



RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

30 June - 5 July 2015

David Domoney's Insider Guide



The RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show is one of my favourite events. It's a cross between a show and a festival that's packed with spectacular show gardens and stunning floral exhibits.





Welcome to my insider's guide to the show – what to see and do, and how to make the most of your trip. Plus join the celebrations this year for the show's 25th anniversary!

Hampton Court is a fantastic summer gardening event. It might not be as famous as Chelsea, but it should be because it's the biggest annual flower show in the world!

The palace grounds make a stunning backdrop and the open space gives it a friendly and relaxed feel.



July is high-season for plants and everything looks at its best. And unlike at Chelsea, you can buy direct from the floral exhibits.

And there's such a party atmosphere! The plants and the Pimm's are equally popular, and the summer sunshine puts everyone in a good mood.

And this year to mark the anniversary, there will be a special maze, a community street exhibit and a giant floral birthday cake outside the Floral Marquee.

I hope you have a great day out, and make sure you come and see me in the RHS Celebrity Theatre!





Fun Facts and Figures

Hampton by numbers:

140,000
visitors

25
years old



Did you know?

Hampton Court Palace was King Henry VIII's favourite royal residence

30 show gardens
6750m² floor area of the Floral Marquee

is how much he spent doing it up **£18m**

900m² size of the 25th Anniversary Maze
500 exhibitors

34 acres is the size of the flower show site today

weeks is how long it takes to build a show garden. But it can be dismantled in just three days **3**

During the show, visitors consume:

48,501



cups of Fairtrade tea and coffee



1500 baguettes



4357 slices of cake

14,274



glasses of Pimm's

15,029



rounds of sandwiches

5598



flowerpot muffins



14,868 glasses of champagne



Top 10 things to see and do

1 The RHS Celebrity Theatre

Every day a special celebrity guest will take to the stage on the Celebrity Theatre, supported by Anglian Home Improvements. Come along to see the nation's favourite gardeners and TV presenters talk about their love of gardening and wildlife. Plus they will be revealing their tips and best-kept secrets!

I'll be on stage alongside my colleagues **John Craven, Diarmuid Gavin, Charlie Dimmock, Toby Buckland, Simon King, Christine Walkden, Pippa Greenwood** and **Jim Buttress**.

The first show starts at 11am each day and a celebrity will take to the stage every hour. *See the programme at the end of the guide.*

2 The Show Gardens and Summer Gardens

Get inspired by a range of show gardens filled with design and planting ideas you can try at home!

This year's creations will include a community garden, a retirement garden and a restored Victorian cut flower garden.

Plus check out the gardens built as natural spaces to aid recovery, designed in aid of charities including Scotty's Little Soldiers and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Another highlight is the World Gardens section, including Turkish Delight. The design will feature plants, colours and water fountains common in Islamic-Turkish gardens.

The Summer Gardens are also set to be fantastic, introducing a healing garden, a city twitcher's garden for wildlife and a celebration of women gardeners.

3 25th Anniversary Maze

Lose yourself in the magical RHS Anniversary Maze. It features a big silver '25' – how long will it take you to find your way to the end?

The Anniversary Maze will cover 900 square metres and link in to the world famous maze on the grounds of Hampton Court Palace that was planted around the year 1700.

4 Conceptual Gardens

This year the theme is sensations, with six gardens designed as immersive, interactive installations.

There will be a gallery of mirrors and a thought-provoking African installation exploring how monocrop farming devastates natural areas.

Plus check out the wildcard Ready... Aim... Flower! It's a reminder that plants thrive regardless of the environment.

5 Festival of Roses

Celebrate the iconic rose with this floral festival. It will be a carnival of colour from standard, climber and bush roses, spectacular flower displays and beautiful scents from every direction.

You can also purchase roses direct and receive expert advice from the growers and specialist rose breeders.

Plus look out for the winner of the prestigious Rose of the Year award.

6 The Floral Marquee

Visit 90 of the UK's best nurseries together under one roof. There will be an incredible range of plants for you to admire and buy in the Floral Marquee.

See everything at its July best and discover plants you never even knew existed!

It's a great place to meet expert growers and get tips on caring for the plants.

Remember, these exhibitors are not sales executives, they're passionate growers who want to help and inspire you.

Plus get a taste for plant conservation in the Plant Heritage Marquee.

And check out the new Flower Boxes feature – displaying different growing styles and schemes to inspire you.

7 The Historic Gardens

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show is not the only institution celebrating an anniversary this year!

It's Winnie the Pooh's 90th birthday, and you can join in the fun with a woodland garden inspired by the books, including many recognisable features from the stories.

And revel in the British love for tea parties with the Alice in Wonderland Tea Party garden. It's an eccentric creation to mark the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's book.

Finally, it is 800 years since the Magna Carta was signed to enshrine our human rights. Amnesty International have created a garden around a central tree, representing the famous Ankerwycke Yew that the Magna Carta was signed under.

8 Join Pimm's o'clock!

Pop into the special tents all around the showground and refresh your palate with a jug of Pimm's. There's nothing better to get you in a relaxed, summery mood!

9 New Feast Zone

Explore foodie heaven in the Feast Zone for a huge variety of fine foods and fresh produce – I bet you never knew gardening could be so tasty!

Get inspired to start growing crops at home with stunning displays of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs in the Growing Tastes Marquee.

And check out the cooking demonstrations at the Cookery Theatre. Look out for talks from James Wong and Rachel Allen.

Throughout the Feast Zone you'll find loads of top gardening tips and ideas to try growing your own food at home.

10 Palace Garden Room

Sit down to eat in style at the heart of the show in the Palace Garden Room.

Enjoy the views over the Long Water with a refreshing drink and something to eat. It offers sandwiches, salads and cakes as well as a full afternoon tea.

All food at the show is provided by local producers – think English strawberries, breads and cakes from artisan bakeries in London and even local ale! Check out the Aspoll Suffolk Cyder and London Pride Bitter. Or try the tasty sustainable fish and chips.



Basic information and facilities

GETTING THERE

Address

Hampton Court Palace
East Moseley
Surrey
KT8 9AU



Driving and Parking

Be aware that local traffic restrictions come into force as you approach the site, so follow the signs rather than your sat nav! Take junction 11 on the M25.

Showground parking costs £11 a day and can get very busy.

The Stud Gate (black) car park is on the A308 Hampton Court Road.

Hampton Court (green) car park is opposite the palace.

Both can be prebooked by calling 0844 338 7526.

Park and Ride

There is a park and ride facility at Apps Court Farm on the A3050, close to junction 11 of the M25.

Frequent courtesy buses run to and from the show all day.

Cycling

There are free bicycle racks at the Thames entrance.

Rail and River

You can get the train from Waterloo to Hampton Court Station or Kingston Station.

From Hampton Court Station, the showground is a 15 minute walk or a short ferry ride. Ferry tickets cost £2.50 each way. I love sailing in on the Thames!

If you choose Kingston Station, the showground is a longer walk or a pleasant 30 minute ferry ride.

The ferry costs £6.00 single or £7.50 return, and children and OAPs get £2 off the adult fare.

Visit turks.co.uk for more information.

Bus

You can take the R68 from outside Richmond tube station to Hampton Court, or the 411 from Kingston, the 216 from Staines or the 111 from Hounslow.





Basic information and facilities

PRACTICAL INFO AND EATING & DRINKING

Tickets

Prices vary depending on when you visit and whether you're an RHS member.

The show is open to RHS members only on Tuesday and Wednesday, and opens to the general public from Thursday to Sunday.

Entrance is cheaper after 3pm.

Visit www.theticketfactory.com/rhsh/online/ or call 0844 338 7506.

Plant Crèche and Porters

You can leave plants and product purchases at the north crèche at the top of the Floral Marquee, or at the south crèche by the Plant Heritage Marquee.

Porters are available from both areas to carry plants to the gate, car park or station if you need help.



Seating

There is seating and a picnic area alongside the Long Water.

Eating and Drinking

There's always loads to choose from, and all food and drink comes from local suppliers and is prepared fresh on-site. Try one of the food courts for hot and cold food and refreshing drinks.

For more of a sit-down meal, grab a table at the Allium restaurant, which offers a bistro menu as well as afternoon tea.

Alternatively, the Champagne and Seafood Bar by the Long Water is a really extravagant treat.





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RHS Celebrity Theatre

I'll be joining some of the nation's best-loved gardeners live on stage this year! The Celebrity Theatre is supported by [Anglian Home Improvements](#).



John Craven



David Domoney



Diarmuid Gavin



Toby Buckland



Charlie Dimmock



Simon King



Christine Walkden



Pippa Greenwood



Jim Buttress

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11:00	Christine Walkden	Jim Buttress	Toby Buckland	Diarmuid Gavin	Diarmuid Gavin	Simon King
12:00	Pippa Greenwood	John Craven	Charlie Dimmock	David Domoney	David Domoney	David Domoney
13:00	Christine Walkden	Jim Buttress	Toby Buckland	Diarmuid Gavin	Diarmuid Gavin	Simon King
14:00	Pippa Greenwood	John Craven	Charlie Dimmock	David Domoney	David Domoney	David Domoney
15:00	Christine Walkden	Jim Buttress	Toby Buckland	Diarmuid Gavin	Diarmuid Gavin	Simon King
16:00	Pippa Greenwood	John Craven	Charlie Dimmock	David Domoney	David Domoney	David Domoney
17:00	Christine Walkden	Jim Buttress	Toby Buckland	Diarmuid Gavin	Diarmuid Gavin	/

