

Local garden designer picked for BBC Gardeners' World Live

Local resident and garden designer Alexa Ryan-Mills has been selected to exhibit a Beautiful Border at BBC Gardeners' World Live this June.

Alexa – who lives on Hale End Road in Walthamstow – designed the border while juggling a job in Communications and looking after her four-year-old son. She's since changed career and embarked on a garden design course at Capel Manor horticultural college in Regent's Park.

At just a few square meters, the Beautiful Borders are the ideal showcase for budding garden designers and horticultural students to show off their gardening skills, inspiration and creativity. This year's theme is 'Small Space Ideas'.

Alexa said: 'Pollinator numbers are decreasing. Yet no matter how much space we have outside, we can all do our bit to increase their numbers. The border I've designed is carefully planted to attract all types of insects in all seasons while being a beautiful place for us humans to enjoy.'

'I'm really thrilled my design has been picked, particularly as I've only recently started this new career. Now starts the work of making it a reality – and it needs to be perfect for that one week in June.'

The border is called 'Useful and beautiful: a pollinator's paradise,' a nod to local hero William Morris. Alexa is collaborating with London Borough of Waltham Forest to find a permanent home for the border in Walthamstow after the show finishes.

'I'm growing some of the flowers myself, but am looking for sponsors to help me buy the more mature plants I need as well as hire transport to get everything safely to the NEC,' Alexa adds.

Imogen Bodimeade, Show Manager at BBC Gardeners' World Live said: "Alexa's border offers a wonderful interpretation of the theme, and will be of real interest to visitors coming to the show. It's even more fantastic to see it will continue to be enjoyed after the show at its forever home in Walthamstow!"

BBC Gardeners' World Live takes place 14-17 June at the Birmingham NEC. It hosts advice workshops, showcases new product announcements, show gardens and borders and has a floral marquee and retail space for exhibitors. Over 90,000 visitors are expected.

Follow Alexa's progress as she makes her design a reality on Instagram @alexaryanmills or on her website at alexaryanmills.co.uk. Interested sponsors can email Alexa at hello@alexaryanmills.co.uk.