

Win the Border competition winner announced as Candide celebrates national launch

- Mike Oakley, from Middlesbrough, wins Candide's garden ready border which are set to transform his 'new-build' garden
- The bee friendly plants have inspired Mike to create additional wildlife features in his garden
- Sponsored by Ball Colegrave, Candide's beautiful border won silver-merit in BBC Gardeners' World Live's Beautiful Borders competition

Mike Oakley, a police officer from Middlesbrough, has been announced as the winner of Candide's 'Win the Border' competition at BBC Gardeners' World Live. Mike's winning photo, of him and his fiancé, Jack, crammed into their hatchback surrounded by plants and other gardening implements on their way home from the show, caught the judges eye as it captured the fun and enjoyment of the event.

Entrants to the competition uploaded their 'best in show' photo from BBC Gardeners' World Live into Candide's free app. Candide received over a hundred entries on their app to the competition with an astonishing array of photography from the event, ranging from stunning flower shots, to families enjoying their time. Judging was a challenging task resulting in three runners up, Teri Dickinson, Joanna Townell and Dave Smith who received Candide gardening goody box.

Commenting on his win, Mike said "I'm over the moon to have won! I live on what feels like a perennial building site which means I've struggled to get bees and other wildlife to visit my garden. Three years ago, when we moved to our new build, I was left with a bare patch of earth. This range of bee friendly plants is going to be fantastic for my garden and the local area. It's also inspired me to look at other wildlife attractions I could create in my garden such as a wildlife pond and natural bee habitats. I'm going to be busy planting them all in!"

Mike is also an enthusiastic user of the app checking on the feed daily to find out what other gardeners have been doing and to find new ideas for his garden.

Mike explained: "The Knowledge section has been really useful to get the lowdown on pests such as aphids which we have a particular problem with. Tips and tricks have been helpful and I'm now looking at other planting combinations that I hadn't thought about before after seeing the Candide community post their creations and planting styles."

BBC Gardeners' World Live provided the platform for Candide's UK-wide launch. The launch also saw the roll out of the unique 'Places' functionality whereby users can find public gardens and garden centres wherever they are in the UK. At the same time, Candide and Hestercombe Gardens launched the first of its kind audio interactive tour with geo-tagged information and stop/start functionality, supported by an interactive map allowing users to pick up the tour at their own pace when visiting the Gardens.

Candide's Bee-Inspired border garden won a Silver Merit Award in the Beautiful Borders section of BBC Gardeners' World Live 2018. The Beautiful Border saw a huge number of visitors over the four days, who were attracted to the colour and range of plants, as well as the bespoke fairy bug hotel.

Tiernach McDermott, Candide's UK Market Lead said "BBC Gardeners' World Live blew us away with the overwhelming enthusiasm and interest by visitors, from all over the UK, in our border and app. We are a team of dedicated gardeners with a passion to get more people into gardening or just enjoying gardens in general, growing our community along the way. We are delighted with our silver merit award and the enjoyment our perennials are giving Mike and his partner. We'd love to hear

from other gardeners around the country so we can all promote gardening as a fun pastime, choice of career or a healthy lifestyle.”

Mike will be documenting the progress of his bee-friendly garden in Candide’s app which is free to download from Google Play and iOS stores. To find out more about Candide and their community, visit www.candide.eu