

BBC
Gardeners' World Fair
at Audley End House & Gardens, Essex
1-3 September 2023
Autumn

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Saffron Walden garden design showcase at BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair

Three stunning show gardens will shine a spotlight on talented Saffron Walden garden designers at the BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair at Audley End House and Gardens from 1 - 3 September.

Lucy Chamberlain, Plant Expert and Head Gardener at East Donyland Hall near Colchester, has teamed up with Audley End kitchen gardeners, Gemma Sturges and Kelly Fowler, to design an inspiring, edible, walk-through show garden, *An Edible Garden Through Time*. Visitors will begin their journey in a traditional 19th century kitchen garden, moving on to a family vegetable patch from 1968 (the year of BBC Gardeners' World's first broadcast), before reaching a contemporary growing plot that reflects the organic and wildlife friendly gardening principles adopted at Audley End, East Donyland Hall, and many veg gardens, allotments and growing spaces across the UK today.

Right next to *An Edible Garden Through Time*, visitors will find the Let's Grow Stage. Hosted by Lucy Chamberlain, with BBC TV food presenter, Chris Bavin, the Let's Grow Stage features a daily programme of autumnal food growing advice from expert guests. Visitors can hear from Audley End's Kelly Fowler (Senior Kitchen Gardener), urban smallholder Sara Ward (Hen Corner), Garden Organic's Head of Horticulture and former Blue Peter gardener, Chris Collins, and local GYO influencers, Lee Connelly (Skinny Jean Gardener), Ade Sellars (Agents of Field), Richard Suggett (The Veg Grower Podcast) and Matt Oliver, Head Gardener at Essex garden, Ulting Wick.

Designer, Lucy Chamberlain, said: “I’m so utterly thrilled to be involved with not only our grow your own-themed show garden at the Autumn Fair, but also the Let’s Grow Stage. Chatting all day about growing delicious edibles is my idea of heaven! I’m especially excited because many of my wonderful and knowledgeable gardening friends are joining us on the stage – there’s going to be such a buzz. The show garden is a new venture for myself, Kelly and Gemma, and we really hope we can create something special to resonate with the show visitors at Audley End. It’s a walk-through garden, so whether you love the grandeur of walled kitchen gardens, the preciseness and pride in 1960s plots, or the modern-day ethos of embracing wildlife and the environment, we can’t wait to showcase these wonderful and productive periods in time.”

Much loved at BBC Gardeners’ World Events, the Beautiful Borders are compact 9m² 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’.

Anna Johnston and Charlotte Seers, trainees with English Heritage’s Historic and Botanic Gardens Training Programme at Audley End, will be making their design debut at the Autumn Fair, with *Our Brewable Border*. The Border will shine a spotlight on the different parts of plants that can be used to make teas and tisanes, including foliage, roots and flowers, and features a combination of wild, informal and potted plants.

Anna Johnston says: “The space is inspired by the Victorian traditions of tea drinking, Audley End’s Kitchen Garden, and our own sense of calm, community and connection found during our gardening tea breaks. *Our Brewable Border* encourages a shared escape within a sensory environment, whilst highlighting the possibilities of creating a low maintenance, small space, ‘drinkable’ garden at home.”

In addition, local Saffron Walden based garden designer, Christina Agbenorhevi, will be entering the Beautiful Borders competition with *And Breathe*, a design that celebrates the sensory joy of nature.

Christina Agbenorhevi says: “One of life’s simple pleasures is to sit under a dappled tree canopy and take a deep breath. My Border is a space to be in tune with nature and have all your senses awakened; a carefully edited space to connect and share with people and 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 all the Showcase Gardens and Beautiful Borders in situ at Audley End for the Autumn Fair. Visitors are sure to be inspired by exciting design 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. Transaction fee applies. Details correct at time of writing.

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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.

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