

**PRESS RELEASE: 22 August 2023**



## **Great Dunmow community gardener designs show garden at BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair**

**Great Dunmow flower grower, Cara Thompson, has designed a stunning Beautiful Border at the BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair at Audley End House and Gardens from 1 - 3 September.**

Much loved at BBC Gardeners' World Events, the Beautiful Borders are compact 9m<sup>2</sup> designs which offer inspiration for small gardens and challenging spaces, packed with design features and creative planting. This year's Beautiful Border theme is 'My Garden Escape'.

Cara began gardening during the first national lockdown and was on a mission to get her garden to flourish. She did, and delighted at the joy her new-found hobby brought her, Cara was keen to encourage others to start gardening and growing too. She began hosting a live weekly Make It Flourish 'sow and grow-along' on Instagram, and thousands of followers later, Cara now hosts a regular community gardening meet-up where members, from war veterans to young mums with children, sow seeds, grow flowers and make new friendships.

Cara's *Make It Flourish Together* Beautiful Border at the Autumn Fair is her first design for a garden show, and is inspired by the riverbank walk to the group's community gardening space in Great Dunmow. Some of the plants the group have grown will feature in the design, and members will be

involved in planting out and chatting with visitors at the show about their experience. Autumn Fair visitors can catch Cara offering a live, drop-in 'sow and grow along' at her Border during the show.

**Cara Thompson said:** "This Border, which is sponsored by Mr. Fothergill's who also support our Make It Flourish group, is a vision of our community garden escape which I hope to make a permanent place for the whole community to enjoy and experience. It's a space to immerse yourself in nature and take time to enjoy flower creations and all that is flourishing alongside our local wildlife."

**Rachel Poletti-Gadd, Portfolio Director - Gardening Division at Immediate Live, organisers of BBC Gardeners' World events, said:** "It's wonderful to have so much garden design talent on the doorstep and we can't wait to see the Make It Flourish Together Border in situ at Audley End for the Autumn Fair. Visitors are sure to be inspired by exciting design features and planting ideas to take home and try in their gardens at home."

The BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair, in association with English Heritage, takes place at Audley End from 1 – 3 September. Highlights include Showcase Gardens, Beautiful Borders and the Association of Professional Landscapers' competition gardens, the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Stage hosted by *Gardeners' World* magazine with special guests including Frances Tophill (Friday), Arit Anderson (Saturday) and Adam Frost (Sunday), 'In Conversation' talks in the magnificent Parterre gardens, Plant Expert tours of Audley End's organic Kitchen Garden, dahlia bouquet workshops, mushroom growing workshops, historical performances by Mr Vert, the Victorian head gardener, a bumper crop of exhibitors selling plants, garden tools, kit and accessories, a Plant Crèche, the BBC Good Food Market and live entertainment. Tickets include access to Audley End House, gardens and grounds. Well-behaved dogs welcome on leads in the gardens and grounds.

Find out more and book tickets at [www.bbcgardenersworldfair.com](http://www.bbcgardenersworldfair.com). Details correct at time of writing.

ENDS

#### Notes to editors:

For further information, interviews or pictures, please contact:  
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Press accreditation BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair is open. To apply for a pass and for more information on the show, [please click here](#)

About the **BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair**, Audley End House & Garden, Essex:

Friday 1 Sept	10am – 5pm
Saturday 2 Sept	10am – 5pm
Sunday 3 Sept	10am – 5pm

Autumn Fair advance standard ticket prices:

Adults: £22.30 (10am entry), £18.80 (12pm entry) or £15.30 (1.30pm entry)

Concessions (aged 65+ and students): £20.15 (10am entry), £17.00 (12pm entry), £13.80 (1.30pm entry)  
Children: Under 5s tickets are free of charge and age 6–17 are at a discounted child rate  
English Heritage member adults: £11.50 (entry any time)  
English Heritage member concessions: (aged 65+ and students): £10.35 (entry any time)  
Plant Expert Tours: £7.50  
Oyster mushroom workshops: £10

Book tickets at [bbcgardenersworldfair.com](http://bbcgardenersworldfair.com).

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

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