

PRESS RELEASE June 2016

## THE GREEN CONNECTION

Making the connection between homes for nature and families alike

Genesis Landscapes and Wardrop & Stevenson are delighted to present their Silver Merit winning show garden *The Green Connection* at BBC Gardeners World Live



The Green Connection is about reconnecting people to their gardens for their health and wellbeing by creating functional and attractive outdoor spaces. We want to encourage people into the open air and away from technology by creating space for families to enjoy.

It is also about connecting gardens to each other to become part of a large nature reserve and offset the increasing urbanisation of our country. Our small mammals, insects and birds need us to help them survive. This is a principle that people can adopt in their gardens, whether established or on a new build housing estate.

We can add huge value to our outdoor spaces and make our gardens more than just an outdoor room, providing a haven for our families and a 'home for nature'.

This is the future of garden design and the way forward for urban planning

*By connecting our garden through hedgehog friendly gravel boards, holes in fences or a good old fashioned hedge we can extend the territory of our native animals and allow frogs to migrate to ponds.*





*Plant trees & shrubs to provide shelter and food sources for birds and insects. Try columnar trees if short of space. Climbers over pergolas and up the wall of your house. Bees love blues, mauves and yellows flowers with single or tubular petals.*

*Construction for you and for nature. Find a place for a pond, ensure that animals can get in and out! Use lime mortar or bee bricks for masonry and solitary bees, Reduce flooding with plenty of permeable surfaces for rain to soak into the ground – such as grass! Or leave gaps around paving or use porous surfaces.*



#### CHARITIES:

- The garden is endorsed by the **RSPB** and we are promoting their ‘give nature a home’ campaign. [www.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/givenatureahomeinyourgarden](http://www.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/givenatureahomeinyourgarden)
- The garden will be given a new home by **CHESS**, a charity for the homeless at their new HQ in Chelmsford [www.chelmsfordchess.org](http://www.chelmsfordchess.org)
- The garden will be moved and rebuilt for **CHESS** by **Wingspan**, a charity that provides training. [www.wingspan.works](http://www.wingspan.works)

#### SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS:

We have some great sponsors and contributors:

- **The Association of Professional Landscapers (APL)** the go-to organisation if you are looking for an accredited landscape contractor [www.landscaper.org.uk](http://www.landscaper.org.uk)
- **Jacksons Fencing** whose hedgehog friendly gravel boards will be a key feature on the garden demonstrating how easy it is to provide connectivity between gardens [www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk](http://www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk)
- **Marshall’s** who are supplying our paving and stone [www.marshalls.co.uk](http://www.marshalls.co.uk)
- **Travis Perkins** for our landscaping essentials such as sand and cement [www.travisperkins.co.uk](http://www.travisperkins.co.uk)
- **Coles Nurseries** are supplying our trees, hedging and reliable favorites for wildlife [www.colesnurseries.co.uk](http://www.colesnurseries.co.uk)
- **Garden Topsoil Direct**. It may be the last thing on our mind but nothing grows well unless we have great soil [www.gardentopsoildirect.co.uk](http://www.gardentopsoildirect.co.uk)
- **Rolawn** Not many show gardens actually have a lawn. Ours is family friendly so it does! [www.rolawn.co.uk](http://www.rolawn.co.uk)
- **Cadisich MDA Metal** – but with pizzazz! [www.cadisichmda.com](http://www.cadisichmda.com)
- **Diligence the Art of Fire** For a simply stunning yet space saving BBQ [www.diligenceinternational.com](http://www.diligenceinternational.com)
- **Bridge Nursery Growers** of perfect perennials for the retail industry. [www.bridgenursery.co.uk](http://www.bridgenursery.co.uk)
- **Green & Blue Designer** living for our Blue Tits! [www.greenandblue.co.uk](http://www.greenandblue.co.uk)
- **Lateral Design Studio** Exquisite drainage detailing [www.lateraldesignstudio.co.uk](http://www.lateraldesignstudio.co.uk)
- **First Grade Recycling** specialise in the design and manufacture for the waste recycling industry, and they made our ponds! [www.first-grade.co.uk](http://www.first-grade.co.uk)
- **Palmstead Wholesale nursery** and giving us a great deal on superb quality plants and transporting them to Birmingham for us! [www.palmstead.co.uk](http://www.palmstead.co.uk)

#### THE TEAM:

- Mike Long, director of Genesis Landscapes is the contractor on the project and was awarded Contractor of the Year by Marshalls in 2015 - a national recognition.
- Jean Wardrop and Alexandra Stevenson worked together on *A Growing Obsession* show garden at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2015 for Yardley London. It has been selected by the RHS to promote the Hampton Court show this year, on-line. A photo of the garden featured in the March edition of *Gardens Illustrated*.
- Jean Wardrop worked at Fulham Palace garden Centre for 18 months and also with Mark Lutyens designing a project for a private client. She graduated with a BA (Hons) first in Garden Design at Greenwich University in 2000 and has been running her own garden design business, Wardrop designs since 1997. Shows include the *Bacchus Garden* for RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2014 in addition to three other shows in the UK and Italy.
- Alexandra Stevenson is a Landscape Architect, venturing into the world of garden design, and has worked all over the country and abroad on many different public and private sector projects.

#### QUOTES FROM THE TEAM:

- Alexandra Stevenson: *“I am delighted that we can use The Green Connection to show people how their gardens can be wildlife and family friendly whilst retaining a contemporary edge! Success for me from this show would be to see house builders and the public adopting hedge planting and hedgehog friendly gravel boards to bound gardens with. Making a home for wildlife does not mean you have to live in a country cottage garden or jungle*
- Mike Long: *“My first show garden – and a deceptively clever one – I know, I had to work out how to construct it! It’s been a great challenge, living in a caravan has had it moments... but the result says it all! I hope everyone enjoys it and the show here at Gardeners World Live!”*
- Jean Wardrop: *“The bees are voting by their presence. They love the selection of blooms we have laid out for them. They are such important insects, contributing to our economy; without them we would not be able to grow our food! We must look after them. I hope everyone at Gardeners World live can see how easy it is choose flowers and create homes for the insects in our gardens.”*

#### For Further Information, please contact:

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