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NEWS RELEASE

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PERENNIAL CELEBRATES 175 YEARS WITH A FLORAL EXHIBIT DESIGNED BY JO THOMPSON GARDEN DESIGN Great Pavilion: GPG/9

MONDAY 19th May: 11.30 – 12.30 enjoy 175 years of music on the garden with two of the world's top musicians [Harry 'The Piano'](#) and [Simon Bates](#). Plus Perennial President Alan Titchmarsh will visit the garden at 2.20pm.



Award-winning garden designer Jo Thompson, winner of the Society of Garden Designers 2014 Future Designers Award, has created a floral exhibit for Perennial that provides a tranquil haven of solace and reflection amongst the heady floral extravaganza of the Great Pavilion at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Designed to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Perennial, the UK's only charity dedicated to helping all horticulturists in times of crisis, *Perennial – celebrating 175 years* draws inspiration from Perennial's public access gardens Fullers Mill Garden in Suffolk and York Gate near Leeds.

The exhibit is a true collaboration bringing together some industry stalwarts. Generous support and advice from Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Coblands Nurseries, Majestic Trees, Roger Platts and CED Natural Stone have made the exhibit possible. Speaking about her involvement with the charity for this year's 'greatest flower show on earth', Jo Thompson says,

"Before I was approached by Perennial to help with their Chelsea exhibit I knew very little about the charity and thought, as do countless others, that the help the charity provides was only for retired gardeners. During the past 12 months, as the collaboration and partnership has developed, I have realised what a lifeline the charity provides for horticulturists young and old alike. I'm very proud to be

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associated with this charity and hope visitors to the show find joy and pleasure in the garden and its message.”

The build has been project managed by Jo and her team with help from Jay Osman and a team of volunteers from Streetscape, an award-winning social enterprise that provides apprenticeships in landscape gardening to long-term unemployed 18 -25 year olds. The planting scheme includes the new ‘Chelsea Collection’, available to purchase online now at www.perennial.org.uk/plants and *Eryngium* ‘Neptune’s Gold’, one of this year’s new introductions from Hardy’s Cottage Garden Plants.

Anita Bates, Director of Marketing and Development at Perennial, said,

“We have been overwhelmed by the strength of industry support for our exhibit at Chelsea this year. We simply could not have staged it without the help and support of some of the UK’s biggest names in horticulture. We knew we had to be here to mark our 175th anniversary and are proud to be able to showcase our wonderful and unique charity to visitors. We have ambitious plans to raise an additional £175,000 this year to help even more horticulturists in crisis. Where better to drum up support than at the world’s greatest flower show?”

Perennial and its work will be highlighted in the BBC coverage of the Chelsea Flower Show in the programme airing on Friday 23rd May. To find out more about the charity, its services for horticulturists and to get involved, visit www.perennial.org.uk, email info@perennial.org.uk or call 0800 093 8510.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

All plants and trees for the exhibit have been donated by Coblands Nurseries, Hardy’s Cottage Garden Plants, Majestic Trees and Roger Platts. Landscaping materials have been donated by CED Natural Stone and Gabion Inspirations. Volunteers for the build of the garden also include Her Grace The Duchess of Bedford, Head Gardener of Woburn Abbey Martin Towsey and a team from the Bedford Estates, Neil Miller, Head Gardener at Hever Castle and his team, long-standing Perennial volunteer Steve Powell as well as volunteers from York Gate and Fullers Mill Garden.



Perennial has entered [The Rainwater Terrace](#) in the Chelsea Product of the Year competition. Named as one of the 12 finalists, The Rainwater Terrace is the first garden water collection system to integrate planters, making the water butt a true garden feature with no need to water.

For a full press pack including the plant list for the floral exhibit and further information about Perennial’s services for horticulturists, please visit www.perennial.org.uk/chelseapress

For images, interviews and further information, contact:

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