary. Another Winterbourne student, Katie Day, has designed **As You Like It**, a border inspired by the Shakespeare play, set down the road from the NEC in the Forest of Arden. The design features a formal Tudor Parterre style garden with tightly clipped hedging, a decorative arch and log path, informal woodland style planting and a feature Hawthorn tree. Planting features the pink, blue and white colours of the trans flag, reflecting the gender swapping of the play's Rosalind.

Eleanor Morgan, a garden designer from Kings Heath in Birmingham, has found inspiration in the escapism of being lost in a good book, and will be creating a haven for book lovers called **Paradise in a Paperback**, while Moor Pool based garden designer Cathy Perry's Showcase Garden, **Where there's a Willow**, combines a mix of wild, cultivated and edible plants, natural materials and upcycled junk, and will be donated to Birmingham Hospice after the show ends.

Halesowen-based designer, Steven Ballinger, will be creating **A Quiet Corner**, a calm space to sit, relax and slow down, surrounded by plants and foliage, and Laura Houghton from Great Barr has designed the **Seven Days of Creation** border, inspired by gardens as places to reconnect with spirituality and to think widely about our existence.

A Shared Chrysalis by Stourbridge designer, Rachel Wells from Hortulani, is designed to create a protective, nurturing space to share with butterflies and moths throughout each stage of their development. Using plants that attract butterflies and moths during both day and night, the border incorporates water, resting areas and different habitats for different stages of the life cycle.

The Quiet Garden is designed by Gill Fothergill and Fay Grist from Link Nurseries, a small plant nursery and horticultural wellbeing centre in Powick, Worcestershire, part of Warwickshire College Group. The border represents Link Nurseries' own Quiet Garden which features summer flowers and perennials, a wildlife friendly stumpery, a potted herb garden and vertical pallet garden, a log slab pathway leading to a 'Well Bean' vegetable patch where club members grow salad crops, and a colourful wildflower meadow.

Rachel Poletti-Gadd, Portfolio Director - Gardening Division at Immediate Live, organisers of BBC Gardeners' World Live, said: "Visitors flock to see the Beautiful Borders and Showcase Gardens because

they are literally bursting with creative, inspiring ideas than can be achieved at home. The Borders, in particular, show that gardens don't have to be large, costly or complicated to be full of colour and character, and that even the most challenging spaces, like a shady spot or a tricky corner, can be transformed with some imaginative design. We can't wait to see these wonderful West Midlands borders, gardens and displays in situ at BBC Gardeners' World Live next month."

BBC Gardeners' World Live is a four-day extravaganza of garden inspiration, achievable take-home ideas and wonderful plants. Visitors can enjoy impressive Show Gardens, Beautiful Borders, competition gardens, and displays by specialist plant growers and nurseries in the Floral Marquee. The crème de la crème of gardening experts will be on stage at the BBC Gardeners' World Live Theatre, with Monty Don, Adam Frost, Carol Klein, Frances Tophill and Alan Titchmarsh in conversation with Nicki Chapman, and sharing practical advice with the BBC *Gardeners' World* Magazine editors.

There are plant and garden shopping opportunities galore, garden kit tips at the Tool Shed demonstration area, and one-to-one gardening advice from plant experts and specialists at the Let's Talk Plants Stage. New for 2023 is Hot Off the Potting Bench, a feature display of new plants and varieties, all vying to win the new Peter Seabrook Award for Best New Plant at BBC Gardeners' World Live. At the House Plant Hub, indoor gardening experts, Ellen Mary, Joe Bagley and friends will be sharing their secrets for happy, healthy house plants.

Tickets for BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC Birmingham (15-18 June) are on sale now at www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com, transaction fee applies. Tickets include entry to the BBC Good Food Show Summer which features demonstrations, workshops and interviews with culinary stars including James Martin, Nadiya Hussain, Michel Roux and Ainsley Harriott, plus street food, and delicious food and drink to taste and buy.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

For further information, interviews or pictures, please contact:

Julie Parmenter at Brampton PR, e: jparmenter@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 07775 715936

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

BBC Gardeners' World Live, 15 – 18 June NEC Birmingham | bbcgardenersworldlive.com. Event contact: ssr@immediate.co.uk.

Details correct at time of print. BBC Gardeners' World Live is organised and presented by Immediate Live (the trading name of River Street Events Ltd). The Gardeners' World logo is a trademark of BBC. © BBC.

Thursday 16 June	9am – 6pm
Friday 17 June	9am – 6pm
Saturday 18 June	9am – 6pm
Sunday 19 June	9am – 5pm

Co-located with the BBC Good Food Show Summer.

Book tickets: bbcgardenersworldlive.com

Information correct at time of writing

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