

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

MEDIA UPDATE: 1 September 2023



BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair show garden award winners announced

The award for Best Showcase Garden at the BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair, in association with English Heritage, at Audley End House and Gardens, Saffron Walden has been awarded to Lucy Chamberlain, Plant Expert and Head Gardener at East Donyland Hall near Colchester, and Audley End kitchen garden team, Gemma Sturges and Kelly Fowler.

The green-fingered trio's fruit and veg-packed *Edible Garden Through Time* is a celebration of 'grow your own', highlighting three pivotal periods of food-growing history, and scooped a Platinum award. The Autumn Fair's Showcase and Competition Garden assessors were gardening editor, horticulturalist and journalist, Ian Hodgson, and award-winning designers Shaun Beale from Aura Landscapes and formerly from the Leckford Estate, and Pip Probert from Your Garden Made Perfect and Outer Spaces Landscaping & Design.

The winning Showcase Garden begins its 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.

Lead assessor, Ian Hodgson, said: “This is a tour de force exhibit of veg gardening through the ages, underpinned by exquisite craftsmanship and attention to historical detail, both in plant varieties and props from the period. It worked as a garden both as a whole and in parts, with something for everyone.”

Lucy Chamberlain said: “I’m elated and overwhelmed to get this award as it’s our (and my) first show garden. It’s been a really interesting journey delving into plant history, landscaping materials and plant varieties.”

Gemma Sturges from the Audley End kitchen garden team said: “We’ve had so much engagement and interest in the Showcase Garden from visitors. Our garden teams and volunteers work so hard all year round and this has been a great way to put Audley End on the map. We just love gardening so winning this award is a lovely bonus.”

Rachel Poletti-Gadd, Portfolio Director - Gardening Division at Immediate Live, organisers of the BBC Gardeners’ World Autumn Fair, said: “We’re thrilled for Lucy, Gemma and Kelly after a lot of hard work. Their wonderful homage to kitchen gardening manages to be both nostalgic and modern, guided by age-old principles and new practices around sustainable growing.”

Winners of the Association of Professional Landscapers’ Skills Competition and a Platinum award are JJH Landscapes from Oxfordshire, with team partner Radial Landscapes from West Sussex. The team took on Gadd Brothers from Bury St. Edmunds in the Autumn Fair’s tough creative and technical challenge to build a competition standard show garden in only 16 ½ hours. APL assessor, Steve Smith from Shore Landscapes, observed the teams’ build process throughout, keeping a close eye on the countdown clock.

The winning team’s *21st Century Jacobean Garden* is a drought-tolerant garden designed by Adam Vetere with elegant geometric features that mirror elements of Audley End’s Great Hall.

Phil Tremayne, APL General Manager, said: “We assessed the teams’ skills, teamwork and quality of finish, and this was a very close scoring competition between two high-calibre, experienced landscaping companies. The brief required the inclusion of fencing, paving, decking, a water feature and planting elements and we saw two completely different design styles. It’s no small challenge to

build a show garden in 16 hours and it was the JJH and Radial Landscapes' design with its distinctive floating steps that gave the wow factor."

Winners Justin Himpson, Director of JJH Landscapes, and Will Burberry, Director of Radial Landscapes, said: "We're both big fans of show gardens and it has been great to work together to build this one. It's amazing to see the garden finished and we're thrilled with how it's turned out. To have won against the Gadd Bothers is amazing – we'll definitely be back next year to defend our title!"

Rachel Poletti-Gadd, Portfolio Director - Gardening Division at Immediate Live, organisers of the BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair, said: "It's important to recognise the technical skills of professional landscape teams whose talents often go unsung when it comes to building show gardens. Autumn Fair visitors have really enjoyed watching the final stages of the APL competition this weekend and viewing the completed show gardens. Our congratulations to JJH and Radial Landscapes for their impressive efforts."

The BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair, in association with English Heritage, at Audley End House and Gardens runs until Sunday 4 September and features seasonal garden inspiration, expert tips, advice and tours, hands-on workshops, and plants to browse and buy. Highlights include talks and conversations with BBC Two *Gardeners' World* presenters Frances Tophill (Friday), Arit Anderson (Saturday) and Adam Frost (Sunday), the *Gardeners' World* Magazine team, David Hurrion and Chris Bavin, grow-your-own advice from leading experts at the Let's Grow Talks area, Plant Expert Tours of Audley End's organic Kitchen Garden and historical tours of its Capability Brown landscape. There's plant and garden shopping galore from specialist growers, nurseries and retailers, a Plant Creche for bag-free shopping, and tasty eats, drinks, street food and live entertainment at the BBC Good Food Market.

Autumn Fair tickets include access to Audley End's grand mansion with its great hall, state rooms, dressing rooms, servants' wing, stables and chapel, and the organic walled Kitchen Garden, grounds, gardens, parklands and children's play area. Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome in the grounds.

Save the date for the BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair 2024, from 30 August – 1 September. Tickets on sale in spring 2024. For details visit www.bbcgardenersworldfair.com.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

For further information, interviews or pictures, please contact:
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Full award details:

**BBC GARDENERS' WORLD AUTUMN FAIR 2023
SHOWCASE GARDEN AWARDS**

Best Showcase Garden: *An Edible Garden Through Time*, Lucy Chamberlain, Gemma Sturges, Kelly Fowler

Award: Platinum

Exhibitor	Stand number	Category	Award
Lucy Chamberlain, Gemma Sturges, Kelly Fowler, <i>An Edible Garden Through Time</i>	SC1	Showcase garden	Platinum
Downing College, Cambridge Rest to Follow Your Path: <i>A Wellbeing Garden</i>	SC3	Showcase garden	Platinum
Kim O'Brien, <i>The Life-Force Garden</i>	SC2	Showcase garden	Gold
Val Christman, <i>Child's Play</i>	SC5	Showcase garden	Gold
St Andrew's CE Primary School, <i>St. Andrew's Sensory Adventure</i>	SC4	Showcase garden	Silver Merit

APL SKILLS COMPETITION

Winner: *21st Century Jacobean Garden*, JJH Landscapes with Radial Landscapes

Award: Platinum

Exhibitor	Stand number	Category	Award
JJH Landscapes with Radial Landscapes, <i>21st Century Jacobean Garden</i>	APL1	APL Skills Competition	Platinum
Gadd Brothers, <i>Skills Build Garden</i>	APL2	APL Skills Competition	Gold

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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