

5 - 10 July 2016

# RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

## David Domoney's Insider Guide

*"I hope you have an incredible day out, and be sure to come and see my friends and I at the RHS Celebrity Theatre supported by Everest Home Improvements."*



### This is my insider's guide to the show

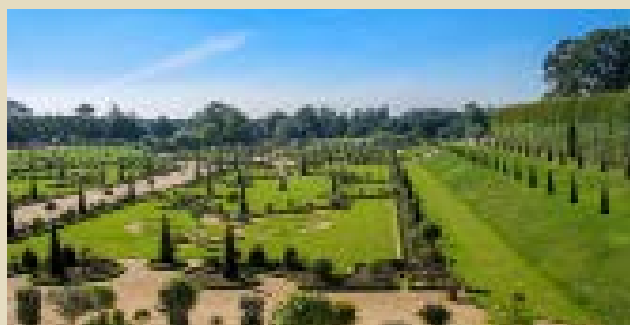
what to see, what to do, and  
how to get the most out of  
this truly spectacular event.

Intro	1
Fun Facts and Figures	2
RHS Celebrity Theatre	3
10 Things to see and do	4
Basic information and facilities	5
Practical information	6

### Did you know that Hampton is the largest annual flower show in the world?

Set in the stunning 60 acre grounds of the palace, it has an open and relaxed atmosphere that can't be matched.

The flower show itself stretches over 34 acres, and there's plenty to amaze and entertain all generations.



### July is high-season for plants and everything looks at its glorious best.

And, unlike at Chelsea, here you can buy direct from the floral exhibits.

With the Pimms flowing and the sun streaming down, it's the best summer party you'll attend all year!



# Fun Facts and Figures

## 140,000 Visitors

Attend the show each year

## 5 Hours

Visitors spend on average at the show'

## 500 Exhibitors

From around the world at this year's show, offering visitors everything from gardens, nurseries and flowers and garden ornaments and useful tools for the garden.

It takes **three weeks to build a Show Garden**, and two weeks to build a small garden, but the gardens all come apart in just three days

The total area covered by all the gardens, including garden features is approximately 5000 m2, **the same size as an average football pitch** (at 100mx50m)

City Gardens are new for 2016. The gardens intend to wow visitors with their big ideas for small spaces.

These plots offer the chance to **showcase exciting concepts in urban areas**. Size: 24m<sup>2</sup>

This year, the themed gardens will celebrate the **300th anniversary** of 18th-century landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, who at the height of his career he was appointed the Chief Gardener at Hampton Court Palace from 1664 until his death in 1783.

The popular Festival of Roses Marquee will be a feast for the senses as visitors are welcomed by the scent and sight of thousands of blooms within a cottage-garden setting inspired by Beatrix Potters' garden at Hill Top house, as **2016 marks 150 years since Beatrix Potter's birth**.



40,022

cups of fair-trade tea and coffee



1,200

glasses of champagne



20,668

rounds of sandwiches and baguettes



2,475

glasses of Pimm's



1,151

flower pot muffins



4,978

slices of cakes

## GARDENS

2016

Show Gardens

9

Conceptual Gardens

10

Water Gardens

New

Summer Gardens

7

World Gardens

5

Themed Gardens:

3

# RHS Celebrity Theatre

## About the Theatre

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



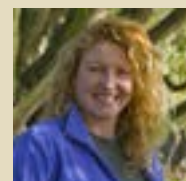
John Craven



David Domoney



Diarmuid Gavin



Charlie Dimmock



Mr Bloom



Christine Walkden



Pippa Greenwood



Jim Butress

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11:00	Christine Walkden	Christine Walkden	David Domoney	Diarmuid Gavin	John Craven	Jim Butress
12:00	Charlie Dimmock	Charlie Dimmock	Pippa Greenwood	Pippa Greenwood	Mr Bloom	David Domoney
13:00	Christine Walkden	Christine Walkden	David Domoney	Diarmuid Gavin	John Craven	Jim Butress
14:00	Charlie Dimmock	Charlie Dimmock	Pippa Greenwood	Pippa Greenwood	Mr Bloom	David Domoney
15:00	Christine Walkden	Christine Walkden	David Domoney	Diarmuid Gavin	John Craven	Jim Butress
16:00	Charlie Dimmock	Charlie Dimmock	Pippa Greenwood	Pippa Greenwood	Mr Bloom	David Domoney
17:00	Christine Walkden	Christine Walkden	David Domoney	Diarmuid Gavin	John Craven	/

# Top 10 things to see and do

## 1 The RHS Celebrity Theatre

First up, have a look at the RHS Celebrity Theatre timetable supported by Everest. I'll be there, along with loads of friends and colleagues from the industry. We will be regaling stories and anecdotes from the television world, as well as sharing plenty of hints and tips on how you can make the most of your garden at home.

This year's line-up includes Jim Butters, John Craven, Charlie Dimmock, David Domoney, Diarmuid Gavin, Pippa Greenwood, Christine Walkden and CBBC's children's presenter Mr Bloom (Ben Faulks)

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

There will be many show gardens where you can experience and be inspired by some of the most exciting talent in garden design.

Some are small in size to show what you can do in a limited space, while others are much grander. But they are all incredible, with unique themes and stories behind each of them, as well as fantastic planting combinations, structures and hard landscaping.

It's well worth taking the camera and a pen and paper for you to note down some of those plant varieties that you may wish to include in your own garden.

## 3 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!

## 4 The Marquee

This marquee has become a bigger and more popular at the show each year. It looks at plants that you can grow specifically for food, but in addition to that they have also got trade stands with a plethora of outstanding foods to taste.

Anything, right the way through from chutneys and cheeses to pies. It's a really great marquee to get in and get your taste buds going.

## 5 The Butterfly Dome

This is an amazing chance for you to walk through thousands of free-flying butterflies from all over the world - from Indonesia to South America. It's utterly mesmerising.

There's also a beautiful array of tropical vegetation, and it's perfect for taking marvellous photographs.

## 6 Country Living Marquee

Packed with beautifully crafted goods, it's always magical to get lost in the Country Living Marquee with its myriad of stands. You can find everything from pieces of art to gorgeous clothing and much, much more.

Definitely well worth a visit.

## 7 The Floral Marquee

Just imagine thousands upon thousands of plants for sale, as well as the opportunity to meet the experts that actually grow them!

Whether it is Japanese vmaples, bonsais, herbaceous perennials, shrubs, trees... there's a whole host of them. The place is huge and packed out with great things.

Unlike the Chelsea Flower Show where you can't buy plants, at Hampton you can fill your bags!

## 8 Festival of Roses

Every year this is one of my favourite exhibits - a whole marquee dedicated to the nation's favourite plant. There's climbers, there's standards, there's bush, there's miniature, there's ground cover... a whole host of exhibits from some of the best rose growers in the country.

It's an ideal opportunity to treat yourself to something or to buy someone a present. But it's also a unique chance to talk to some of the experts and glean some great info on how you can get the best out of your own roses.

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

## 9 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 Aspath Suffolk Cyder and London Pride Bitter. Or try the tasty sustainable fish and chips.

## 10 Family Saturday

If you've got kids, bring them along on Saturday to see Mr Bloom from Cbeebies for a fun-filled day packed with awesome activities. The theme for the day is rocket science, and the space-age scarecrows will blow the kids away!

There's story-telling, sowing seeds, a fun family trail to follow, and even children's cookery classes!



# Where to find us

## 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 12 on the M25.

Showground parking costs £15 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 also on the A308.

Both can be prebooked by calling 0844 338 7502.

## Park and Ride Driving and Parking

There is a park and ride facility for £6 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 £3.00 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 £6.50 single or £8.00 return, and children and OAPs get £2 off the adult fare.

Visit [turks.co.uk](http://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



for gardening tips

# Basic information and facilities

## 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/](http://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.



Supported by



## 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 many 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.

Tables can be booked for some of the restaurants at the show on the RHS website. It's in the Plan Your Visit section of the show's pages on the site.

## Cash Machines

Cash machines are situated throughout the show, but they will charge you. Best to get some out before you arrive.