

# RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

2 - 8 July 2018



## David Domoney's Insider Guide

### Show Gardens



See some of the brightest stars in the horticultural world exercise their design talents at the show with a selection of incredible show gardens.

### Floral Displays

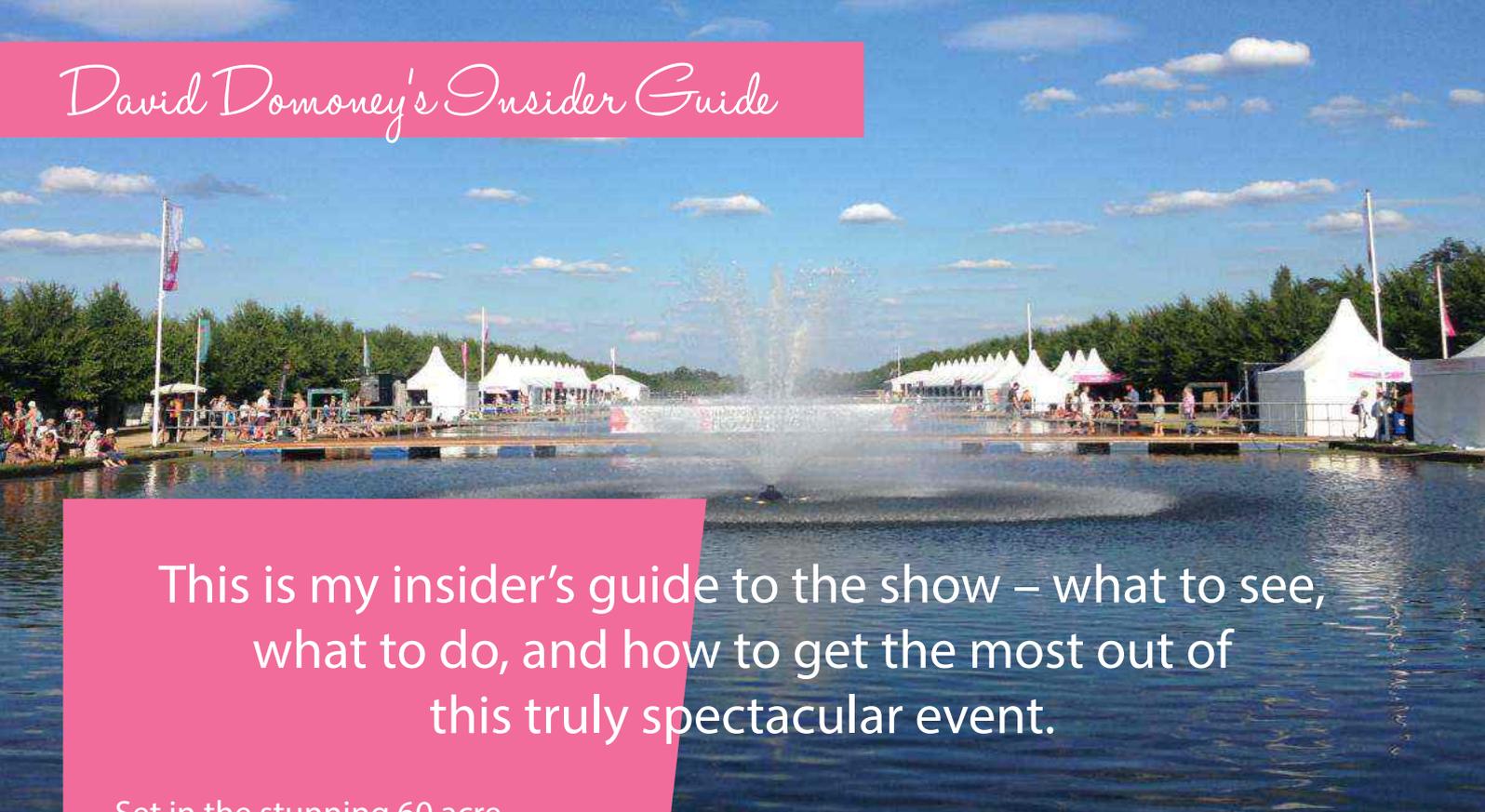


Magnificent floral displays and a huge range of plants you can buy and take home - this show is the home of anyone who loves horticulture.

### A Wonderful Day



Celebrity speakers, fabulous food, exciting shopping... there's no shortage of things to do at this wonderful show.



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.

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

Did you know that RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show is the largest annual flower show in the world?

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 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, 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!

I hope you have an incredible day out, and be sure to come and see me at the RHS Celebrity Theatre!



# Fun show facts...

**539** exhibitors  
**27** years old  
**140,000** visitors  
**26** show gardens  
**6750m<sup>2</sup>**  
floor area of the Floral Marquee



More flowers are sold per square mile at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show than anywhere else in the UK.



During the 2016 show, visitors consumed 2,078 Glasses of Pimm's!



## Did you know?

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

size of the palace kitchen **36,000ft<sup>2</sup>**

**600** number of people that were employed at the palace

The palace gardens are home to the worlds largest productive grape vine

# Top 10 things to see and do

**1** **The RHS Celebrity Theatre**  
First up, have a look at the RHS Celebrity Theatre timetable. 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 myself, Pippa Greenwood, Julia Bradbury, Bill Oddie, Chris Beardshaw, Carol Klein, Ben Faulks and Joe Swift.

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 for more information and to find out when each of the celebrities will be appearing.

**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.

This year you'll find the brand new 'Lifestyle Gardens' which are centred around various relatable garden uses – such as 'The Entertaining Garden' by designer Anca Panait which is inspired by gin and outdoor entertaining, or 'The Family Garden' designed by Lilly Gomm with both functionality and wildlife in mind. Don't forget to check out Countryfile's 30th Anniversary Garden, designed by the award winning Ann-Marie Powell, which showcases the UK's diverse landscapes with unique characteristics of stone, plants and wildlife habitats.

**3** **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 maples, bonsais, herbaceous perennials, shrubs, succulents... there's a whole host of them. The place is huge and packed out with great things.

And the special thing at Hampton, unlike some flower shows, is that you can buy all of the plants!

You will find rare beauties and old classics all displayed wondrously.

**4** **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 will literally make your head spin.

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.

## Top 10 things to see and do

### 5 Family Weekend

The activities run all week but there's extra fun to be had on the weekend. So if you've got kids, bring them along on Saturday or Sunday for fun-filled days packed with awesome activities.

The theme this year is 'You are what you eat', and the amazing scarecrow competition will blow the kids away!

There are planting workshops, fossil hunting and many fun activities for young people run by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening.

### 6 The Evolution Dome

A special feature this year will take visitors on a journey through time with landscapes from the Cambrian and Jurassic periods right through to the present day, where you'll find a meadow of flowers that have been around since the Cretaceous era.

It's an immersive and educational experience to enlighten curious minds on the evolution of plants.

### 7 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, whether you are looking to treat yourself or someone you care about.

### 8 Pimm's o'clock!

Hampton Court Flower Show is famous for its love of Pimms!

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 Festival of Food and Flowers

The RHS is teaming up with famous chef and champion of homegrown produce, Raymond Blanc OBE, who'll be bringing his celebrated gardening school from Belmond Le Manoir to Hampton Court Palace. With plenty of 'Grow your Own' inspiration for gardens of all shapes and sizes as well as an outdoor classroom and cookery school, the new feature will demonstrate the power of fresh, seasonal homegrown produce and encourage a new wave of gardening chefs. A cookery theatre will also host well-known celebrity chefs and food experts such as Mark Diacono, Gregg Wallace, Anna Greenland and Deliciously Ella.

### 10 The Palace Kitchen

Don't forget to enjoy lunch fit for a royal in this delightful restaurant located next to long water with stunning views of the palace. Or try the Waterfront Oasis for a relaxed atmosphere in the heart of the showground, offering a selection of salads and hot food.

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 Aspell Suffolk Cyder and London Pride Bitter. Or try the tasty sustainable fish and chips.

# RHS Celebrity Theatre

Brought to you by



Chris Beardshaw

Bill Oddie

Julia Bradbury

David Domoney

Ben Faulks

Carol Klein

Pippa Greenwood

Joe Swift

TIME	TUESDAY 3RD	WEDNESDAY 4TH	THURSDAY 5TH	FRIDAY 6TH	SATURDAY 7TH	SUNDAY 8TH
11.00am	Pippa Greenwood	David Domoney	Chris Beardshaw	Julia Bradbury	Pippa Greenwood	Joe Swift
12.00pm	Julia Bradbury	Bill Oddie	Carol Klein	Carol Klein	David Domoney	Ben Faulks
1.00pm	Pippa Greenwood	David Domoney	Chris Beardshaw	Julia Bradbury	Pippa Greenwood	Joe Swift
2.00pm	Julia Bradbury	Bill Oddie	Carol Klein	Carol Klein	David Domoney	Ben Faulks
3.00pm	Pippa Greenwood	David Domoney	Chris Beardshaw	Julia Bradbury	Pippa Greenwood	Joe Swift
4.00pm	Julia Bradbury	Bill Oddie	Carol Klein	Carol Klein	David Domoney	-
5.00pm	Pippa Greenwood	David Domoney	David Domoney	David Domoney	Pippa Greenwood	-

This timetable is subject to change, please check this board for updates before you take your seats.

Supported by



Inspiring everyone to grow



I'll be joining some of the nation's best-loved gardeners live on stage at the RHS Celebrity Theatre supported by Everest Home Improvements!

[www.everest.co.uk](http://www.everest.co.uk)

Come down and see us for some good laughs and expert advice!



# Basic information and facilities

## GETTING THERE



### 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 £3.20 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 £7.00 single or £8.80 return, and RHS members, children, and OAPs get £2 off the adult fare.

Visit [turks.co.uk](http://turks.co.uk) for more information.

### Cycling

There are free bicycle racks at the Thames entrance.

### 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 £16 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 online or by calling 0844 995 9664.

### Park and Ride

There is a park and ride facility for £9 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.

### Bus & Tube

This varies depending on where you're coming from, so your best bet is to go to:

[tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey](http://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey)

Hampton Court Palace,  
East Moseley, Surrey, KT8  
9AU

# 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 <http://rhshamptoncourtpalace.seetickets.com/> or call 0844 995 9664.

### 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.

For more show info visit:

[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)



### 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.

### Seating

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

# How to make the most of your day

## Top 10 Tips from flower show veterans

### Use the facilities

At many flower shows there are porters – young guys and gals with wheel barrows that will be happy to help you get your purchases back to your car. Take advantage of it.

Some shows also have plant crèches where you can leave your plants so that you're not lugging them around all day.

### Entertainment

There are often fantastic celebrity talks and entertainment at flower shows. Plan for it, and arrive early enough to get a good seat, grab a coffee and enjoy it.

It's good to break up your day and have a rest from walking and shopping at least every two hours. If you plan for it you can use the entertainment as a break to keep yourself from getting worn out.

### Arrive early

Get in when the show opens and you will be able to see a lot of the features before the crowds pour in.

It's also a good idea to have lunch early. If you can eat around 12:00 the food vendors will be quiet, the food will be fresh, and the best seats will be available. Then, when you're finished you can enjoy the trade stands while the crowds are thinning out for their own lunches.

### Research

Check out the show's website for information on what's going on at the show.

Print off a map of the site and mark the places you want to visit. This allows you to bypass all of that wasted time on the day talking about 'what are we going to do next?' Also, talk to friends who have been to the show, and take advantage of any tips they may have on what's good, where to park, timings and so on.

### Be practical

Comfort is key on a long day out, so dress to chill, not to kill. Check the weather report and be prepared for the temperature and any possible rain.

If the forecast is for scattered showers but it's dry when you arrive, go to the outdoor features first and save the marquees for later when it might be wet.

### Try before you buy

Many of the food stands will be happy to let you sample goods such as cheeses and honeys before you buy them. Again, don't be afraid to ask before parting with your precious pounds.

### Energy

Take breaks and keep food in your system for energy. Stop for a morning cuppa, a good lunch and an afternoon break too.

It's also good to carry a couple of energy or cereal bars for a quick fix.

### Negotiate

If you're buying more than one plant, see if you can get a discount! There's no harm in asking.

On the last day they are very eager to sell. And the later in the day, the better the discount!

### Hydrate

Stay hydrated – it helps avoid the afternoon slump. Be sure you have bottled water, and maybe an energy drink like Lucozade to perk you up.

### Use the experts

Take along photos of your garden. There's always lots of very clever experts at flower shows that can help you with your own gardening conundrums, so take along some pictures of anything you might want help with.

It can also help to have a visual reference when selecting plants to buy.