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# RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

8 - 13 July 2014

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## *David Domoney's Insider Guide*

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

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 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.

I often see people leaving with armfuls of plants and flowers!

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.

**There is so much to see and do – it's a great day out for all the family.**

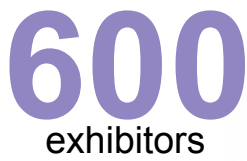






# Fun Facts and Figures

At Hampton Court 2013 there were:



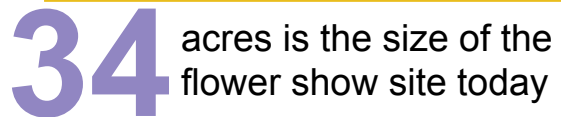
was the combined floor space of the marquees



Did you know?

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

is how much he spent doing it up



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



During the show, visitors consume:

**48,501**



cups of Fairtrade tea and coffee

**4357**



slices of cake

**1500** baguettes



**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 talk about their love of gardening and wildlife and reveal their tips and best-kept secrets!

The RHS Celebrity Theatre is supported by Anglian Home Improvements.

I'll be onstage alongside my TV co-presenters **Frances Tophill** and **Katie Rushworth** for two exclusive Love Your Garden days on Wednesday and Thursday.

Plus come and see **John Craven**, **Diarmuid Gavin**, **Gloria Hunniford**, **Charlie Dimmock**, **Toby Buckland** and **Alys Fowler** live on stage!

The first show starts at 11am and a celebrity will take to the stage every hour.

*See the programme at the end of the guide.*

### 2 The Quiet Mark Treehouse and Garden by John Lewis

I've joined forces with Quiet Mark and John Lewis to build a treehouse and garden like you've never seen before.

The garden is a tranquil sanctuary to escape from all the noise from the urban world. Trees to filter sounds and an insulated tree house to encourage a quiet haven.

After Hampton Court Palace Flower Show the treehouse will be donated by Quiet Mark and John Lewis to The Chestnut Children's Hospice in West Sussex. The hospice were unable to build their own treehouse because of budget constraints, and they are delighted to be involved with making such a gift to provide a special new place for the children and their families to be together.

[Find out more here.](#)

### 3 Growing Taste Marquee

Get inspired to grow your own with stunning displays of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs.

You can find a variety of fine foods and fresh produce – I bet you never knew gardening could be so tasty!

Don't forget to sample and buy from the award-winning producers at the market too.

### 4 Conceptual Gardens

This year the theme is The Seven Deadly Sins, with one garden representing each sin.

Envy will have a perfect lawn, Wrath has been inspired by the instability of an eruptive volcano, and Gluttony will represent the sin of food waste in a world where people are starving.

There's sure to be some dramatic and provocative designs!

### 5 Rose Marquee

Every year 'The Rose Marquee' is themed and this year the inspiration comes from the Circus. Visit a carnival of colour from standard, climber and bush roses, spectacular flowers displaying beautiful scents from every direction. After completing your tour of 'The Rose Marquee', you can purchase roses and receive expert advice from the growers and specialist rose breeders.





## 6 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 will include the Essence of Australia garden, showcasing local plants and bringing that Aussie love of outdoor living to Britain.

Plus check out the wildlife, woodland and community-themed gardens, and a bird's nest-inspired contemporary garden complete with a Perspex cube!

The Summer Gardens are also set to be fantastic, featuring hedgehog-friendly designs and country estates.

## 7 Your Garden Your Budget

Small budget? No problem!

Landscape design teams have taken on the challenge of building show gardens with just £7k, £10k, £13k or £15k to show you all that can be achieved on a realistic budget!

Check out their inspiring designs including a magical woodland garden, a Mediterranean garden based on ancient Greek mythological imagery and the Bacchus Garden, representing the Roman God of Wine.

These aim to show you practical ideas and solutions to problems that home gardeners face on a day-to-day basis.

## 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 The Floral Marquee

Visit 95 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 people are not sales executives, they're passionate growers who want to help and inspire you.



## 10 Palace Garden Room

The flower show is huge and you'll need somewhere to have a rest! Grab a seat 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 Aspsall 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 £10 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](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.





## 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 <https://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.







David Domoney's Insider Guide

# Celebrity Theatre Programme

I'll be joining some of the nation's best-loved TV presenters live on stage this year!  
The Celebrity Theatre is supported by Anglian Home Improvements.



John Craven



David Domoney



Diarmuid Gavin



Frances Tophill



Katie Rushworth



Charlie Dimmock



Alys Fowler



Gloria Hunniford



Toby Buckland

| Time  | Tuesday        | Wednesday                         | Thursday                          | Friday          | Saturday         | Sunday           |
|-------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 11:00 | Diarmuid Gavin | Frances Tophill & Katie Rushworth | Frances Tophill & Katie Rushworth | Toby Buckland   | John Craven      | Alys Fowler      |
| 12:00 | John Craven    | David Domoney                     | David Domoney                     | Charlie Dimmock | Gloria Hunniford | Gloria Hunniford |
| 13:00 | Diarmuid Gavin | Frances Tophill & Katie Rushworth | Frances Tophill & Katie Rushworth | Toby Buckland   | John Craven      | Alys Fowler      |
| 14:00 | John Craven    | David Domoney                     | David Domoney                     | Charlie Dimmock | Gloria Hunniford | Gloria Hunniford |
| 15:00 | Diarmuid Gavin | Frances Tophill & Katie Rushworth | Frances Tophill & Katie Rushworth | Toby Buckland   | John Craven      | Alys Fowler      |
| 16:00 | John Craven    | David Domoney                     | David Domoney                     | Charlie Dimmock | Gloria Hunniford | Gloria Hunniford |
| 17:00 | Diarmuid Gavin | Frances Tophill & Katie Rushworth | Frances Tophill & Katie Rushworth | Toby Buckland   | David Domoney    |                  |



Raising the standard.

