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HAMPTON COURT PALACE  
FLOWER SHOW 9-14 JULY 2013.

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# David Domoney's Ultimate Insider's Guide

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TV gardener David Domoney is celebrating his tenth anniversary at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. Together with Anglian Home Improvements, he has created this fabulous insider's guide to help you make the most of your day at the show.

His Five Step Guide, Ten Top Tips and essential information 'at a glance' will ensure you have a day to remember.

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Celebrity Speakers & Catwalk In Bloom Theatre sponsored by

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Raising the standard.



# Five Step Guide

## STEP ONE

Whether you're a first timer or repeat visitor, the key to getting the most out of the show lies in careful planning. I recommend either going online beforehand, or taking some time to study the guide when you arrive at the show ground, so you can plan what you want to see.

## STEP TWO

The show takes place at the peak of the growing season and you will be amazed at the variety of plants and flowers on offer. If you're buying plants, be sure to use one of the two on-site plant crèches to store your purchases while you continue shopping.

## STEP THREE

Treat yourself to lunch. Either bring your own food and drink and find a nice spot by the Long Water, or maybe indulge in a glass of something sparkling at the Champagne bar or check out the Pimm's tent.

## STEP FOUR

The show is a wonderful day out but it can get busy. Make sure you rest your feet and recharge to get the most out of your visit. Insiders know there is a huge choice of catering inside the show and the nearby Carlton Mite Hotel offers a secret escape during the busy periods to have a leisurely drink overlooking the Thames... before returning to enjoy the show refreshed and ready to go.

## STEP FIVE

Take the royal route by using the riverboats to escape road traffic and arrive via the waterways. For a pleasant half hour river cruise take the ferry from Richmond or Kingston to the Thames entrance or, for a shorter 15-minute transfer, get the boat from Hampton Court station.



## Visit the inspirational Show Gardens

As well as my five steps, I would recommend that you visit the Show Gardens, which are truly inspirational. Don't miss the spectacular Floral Marquee either, or the Food Marquee, which has a wonderful range of 'grow your own' to taste and try.

There is nothing quite like the Hampton Court show. I know it's called a flower show, and there are some wonderful flowers on display, but there is so much more to it than that.

It is a wonderful day out. Whether you are coming for the first time or a return visitor, when you arrive you get a wonderful sense of anticipation.





### "It's like stepping out onto a stage."

That's why I think of it as a festival – a festival with an incredible array of plants and flowers, set in the most beautiful gardens, plus you can stop off to enjoy a glass of Champagne or Pimm's along the way.

In fact, there are usually as many people in the Pimm's tent as there are in the Flower Marquee. Many of the ladies who talk to me say they get loads of inspiration for the garden but above all it is a great day out.

Hampton Court has been growing steadily over the years and although it is seen as the sister to Chelsea and so shares in the Kudos, it is also very different. For a start, it is held in July which generally gives us the chance to enjoy the weather. That also means that plants are in peak condition and there are so many diverse plants.



### You see people leaving with armfuls of plants!

The big difference to Chelsea is that at Hampton Court you can buy plants directly from the exhibitors. Then the location of Hampton Court makes it so much bigger than the Chelsea Flower Show. As well as the grounds, the position of the Long Water makes it an especially attractive venue.

However you decide to spend your day at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, I know you'll have a wonderful time. I look forward to seeing you there and don't forget to stop by and say hello at the Celebrity Speakers & Catwalk in Bloom Theatre. We've got plenty to keep you entertained, plus you can scope out your own perfect orangery and perhaps even win £1,000. See you there!



# Ten Top Tips

## **TIP ONE** Celebrity Speakers & Catwalk in Bloom Theatre

The Celebrity Speakers and Catwalk in Bloom Theatre is hosting a special celebrity guest each day offering presentations and anecdotes alongside floral-inspired fashion shows.

## **TIP TWO** RHS Butterfly Dome with Eden

Walk through a canopy trail of tropical plants and get up close to nature as you enjoy a display of native butterflies, a pollinator that's often overlooked. Look out for the seven metre high straw windmill feature and the world's largest spade to find features dedicated to butterflies and bees.

## **TIP THREE** Growing Tastes

Includes stunning displays of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs. Look out for the 3D edible feature which offers an alternative to the traditional allotment. Sample and buy from award-winning producers.

## **TIP FOUR** Celebrity Hen Houses

RHS have invited a number of well known designers and personalities to put their own stamp on a hen house. The resulting creations are on display outside the Country Living Magazine Pavilion.

## **TIP FIVE** Floral Marquee

With 96 of the UK's best nurseries under one roof, there is a vast range of plants for sale. New this year are two potting bench demonstration areas where growers are giving demonstrations and expert tips.

## **TIP SIX** Show Gardens

Get inspired by both conceptual and low cost, high impact show gardens. You are sure to take an idea home with you!

## **TIP SEVEN** Palace Tea Rooms

With 34 acres of showground and views over the Long Water, make this a rest stop before heading off again.

## **TIP EIGHT** Rose & Floristry Vintage Festival

Even if you're not a rose lover, this spectacular 1950s vintage themed floristry display is a must-see.

## **TIP NINE** BBC Local Radio

Experience BBC Local Radio in action, with a variety of activities. They are calling for budding thespians - offering you the opportunity to read some specially-produced radio scripts. Take part solo or as a family; after all, it's not every day you have your very own producer!

## **TIP TEN** Pimm's o'clock

With tents all around the show ground, refresh your pallet with a jug of Pimm's.





# Essential information at a glance

## ADDRESS

Hampton Court Palace  
East Molesey  
Surrey  
KT8 9AU



## ANGLIAN HOME IMPROVEMENTS ON STAND DD1

As main sponsors of the Theatre, Anglian will be displaying a stunning range of home improvements to complement any beautiful garden. If you visit the stand you will also have the opportunity to net £1,000 in Anglian's Great British Butterfly Hunt.



## WHAT'S ON AND WHEN

**Celebrity speakers daily** at 12 noon, 2pm and 4pm.

**Catwalk shows every day** at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 6pm (no shows after 3pm on Saturday and Sunday)

**Celebrity speakers this year are:**



Kate Humble  
**Tuesday**



Linda Barker  
**Wednesday**



David Domoney  
**Thursday**



Bill Oddie  
**Friday**



John Craven  
**Saturday**



Tim Wonnacot  
**Sunday**



# Essential information at a glance

## CLOAKROOM

Coats and bags can be left at the cloakroom near the Southside bandstand. Visit the cloakrooms for more information.

## PLANT CRÈCHE/PORTERAGE

You can leave plants and product purchases at either of two sites on the North and South sides of the show ground. If you need help, a portorage service is available at both sites. Porters will carry plants to the Stud Gate car park, the Palace Garden Gate exit or to the steps at Barge Walk, opposite Hampton Court station. Visit either of the plant crèches for more information.

## CASH

You can withdraw cash from the Thomas Cook Bank using the counter or ATM service. There is a charge for this service.

## SEATING

There is a seating area alongside the Long Water. This is also a picnic area.

## EATING AND DRINKING

There is a huge range of food and drink available and the organisers guarantee that all produce comes from local producers and is prepared fresh on-site.

You can even enjoy meat from the same people who supply Gordon Ramsay.

The Seafood and Champagne Restaurant near the Long Water is a popular spot. Pre-book on 0844 338 7526.

Fine dining at the Allium Restaurant, tucked away in the Thames area. Pre-book on 0844 338 7526

Other options include self-service at the Garden Walk Cafe in the Park Area and the Long Water Delis by the Long Water, where the charming Palace Tea Rooms can also be found.

For an even greater choice, try the Kings Food Market in the Park Area or the Allium Bistro in the Thames Area.

For those bringing their own food, there is a designated area with seating by the Long Water. This is also a popular spot for people taking a break.

## SECRET ESCAPE

The flower show is a wonderful day out but sometimes it can be nice to escape the crowds for a while. The Carlton Mitre Hotel is a stone's throw from the show ground and insiders know it offers a perfect haven for a relaxing lunch or afternoon tea. For more details call the hotel on 020 8979 9988.



# Essential information at a glance

## TRAVEL DETAILS

Organisers recommend people travel to the show by public transport.

## RAIL AND RIVER TRANSPORT

The show is served by two over-ground railway stations, which are both about 30 minutes from London Waterloo.

Hampton Court station is a 15 minute walk away or you can take a short ferry ride, which is £2.50 for a single journey.

Kingston station is a longer walk or a pleasant half hour river cruise from the station. It costs £6.50 for a single or £7.50 return.

Details about train times can be found on the National Rail Enquiries website: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) - or call 08457 48 49 50.

Ferry services can be checked on [www.turks.co.uk](http://www.turks.co.uk)

## TUBE

If travelling by underground, head to Richmond tube on the District Line, then catch the R68 bus to Hampton Court.

## BUS

Bus services are also available from Kingston (411), Staines(216) and Hounslow(111).

## DRIVERS

As you near the site, note that local travel restrictions come into force so ignore your Sat Nav.

Travelling from London, take the A3 (northbound), then the A308.

From the M25 use junction 11.

## PARKING

Showground parking costs £10 per day. This can get very busy so allow plenty of time for arriving and departing.

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

Hampton Court car park (Green car park) is opposite the Palace.

Both can be pre-booked on 0844 3387526.

## 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

Bicycle racks are available at the Thames Entrance.



# Essential information at a glance

## TICKET PRICES

The RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show runs from Tuesday 9 July through to Sunday 14 July.

On the Tuesday and Wednesday, the show is open to RHS members only. Ticket prices for Tuesday 9 July are £33.50 (all day 10am to 7.30pm), with discounted ticket prices of £21 available for entrance after 3pm.

Tickets for Wednesday 10 July are £28 for all day or £18 after 3pm.

The show is open to the public on Thursday 11 July, Friday 12 July, Saturday 13 July and Sunday 14 July. All day tickets for RHS members on these days are £23, or £15 for entrance after 3pm. For non-members all day tickets cost £29.50 or £19 after 3pm.

Full details are available online at [www.rhs.org.uk/flowershows](http://www.rhs.org.uk/flowershows) or by calling 0844 338 7506.



## Fascinating facts and a Royal seal of approval

- The show is popular with Royal visitors: the Duchess of Cornwall visited in 2011 and the Countess of Wessex in 2012.
- In 2011, Dame Judi Dench had a rose named after her at the show.



- This year there are eight Show Gardens, eight Conceptual Gardens, four Low Cost High Impact Gardens and 15 Summer Gardens.
- The Grow Your Own marquee is 1,125 square metres, equivalent to the size of four tennis courts.
- This year the Floral Marquee is 6,750 square metres, the size of a football pitch.





## THE ULTIMATE INSIDER'S GUIDE

- During show week, visitors consume:

48,501 cups of fair-trade  
tea and coffee

15,029 rounds of sandwiches

1,500 baguettes

14,274 glasses of Pimm's

14,868 glasses of Champagne

5,598 flower pot muffins

4,357 slices of cakes



- The first show was held in 1990.
- It was originally sponsored by the now defunct rail franchise Network Southeast.
- Porters at Waterloo wore white carnations to publicise the week.
- In 1993 the RHS took over the running of the show.
- On average, the show attracts more than 150,000 paying visitors a year. This can rise to 180,000.
- The vast majority of visitors are women, 68%, against 32% men.
- Half of all visitors are in the top AB socioeconomic grouping.
- Broken down by age, 62% are aged 55 and over with 38% 54 or younger.
- Most visitors spend a minimum of five hours at the show.
- It takes three weeks to build a show garden – and just three days to dismantle one.
- The show operates on an 11 month planning cycle.
- Many visitors combine the show with a trip to see a West End show.
- Hampton Court was the favourite residence of Henry VIII.
- Over 10 years he is said to have spent around £62,000 on developing it – the equivalent of £18million today.
- This year's show runs from 9 to 14 July.
- It is the biggest flower show in the world.
- The total site covers 34 acres.
- There are at least six hundred exhibitors.
- David is currently co-presenting the hit ITV1 series Love Your Garden.

