

Darren Everest Sweet Peas

After last years amazing success, winning his first ever Gold Medal, Darren is returning this year with a completely new design for his display.

The inspiration for his design came to Darren back in the Spring last year while at a plant sale that he was part of. Darren had a huge array of different varieties of Sweet Pea plants available to purchase, all with pretty, colourful images of the blooms that the plants would go on to produce. One customer remarked on the wonderful display of colour and Darren replied with “It’s like a Sweet Pea shop for adults”. This immediately gave Darren the idea for a new design for a display.

Back in Darren’s youth he used to be a paperboy at his local newsagents and worked his way up to working behind the counter, before heading off to school. The newsagents had a huge array of jars of confectionery, all of which had to be weighed out by the quarter of a pound or more. Darren even had to use a cash register similar to that famously portrayed on Open all Hours television comedy sit com.

So, for a personal trip down memory lane, Darren is recreating a nostalgic feeling by recreating an old fashioned Sweet Shop with a floral twist! Welcome to Ye Olde Sweet Pea Shoppe!

Not only is Darren hoping to stir up some nostalgic memories with many of the visitors to RHS Chelsea Flower Show but he is also thrilled to launch his first book at the show.

Darren has been growing and showing his prize winning blooms for very nearly forty years. Darren can’t even believe it himself. He doesn’t even feel forty, let alone been growing flowers for that long!

Darren's book is called 'Show Time' [My Life with Flowers], and follows his journey from a young boy walking up and down his grandads garden and exhibiting at his local village show . Right up to the end of what was an incredible year for Darren, winning multiple awards including winning Gold at the world's most prestigious flower show, the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Darren hopes that people will enjoy his story and that it might just inspire them to follow their own dreams. Darren never thought that he, as a small scale, passionate hobby grower, could ever achieve a Chelsea Gold. But here he is, living proof that it can be done!



