



WHAT'S ON IN GARDENS 2016

JANUARY

Landscapes: A celebration of Landscape, Lyme Park, Cheshire

January – February, (weekend days, 11am – 3pm)

Lyme's Winter Exhibition in association with SkyArts Landscape Artist of the Year. View the original paintings from Sky Arts Landscape of the Year and never-before-seen artwork from the Legh family collection. Take part in the arty garden trail and craft activities for all ages. £4 per person.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme-park

Butterflies in the Glasshouse at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey

January – March

Hidden amongst the stunning, frosty surrounds of RHS Garden Wisley, a tropical glasshouse will come to life with hundreds of fluttering exotic butterflies from mid-January until 6th March 2016.

Experience the sight of these beautiful, colourful creatures against the steamy backdrop of tropical plants in The Glasshouse at this must-see annual event. A perfect way to beat the winter blues.

www.rhs.org.uk/wisley

Capability Brown Landscape Tours at Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

18 & 21 January

The Trentham Estate - one of Brown's most celebrated successes during the 18th century - is now involved in what is currently one of the biggest parkland projects in the country. As well as hearing about the major restoration project, walkers will also learn about Brown's enormous impact at The Trentham Estate, from enlarging the lake to creating parkland. The tour will explore the restored connection between Kings Wood and the lake, point out a number of Brownian-aged trees between the amphitheatre and the bird hide, and visit the recently revealed Victorian Red Woods. Future plans - including the introduction of grazing, and the opportunity to reinvigorate some of the present-day lakeside attractions - will also be highlighted on the tour, which will take-in the remains of Trentham Hall, the discovery of the once forgotten Ice House and the location of the world's second oldest cast iron bridge, constructed in 1779.

www.trentham.co.uk

Capability Brown at Weston Park, Shropshire

January - April

Weston Park's Granary Art Gallery will feature a series of exhibitions that will explore the legacy of Capability Brown throughout 2016. On Sunday 3 January, the New Year's Walk starts the Capability Brown celebrations as Head Gardener Martin Gee takes visitors on a guided walk through the Parkland. A further walk led by Martin on Sunday 31 January will take a more detailed look at the work of Brown, using the original plans of the layout of the landscape to interpret what was achieved and the legacy that this has bestowed.

In February (1-28) the Gallery will welcome the Staffordshire Society of Artists who will present pieces in various media. The society will be showcasing the work of its members creatively led by the inspiration of Brown.

Spring will arrive in the gallery with the work of the Embroiders Guild (1-31 March), whose members are working on individual pieces to create their own interpretation of Brown's work at Weston Park. Having made numerous visits to Weston Park, the members' imagination will have borne fruit in what promises to be a fascinating show

of their painstaking art. This is one of a series of exhibitions of work being undertaken by the Embroiderers Guild at various Capability Brown sites throughout the UK.

Landscape artist Tim Scott Bolton has spent the last couple of years visiting a number of Capability Brown projects across the country to paint them in all their glory for a dedicated exhibition. During April (1-28) Bolton's collection, which includes Weston Park's Temple of Diana and Temple Wood, will be exhibited.

Martin continues his guided walks on Sunday 17 April with a look at Brown's planting schemes in Temple Wood. Temple Wood is one of two naturalistic paradises created at Weston Park, the other being Shrewsbury Walk; although they are classic Brown representations and little altered from how they looked when they were conceived in the 1760s, there are very few remaining across the country making these real national treasures.
www.weston-park.com

Chelsea garden returns to Yorkshire roots, East Yorkshire

Part of the award winning 'Welcome to Yorkshire' Chelsea Flower Show garden has been relocated to the Wold Newton Brewery that helped to inspire the garden design in the first place. The Brewers Yard garden was designed to celebrate Yorkshire's famous beer industry and wealth of microbreweries and included a unique water feature comprised of a traditional Yorkshire Square brewing vessel. It is this brewing vessel that has been carefully recycled and installed in the garden at Wold Top Brewery.

<http://www.woldtopbrewery.co.uk>

Fairies, Dandelions and Capability Brown, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

A project aimed at rediscovering Capability's lost landscape has been taking place at the Trentham Estate). The scheme has been taking shape throughout this year, and will continue to develop and mature through 2016 as the tercentenary of Capability Brown is celebrated across the UK. In addition to this, 12 brand new giant dandelion sculptures have been installed in the garden next to a beautiful new annual wildflower meadow. Standing at an impressive five metres tall with pretty seed heads over a metre wide, these stunning works complement the existing fairy trail where 15 beautiful fairies, painstakingly created from galvanised and stainless steel wire by local artist Robin Wight, are hiding around the beautiful mile-long lake, and through the woods and gardens. Trentham is also host a great events programme throughout the year including family activities, things to do with the kids in the school holidays, outdoor concerts, garden tours and workshops, artisan markets, tastings and artist appearances!

www.trentham.co.uk

FEBRUARY

Snowdrop Festival, Various locations

1 – 29 February

In 2016, the National Gardens Scheme's first ever Snowdrop Festival will take place in February. More than one hundred NGS gardens across England will open through February, giving visitors the opportunity to see veritable carpets of beautiful snowdrops and watch spring slowly unfurl from winter.

<http://www.ngs.org.uk/>

Orchid Festival, Kew Gardens, London

6 February – 6 March

Step inside Kew's Princess of Wales Conservatory this February and admire its transformation into a celebration of Brazil's magnificent plant life and fascinating habitats. This year will see orchids and other tropical plants adorning the remarkable architecture of this steamy glasshouse, creating a sensory journey through the striking flora of Brazil during Carnival season.

<http://www.kew.org/>

Snowdrop Walks at Rode Hall & Gardens, Cheshire

7 February – 8 March

Rode Hall Gardens are the setting of one of the most spectacular displays of Snowdrops in the North West of England and Rode's Snowdrop Walks have a strong and well respected reputation throughout the UK.

<http://www.rodehall.co.uk/snowdrops>

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www.trentham.co.uk

Camellia Show at Chiswick House

11 February – 13 March

Chiswick House and Gardens Trust will be holding their popular annual Camellia Show from Thursday 11th February – Sunday 13th March 2016. The Show, now in its 6th year, celebrates these beautiful blooms within the elegant Chiswick House Conservatory, a 300ft glasshouse designed by Samuel Ware in 1813 for the 6th Duke of Devonshire. The Chiswick House Camellia collection is a national treasure and believed to be the oldest collection under glass in the Western world. It includes rare and historically important examples of these beautiful plants, with a gorgeous array of blooms; pink, red, white and striped.

www.chgt.org.uk

Brown at Blenheim Palace

13 February – 2 May

Blenheim Palace will be host to a range of commemorative activities across 2016 to honour the life of 'Capability' Brown including an opening exhibition that will share his work across the 11 years he was commissioned (1763 – 1774) through detailed accounts of how he designed and executed such a masterpiece through photography, drawings, equipment and costumes. The exhibition 'Blenheim Palace and the Landscape of Blenheim Palace' will show the landscape Brown found when he was invited here by the 4th Duke of Marlborough, his plans and how those plans were executed, creating the wonderful landscape which exists today. A new trail of Brown's views of the gardens is also being launched, along with horse-drawn carriage tours of the grounds. The exhibition will be open to visitors who purchase a Palace, Park and Garden ticket.

<http://www.blenheimpalace.com/>

'Designing Your Small Garden', Stansted Park, Chichester

24 February/23 March/ 14 September/19 October

Run by RHS Gold Medal winning garden designer Barry Chambers, this one day course at Stansted Park in Chichester offers participants the opportunity to spend time with a gardening professional, learning the right approach and techniques to transform a garden. The course costs £89 including lunch and refreshments.

www.changingscenes.co.uk/courses

'Scene: A new way of looking', Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire

From 26 February

Wimpole Hall will host a neon art commission 'Scene: A new way of looking', launching on 26th February, and will host a collection-based display on Brown in the Red Room. Special walks will take place throughout the year and Wimpole will host a new play about CB in the Quantum outdoor theatre on Sunday 19 June. In October, autumn concerts will have a theme of music inspired by landscape and nature.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate/>

Croome, Worcestershire

February – September

Croome will be hosting a number of events to celebrate the work of Brown, who shaped the gardens of Croome in the 18th century, including talks by gardens experts such as Sarah Rutherford and Richard Wheeler, as well as a Brown's homecoming celebration on 25 September.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome

Strange Magic Exhibition at Berrington Hall, Herefordshire

February – October

Berrington Hall will be restoring and reinstating the original design of the park to reveal 'lost views', and is working with environmental artists RedEarth to produce a series of installations within the park to interpret the restoration. A contemporary art exhibition – 'Strange Magic' will interpret the restoration in line with the parkland plan back to Brown's original vision.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/berrington-hall

MARCH

Rosemoor Spring Flower Show, RHS Garden Rosemoor

12 -13 March

Enjoy a glorious display of camellias, early magnolias and rhododendrons. This year, in addition to the RHS Early Camellia competition, the show will include classes for growing ornamental shrubs and a Rosemoor Daffodil and RHS Hyacinth competition. Come and view the exquisite displays of top quality blooms from competitors all over the South West and beyond.

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor

New estates tour at Belvoir Castle

From 13 March

In the early 1800s, the Duke of Rutland's gardens at Belvoir Castle were largely considered to be one of the finest in the land. Rumoured to be the work of the country's greatest landscape architect, Capability Brown, they have been largely forgotten until now. A chance discovery of Brown's incredible plans for Belvoir Castle in its own archives, which had been lost for nearly 200 years, has led to the launch of a new book and estates tour to coincide with Brown's tercentenary. The Castle and Gardens will be open for the season from 13 March 2016. As well as the existing tours of the grounds, a brand new Capability Brown tour will offer the chance for visitors to experience the stunning views and vistas that Capability had planned for Belvoir over 250 years ago. Explore previously un-trodden ground in some of the Estate's most beautiful gardens and woodland, and find out why the Belvoir plans give a fascinating insight into the inspirations of the latter stages of Brown's career. The book, entitled Capability Brown and Belvoir, is the Duchess of Rutland's story about her gardens' development and the fascinating people that made it happen. She shows how Brown's enduring landscape is still as appropriate for today and, crucially, for the next generations' agricultural, environmental and aesthetic purposes. Her candid and informative text is complemented by stunning photography and includes views of many private areas of the garden not usually open to the public.

www.belvoircastle.com

Garden Tours of Hill Top, Cumbria

From 20 March

Join Hill Top's very own Mr McGregor, gardener Pete, for a guided tour of Beatrix Potter's delightful farm house garden in the year that marks 150 years since her birth. Learn about the history of the garden, its plants and the deep connections with Beatrix's life and work.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hill-top

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www.changingscenes.co.uk/courses

Art of Landscape at Harewood

25 March – 30 October

Harewood House is one of Yorkshire's best known country houses, boasting 1000 acres of "Capability" Brown designed landscape. Representing one of his most important designs, the Grade I listed parkland has remained unchanged since its creation. With soft, rolling hills and mature, established treelines, visitors can experience the iconic, picturesque views "Capability" Brown imagined for Harewood in the 1760s. The *Art of Landscape* will show works from great masters who have engaged intimately with the vistas at Harewood. Watercolours produced in the late 18th century by celebrated artists including JMW Turner, Cotman, and Girtin will be displayed alongside photographs by pioneering Victorian photographer Roger Fenton, who captured the Brownian views in 1860. A contemporary response by Simon Warner will take you through the landscape in a new film titled "*North and South*".

www.harewood.org

Fireworks at Kirkharle, Northumberland

25 – 27 March

Enjoy an evening fireworks display and torchlight procession round Capability's serpentine lake beside Kirkharle Courtyard. Volunteers, dressed in period costume, will be on hand to offer information and guidance, helping visitors to enjoy the whole 'CB' experience, with refreshments provided.

kirkharlecourtyard.co.uk

'Terrestrial Delights' exhibition, Bowood House

From 25 March

A special 2016 exhibition in The Orangery of Bowood House will reveal how, with Capability Brown's first visit to Wiltshire's Bowood, a vision for one of England's best landscapes had already started to take shape. Bowood's 'Terrestrial Delights' exhibition will chart the subsequent development of the parkland and lead the estate's own particular tribute to the 'father of landscape architecture' during the nationwide Capability Brown Festival celebrating next year's tercentenary of his birth. Bowood House and Gardens has also scheduled a series of specially-themed, guided garden tours around the parkland.

www.bowood.org

Easter Egg hunt, Kensington Roof Gardens, London

27 March

The Roof Gardens will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt, with details still to be confirmed.

<http://www.virginlimitededition.com/en/the-roof-gardens>

Magnolia Tours, Borde Hill Gardens, Sussex

Mid March – April

On certain days in March and April the Head Gardener, Andy Stevens, will take tours to highlight the dramatic entrance of the magnificent magnolias, many of which are the original plants collected by Plant Hunters over 80 years ago, and as seen on BBC Two Gardeners' World in 2015.

www.bordehill.co.uk/

Strangers' Hall Gardens, Norwich

30 March and 6 April

Strangers' Hall is a beautifully restored building dating back to 1320, once home to some of Norwich's wealthiest merchants and civic leaders. Today the museum presents a series of period rooms with superb furnishings and textiles, offering a fascinating insight into the domestic lives of former residents. One of the most surprising things about the Hall is the beautiful garden including the Knot Garden. In 2016, the gardens will offer an informal wander around its hidden gem of a garden with a tour guide. Discover how the Strangers' Hall garden has evolved and enjoy refreshments and a small selection of plants and cuttings are available for purchase. Free with Museum admission.

www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/Visit_Us/Strangers_Hall/index.htm

APRIL

Capability Brown group pleasure walk at Longleat

1 April – 1 October

Longleat House is set in 900 acres of 'Capability' Brown designed landscape. The gardens and areas of the parkland were redesigned and modernised by 'Capability' Brown after 1757 where it was replaced with a fine lawn, a serpentine river, wooded hills, and gravel paths meandering round a shrubbery. Enjoy a 1.5 hour tour with our private guide before enjoying Cream Tea in The Orangery.

<http://www.longleat.co.uk/explore/longleat-house>

Shohin Bonsai Weekend, RHS Garden Wisley

2–3 April

A chance to explore the wonderful world of the Bonsai Tree to a level not seen outside Japan: Shohin Bonsai Weekend will feature displays by the Sutton Bonsai Society and the National Shohin Bonsai Show, as well as some of the finest rising stars of the Bonsai world judging and carrying out demonstrations and workshops.

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley

Garden Walks, Cragside, Northumberland

Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 5 April

Enter the world of North East pioneer Lord Armstrong - Victorian inventor, innovator and landscape genius. Cragside house was truly a wonder of its age. Discover the first house in the world to be lit by hydroelectricity. It is crammed full of ingenious gadgets – most of them still working. The gardens are incredible, boasting one of the largest rock gardens in Europe leads down to the Iron Bridge, which in turn leads to the formal garden. Join a volunteer gardener for a guided walk through the formal garden. The tour includes an introduction to the different parts of the garden and seasonal highlights.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside/>

Forest Night Adventure, Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden, Norwich

9 April

Experience the magic of the woodland at night with Jon Tyler of Wildforwoods. There will be astronomy, wildlife and sensory discovery, as well as a touch of night magic. Adult tickets cost £8.50, children tickets cost £5.50.

<http://www.fairhavengarden.co.uk/>

National Gardening Week, all RHS gardens

11-17 April

Listen out for events all over the country for National Gardening Week! Come and share in the fun at the four RHS Gardens – this year's theme will be Health, Horticulture and Happiness. There will also be free entry for non-members on Friday 15 April for National Open Gardens Day.

www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk

Exhibition: Embroiderer's Guild, Croome, Worcestershire

11 April – 31 October 2016

This will be an exhibition of work by local embroiderers, inspired by Brown's design of the landscape at Croome and the plants used.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome>

Exhibition: Brown Found, Stowe, Buckinghamshire

12 April - 31 October

To celebrate the tercentenary of Brown's birth there are a whole host of things to see and do at Stowe, from individual events to a long running exhibition. Guests can visit the festival hub to discover Brown's life and work at Stowe, take tours of the garden or explore it at their own pace.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe/profiles/capability-found-at-stowe>

Brown's Walk to School tour, Wallington

12 April

Follow in the footsteps of Capability Brown on this ranger-led walk tracing the route of his daily route to school, from Kirkharle to Cambo, across the Wallington estate. Explore the countryside he would have known so well and take in the landscape that may have inspired his naturalistic designs. Normal admission charges apply, plus £5 per person for the walk.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington>

Garden Demonstrations, Helmsley Walled Garden, York

16 April

Helmsley Walled Garden are hosting a 'Grow Your Own garden' event with talks and demonstrations on 16th April, allowing visitors to find out how they can enjoy growing their own. Throughout the year art courses will also be given by different artists held in the Orchid House, and provide short introductory courses to beekeeping called Meet the Bees.

www.helmsleywalledgarden.org.uk/

Essex Plant Heritage Spring Fair, RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Essex

16 – 17 April

With around 30 specialist nurseries to choose from this plant fair will be the perfect opportunity to stock up on plants for the season ahead.

www.rhs.org.uk/hydehall

Cherry Blossom Festival, Doddington Hall, Lincolnshire

17 – 24 April

Enjoy a visit to Doddington Hall and Gardens this spring to gaze at the ultimate symbol of the season, the beautiful and delicate Cherry Blossom. Stroll down the Cherry Blossom Walk and delight in the vision, capture the perfect picture through our gilt frames, and practice part of the ancient Japanese tradition of Hanami by sitting on the Croquet lawn and gazing at the cloud like blossoms in the trees above and around you.

www.doddingtonhall.com

Harrogate Flower Show

21 – 24 April / 18 – 20 September

One of the most prestigious gardening shows in the country, people flock to the both the spring and autumn Flower Shows from far and wide. From inspiration for visitors' own gardens to the ever-popular giant vegetable competition, the show even offers hospitality packages.

www.flowershow.org.uk/

Spring Garden Show, Loseley Park, Surrey

22- 24 April

The very popular Spring Garden Show will be held in the Walled Gardens, where the bulbs, spring planting and blossom will provide lots of colour, on 22nd – 24th April 2016. Amongst the plentiful nurseries exhibiting there will be garden accessories, furniture, driftwood sculpture, water features and all manner of garden miscellany.

www.loseleypark.co.uk/

RHS National Rhododendron Show, RHS Garden Rosemoor

23-24 April

This National Show has over 60 classes covering all types of these beautiful spring flowering plants, as well as trade and advice stands. Competitions are free to enter and open to anyone.

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor

'The Empress and the Gardener' exhibition, Hampton Court Palace, London

From 28 April

In April, Historic Royal Palaces will mark the 300th anniversary of Capability Brown's birth with a new exhibition, 'The Empress and the Gardener', exploring the famous English gardener's surprising influence on the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great, who was passionate about all things English and created English palaces and

gardens in St Petersburg. The Empress settled instead for a collection of watercolours of Hampton Court Palace and gardens by Brown's draughtsman, John Spyers. Sold to Catherine the Great for 1,000 roubles, these evocative drawings are a remarkable record of Brown's tenure as Chief Gardener at Hampton Court in the 18th century, and will go on display at the palace for the first time since their rediscovery at the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg in 2002.

www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/

Toby Buckland's Garden Festival, Powderham Castle, Devon

29 – 30 April

Toby Buckland's Garden Festival is more than a flower show: expect inspiring guest speakers, hand-picked exhibitors, practical workshops, the best of garden accessories, outdoor cooking, woodland craft, the very finest locally sourced food and drink and an abundance of exceptional flowers and plants, all situated in beautiful heritage locations. Powderham Castle, set in an ancient deer park on the banks of the River Exe, provides a perfect location for the Spring Event. Here, among the fabulous rose garden and the multitude of spring bulbs under the massive oaks of the extensive Castle gardens, the show will be exploring "Big Ideas for Small Spaces" relevant to today's smaller gardens, in addition to wider gardening themes.

<http://www.tobygardenfest.co.uk/>

Belsay in Bloom, Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens, Northumberland

29 April – 1 May

Enjoy the gardens of Belsay at this fun-packed weekend. Go on guided tours of the garden, participate in various gardening workshops and there will also be the chance to join the audience of an English Heritage Gardeners' Question Time. Family activities will include a garden trail across the acres of parkland, seed sowing and creative crafts. Brass band music and garden games will provide a relaxed back drop to the activities.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/belsay-hall-castle-and-gardens/>

Springfields Festival Gardens, Lincolnshire

April – May

Lincolnshire's Springfields Festival Gardens will see celebration events in April/May 2016 to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the UK flower bulb industry's original spring bulb show-garden in Spalding. First opened in 1966 as the shop window for the flower bulb industry, the 15 acres of gardens were planted with daffodils, tulips and other spring flowers. Today the gardens – which now sits alongside a sympathetically developed outlet shopping village – are beautifully landscaped, featuring Chelsea-style celebrity showcase gardens, including designs by Charlie Dimmock, Chris Beardshaw, Kim Wilde and Steven Woodhams following a major redevelopment in 2004.

www.springfieldsfestivalgardens.org.uk

Capability Brown tours of Bowood House & Gardens

April – October

A series of monthly special 'Capability Brown' themed, guided garden tours have been scheduled at Bowood House, tracing out his designs for the property's landscape. With Bowood House and Gardens re-opening on 25 March after its annual winter closure, next season's tours will be introduced as a tercentenary tribute. The Capability Brown trail will set off from Bowood House's Italianate Terraces, head around the lake (taking in Hamilton's Cascade and Grotto as it does, as well as the lakeside Doric temple) and then weave through the arboretum before returning to the House for a two course lunch in The Stables Restaurant.

www.bowood.org

Garden Trail, Congham Hall, Norfolk

April

In summer 2015, Congham Hall Hotel created its own garden trail for guests – 'The Magnificent Seven... Norfolk Gardens' – and a special garden-themed break to promote interest in the hotel and the local area. In April 2016, Congham Hall will relaunch its garden trail to mark the Year of the English Garden – starting at Congham Hall's own Herb Garden, a Brown-Sign attraction with more than 400 varieties, and including six other

prominent/interesting local gardens that are open to the public. This year's 90-mile self-guided trail included attractive green spaces such as Gooderstone Water Gardens, the naturalistic re-interpretation of a wet meadow; and neighbouring Sandringham Gardens, a magnificent chronicle of the changing tastes in horticultural design over the past 150 years.

www.conghamhallhotel.co.uk

MAY

Devon Chilli Fiesta, RHS Garden Rosemoor

7-8 May

Our all-weather Terrace Marquee will house over 30 of the top producers from all over the UK, with chilli plants, chilli sauces, chilli chocolate and fudge and chilli preserves to try and buy. There will also be talks, cookery demonstrations, special guests, music and children's activities including free face painting, and a chilli trail around the formal garden.

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor

NGS Open Garden Event, Barnett Hill, Surrey

8 May

The award-winning Barnett Hill, just moments from Guildford, is set within 26 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds. In 2015, its stunning gardens attracted over 600 admirers for the National Gardens Scheme Open Garden Event, proving to be so popular that it will be opening its doors once again in May 2016. The Queen Anne style mansion, known for its eclectic plantings and tranquil setting, will be combining its own Spring Plant Sale with the NGS event to show off its stunning spring colour. Paths wind down to the bluebell woods with views over the surrounding countryside, leading you through mature shrubs and trees including some rare and unusual varieties.

www.sundialgroup.com/venues-hotels/barnett-hill/overview

Ranger Walk: Rothley Lake - Capability Brown's Grand Design, Wallington

10 May

Join an exclusive ranger-led tour of Rothley Lake to discover the history and archaeology of this designed landscape. Find out about the part Capability Brown played in its design and glimpse the wonderful wildlife that now lives in this hidden site. Normal admission charges apply, plus £5 per person for the walk. This will be the FIRST time Rothley Lakes will be accessible for visitors.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington>

Proms on the Roof, Kensington Roof Gardens, London

11 May

Back by popular demand classical music lovers can enjoy a treat for the eyes and ears with music as beautiful as the setting. Leaving the rush of the city behind, guests can while away the summer evenings in amongst the three themed Gardens and listen to world music accompanied by a delicious selection of food.

<http://www.virginlimitededition.com/en/the-roof-gardens>

Bat Walk, RHS Garden Wisley

12 May

Discover the secret world of bats at sunset, in a walk organised by the Surrey Bat Group.

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley

Capability Brown castle and garden tours, Highclere Castle

15 – 22 May

In the tercentennial year of Capability Brown's birth, the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon are opening their home to welcome a limited number of guests as they showcase the Gardens and Parkland, as well as an exclusive tour of the state rooms and bedrooms of Highclere Castle.

<http://www.highclerecastle.co.uk/visiting-us/special-events.html>

RHS Chelsea Flower Show, London

24 – 28 May

The ever-popular celebration of gardens and gardening, the Chelsea Flower Show, returns in May. Among the highlights this year will be multi-award winning designer Cleve West's garden inspired by his memory of the ancient oak woodland on Exmoor National Park. It will feature approximately 30–40 tonnes of stone, sourced from a quarry in the Forest of Dean, and includes a stone and gravel path with woodland-edge planting leading to a sunken terrace and pool.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/>

Secret Garden Afternoon Tea, Kensington Roof Gardens, London

28 May

Discover the secret of The Roof Gardens, and enjoy a delectable Afternoon Tea specially served on the May bank holiday.

<http://www.virginlimitededition.com/en/the-roof-gardens>

Sculpture Exhibition, Borde Hill Gardens, Sussex

May – September

Discover sculptures by some of the South East's most notable artists showcase amongst the spectacular planting.

www.bordehill.co.uk/

Gilbert White House, Hampshire

May

The Gilbert White Museum will offer a new programme of garden inspired workshops and talks, run by their expert garden team. These include a *Wild Gardening* workshop on 21 May. On the weekend of the 28/29 May, the museum will launch a brand new annual Nature event, celebrating Gilbert White's natural legacy.

www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk/

Summer BBQs, Kensington Roof Gardens, London

May - September

Enjoy balmy summer evenings with mouth-watering food at Kensington Roof Garden's sizzling BBQs in the tranquil Tudor Garden from 7pm until 10pm every Friday and Saturday night May – September. Don't worry...the tables are under cover and heaters are provided, so it's perfect whatever the weather! Guests can then dance the night away in London's only rooftop Private Members Club.

<http://www.virginlimitededition.com/en/the-roof-gardens>

JUNE

Toby Buckland's Garden Festival, Bowood House

4 – 5 June

Toby's Festival at Bowood House and Gardens, set in a Grade 1 listed 2000-acre parkland designed by Capability Brown, the tri-centenary of whose birth is celebrated in the nationwide Festival in 2016. With its exceptional specimen trees, sinuous lake and Doric temple, Bowood provides a romantic setting for a summer garden festival.

<http://www.tobygardenfest.co.uk/>

National Gardens Festival Weekend, Various locations

6 – 7 June

Celebrate the great variety of its gardens during the third National Gardens Festival Weekend on the 6th & 7th June. The Festival is set to be one of the country's biggest celebration of garden visiting in 2016, and will see 400 gardens throw open their gates to the public over the June weekend.

<http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/festival-weekend.aspx>

Rosies and Posies, RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Essex

11 – 12 June

Immerse yourself in the sights and scents of Hyde Hall's wonderful roses. We will also be championing British flowers and British florists with a range of demos and displays.

www.rhs.org.uk/hydehall

Summer Fair, Askham Hall, Cumbria

14 June

To celebrate the Year of the English Garden, Askham will be holding its first ever Summer Fair on Sunday 14 June 2016 (11am-4pm), in support of the National Gardens Scheme. Local businesses will sell a variety of summer crafts, gifts, plants and produce. There will also be a garden treasure hunt and a Prosecco Party in the gardens. Visitors can then relax in the atmospheric Kitchen Garden Café, while pizzas are served from the outdoor wood-fired oven.

www.askhamhall.co.uk

BBC Gardeners' World Live, Birmingham NEC

16 – 19 June

This year's BBC Gardeners' World Live will feature top experts sharing their gardening tips, a floral marquee, show gardens and free entry to the BBC Good Food Summer Show.

<https://www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com>

Open Garden Squares Weekend, London

18 – 19 June

Feed your curiosity with over 200 gardens to explore in this magical two-day event. Gardens range from the historic and traditional to the new and experimental and can be discovered across 27 London boroughs.

<http://www.opensquares.org/>

Mini Beast Adventure, Dorothy Clive Garden, Shropshire

18 – 19 June

Discover the millions of creepy crawlies that live within the garden and take part in the Dorothy Clive Garden Insect Trail to learn about bug life. Let the little things that rule the world transform your day as you explore your way around each Insect Station and see the mini beast world come to life! Visit an Insect Circus museum and meet a Worm Charmer! This event celebrates the start of the National Insect Week.

<http://dorothyclivegarden.co.uk/>

Flower Festival, Castle Howard, York

23 – 26 June

Castle Howard are hosting a flower festival 23 to 26 June 2016 - stunning floral displays in the house, demonstrations and workshops, plant and flower fair, all included in the admission price.

www.castlehoward.co.uk/

Arley Garden Festival Arley Hall & Gardens, Northwich, Cheshire

25 – 26 June

The annual Garden Festival features floral, creative crafts and countryside marquees, a food fair and plant nurseries, as well as Garden tours led by Lord Ashbrook and Gordon Baillie, Head Gardener.

www.arleyhallandgardens.com/events

Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape, Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate

25 June – 11 September 2016

The first ever exhibition dedicated to the Yorkshire landscapes of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown celebrates the tercentenary of Brown's birth and also marks the twentieth-anniversary of the founding of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. Brown was the leading landscape designer of the second-half of the eighteenth century and there are around 20 sites in Yorkshire associated with him, one of the greatest concentrations in the country. The landscape garden is recognised as one of Britain's greatest artistic achievements and the designs of Brown and his contemporaries influenced gardens across the world. Featured in the show will be portraits of Brown and his Yorkshire clients, original plans, drawings and documents by Brown, paintings of his creations and works of art

that inspired his landscapes. Courtesy of Harrogate Borough Council the exhibition will be held in the intimate setting of the North Galleries of the Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate. New research will inform the exhibition which will be accompanied by a book considering each of the landscapes and with specially-commissioned photography.

www.harrogate.gov.uk/musm/Pages/mercerartgallery.aspx

Capability 300 Day at Chillington Hall, Staffordshire

26 June

Available for pre-booked guests only, the afternoon includes a guided tour of the hall, ride to the pool, access to the grounds, tea and coffee and costs £15 per person.

www.chillingtonhall.co.uk

20th anniversary of Borde Hill Rose Garden, West Sussex

June – July

Now in its 20th year, Borde Hill is at its peak during the months of June and July, and the rose garden boasts over 75 varieties of rose covering a spectrum of colours, from soft pink through to deep crimson, with glorious fragrances, combine to make the rose a favourite garden flower. Head Gardener, Andy Stevens, will be available on certain days in 2016 to offer advice and tips on choosing, growing and caring for roses (see website for details). Old and new photographs depicting the evolution of this area over the past 100 years will also be on display. An exhibition of sculptures throughout the garden including pieces in the Rose Garden will be running during the summer months.

<http://www.bordehill.co.uk/>

Roses in Bloom, Borde Hill Gardens, Sussex

June – July

Enjoy the magnificent display of over 500 David Austin fragrant roses edged with lavender, nepeta and box, in the 20th Anniversary year of this garden 'room'. Talks, tours and a photographic exhibition are also due to take place.

<http://www.bordehill.co.uk/>

JULY

19240 Shrouds of the Somme, Northernhay Gardens, Exeter

1 July

On the 1 July 1916, the whistle blew and 19240 men went over the top and lost their lives in the first 4 hours of the Battle of the Somme, a number that remains the worst casualty figure for one day in military history to date. As part of the Exeter Armed Forces event on July 1st 2016, at 7pm, the gates of Northernhay Gardens in Exeter, will be opened to reveal for the first time this major art installation, designed to stir compassion and understanding of the tragic events that happened in 1916. The memorial day in the gardens will commence with the blowing of a whistle at 7am to symbolise the first wave of soldiers ordered to go 'over the top'. Each of the 19,240 soldiers who died during the first day of battle will be represented by a 12 inch figure, wrapped and bound in a hand-stitched shroud and arranged in rows on the ground. The work will build into a sea of individually-crafted miniature statues of everyone who lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916

<http://thesomme19240.co.uk/>

RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, London

5-10 July

Highlights of this year's Flower Show include a Butterfly Dome with thousands of free-flying butterflies and Family Saturday, packed with activities like sowing seeds, a fun family trail to follow, story telling, and even children's cookery classes. There will also be two new categories in the show, including a Capability Brown gardens category.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-hampton-court-palace-flower-show>

RHS Flower Show Tatton Park, Cheshire

20 - 24 July

Set in the height of summer this year's show is packed with new features, such as Art in the Garden, presented alongside regular favourites including Show Gardens, breath-taking floral displays, talks and demonstrations, delicious artisan food, great shopping and much more. There will also be the stylish Ladies' Day on Friday 22 July.

www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-flower-show-tatton-park

Summer Garden Show, Loseley Park, Surrey

22-24 July

To see Loseley Park's gardens in full summer bloom, pay a visit on 22nd – 24th July 2016 for their Summer Garden Show, an even bigger event than their Spring Garden Show. Tickets to the show will also allow access to the Walled Gardens.

www.loseleypark.co.uk/

Blooming July, Isle of Wight

July

The flowers of the famous Giant Waterlily at Ventnor Botanic Garden on the Isle of Wight will come into bloom in 2016 in July. With leaves of up to 3-metres in diameter, this rare lily usually flowers after midnight. Special evening openings will be arranged - though they are not easy to predict as the Waterlily decides when it will flower only on the afternoon immediately before.

www.visitisleofwight.co.uk

AUGUST

Boating on Capability Brown's Lake, Berrington Hall

1 August – 2 September

The best way to see this 14-acre designed lake during the tercentenary year will be on a boating tour, which can be taken throughout August and September.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/berrington-hall>

Hyde Hall Flower Show, Essex

4-7 August

The Hyde Hall Flower Show will be a four-day floral extravaganza set in the hall's spectacular surroundings. The show's popularity has grown from 7,600 visitors in 2010 to 26,000 in 2015 and it has fast become a firm favourite in the gardening calendar. The seventh show (4 – 7 August 2016) will be a glorious and colourful display of blooms by specialist nurseries and garden trade stands, including many fresh from medal-winning success at the RHS Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows.

www.rhs.org.uk/HydeHall

Proms on the Roof, Kensington Roof Gardens, London

10, 17, 24 August

Back by popular demand classical music lovers can enjoy a treat for the eyes and ears with music as beautiful as the setting. Leaving the rush of the city behind, guests can while away the summer evenings in amongst the three themed Gardens and listen to world music accompanied by a delicious selection of food.

<http://www.virginlimitededition.com/en/the-roof-gardens>

Shrewsbury Flower Show

12 – 13 August

The annual Shrewsbury Flower Show features TV personalities, celebrity chefs, singers and spectacular arena acts, entertaining the crowds for 12 hours on each day of the show, which culminates with a magnificent firework

display. The show is one of the country's Premier Flower Show events, attracting top exhibitors from all over the country.

<http://shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk/>

'History Comes Alive' weekend, Spetchley Park, Worcestershire

13 – 14 August

In August, over 800 military re-enactors will descend upon Spetchley with their "History comes Alive" weekend. Spetchley has been lucky to witness many wonderful periods in history and it was even burnt to the ground on the eve of the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

<http://www.spetchleygardens.co.uk/>

Secret Garden Afternoon Tea, Kensington Roof Gardens, London

20 August

Discover the secret of The Roof Gardens, and enjoy a delectable Afternoon Tea specially served on the August bank holiday.

<http://www.virginlimitededition.com/en/the-roof-gardens>

Anniversary weekend celebrations, Wimpole, Hertfordshire

27 – 28 August

The anniversary celebrations will involve promenade theatre, Georgian dance, a tea tent for 'Capabili-Tea', a park run and a recreation of an 18th century cricket match on the South Avenue.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate>

Capability Brown Anniversary Weekend, Kirkharle Courtyard, Northumberland

30 August

Events in Kirkharle, Capability Brown's birthplace, will climax with a birthday Flower Festival starting on August Bank Holiday Friday in Kirkharle's St Wilfrid's Church, where the great man was baptised on 30 August 1716. Also on Friday evening Alexander Armstrong will be in concert – another local boy made good and now internationally renowned. On Saturday historian and broadcaster John Grundy will deliver a talk about Brown, his Kirkharle life and the extent of his influence on English landscapes. A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Capability will take place in St Wilfrid's on Bank Holiday Sunday and on Monday there will be a traditional fete, including displays of traditional crafts.

www.kirkharlecourtyard.co.uk

The Historie of Capability Brown play, Hatfield Forest, Essex

30 August

The Quantum Theatre Production present this merry romp, charting the life of 'Capability' Brown as he rises from gardener at Stowe to being the talk of London town.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest>

Garden Party, Bromley House Library, Nottingham

Tucked away on one of Nottingham's busiest streets behind a discreet door you'll find one of the city's best kept secrets – Bromley House Library, an historic subscription library which celebrates 200 years in 2016, set within a period Georgian building. With 40,000 volumes on everything from fiction and theology to natural history and French literature, the earliest book in the collection is dated from the 16th century. Bromley House Library is also home to a secret city-centre garden, with mature trees and decorative plantings, ideal for relaxing in with a good book on a sunny day. To enjoy the beautiful garden, take part in one of the weekly tours (every Wednesday) or attend one of the many 200th anniversary celebration events, including an outdoor Shakespeare theatre performance (April 2016) and a garden party family fun day (August 2016).

<http://www.bromleyhouse.org/>

SEPTEMBER

Dahlia Debut at Pashley Manor Gardens, E. Sussex/Kent

6 – 11 September

New for 2016 is this event celebrating dahlias, with over 40 varieties of this diverse perennial planted throughout the garden; new plantings of pinks in the Rose Garden, sunny yellows in the Golden Beds, whites in the Elizabethan Garden, purples in the Pool Garden and more. The pièce de resistance is the hot reds and oranges, interspersed with darker burgundies and complemented by the second flowering of roses, canna lilies, late flowering perennials and other annuals, in the magnificent herbaceous borders, which are at their best at this time of year. Bloms Bulbs will be at Pashley with a gorgeous display of potted dahlias, giving advice and taking orders and Pashley's gardeners will be giving talks on dahlias and dahlia cultivation demonstrations.

<http://www.pashleymanorgardens.com/>

'Designing Your Small Garden', Stansted Park, Chichester

24 February/23 March/ 14 September/19 October

Run by RHS Gold Medal winning garden designer Barry Chambers, this one day course at Stansted Park in Chichester offers participants the opportunity to spend time with a gardening professional, learning the right approach and techniques to transform a garden. The course casts £89 including lunch and refreshments.

www.changingscenes.co.uk/courses

Essex Plant Heritage Autumn Fair, RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Essex

17 – 18 September

Around 30 specialist nurseries from around the region will be setting up a one-stop shop at the garden and selling a range of seasonal favourites.

www.rhs.org.uk/hydehall

5th Annual Chilli Festival, Dorothy Clive Garden, Shropshire

17 – 18 September

For a fun and fiery family weekend out head to Dorothy Clive Garden for the 5th Annual Chilli Festival taking place on both Saturday and Sunday. Shop at the Chilli Market where you can find unusual chilli plants, tasty chilli jams, quirky chilli gifts, artisan chilli breads and many other chilli related products; taste delicious chilli themed food and street food in the garden tearoom; enter a team into the chilli cook off; enjoy live music; join the adventure in the chilli trail around the garden; dare to enter the chilli eating contest, plus lots, lots more.

<http://dorothyclivegarden.co.uk/>

Harrogate Flower Show

21 – 24 April /18 – 20 September

One of the most prestigious gardening shows in the country, people flock to the both the spring and autumn Flower Shows from far and wide. From inspiration for visitors' own gardens to the ever-popular giant vegetable competition, the show even offers hospitality packages.

www.flowershow.org.uk/

Brown at Croome exhibition, Croome Court, Worcestershire

24 September – 18 December 2016

Painting and archive material about Brown will be displayed at Croome in autumn / winter 2016. The exhibition will include the Dance portrait of Brown (loaned by the National Portrait Gallery), a Richard Wilson landscape painting, and items on loan from the Hive (bills, letters, surveys etc). Croome will also host a series of CB lectures, an exhibition by the Embroiderer's Guild, and a celebration for Brown's birthday on 25th September 2016 (TBC).

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome>

OCTOBER

Appuldurcombe Study Day, Isle of Wight

6 October

The previously 18th century home of Worsley family, Appuldurcombe estate - made famous recently by the BBC TV drama *Woman in Red*, starring Natalie Dormer - is the only known Capability Brown site on Isle of Wight. The house is a ruin, together with pleasure grounds conserved and managed by English Heritage. The Capability Brown walled garden and landscape setting of surrounding agricultural estate, is in separate ownership and management. An Appuldurcombe Study Day is set to take place on October 6th in 2016, and will feature local and national Capability Brown speakers and lunch, followed by an expert tour of Appuldurcombe. Booking opens March 1st.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/appuldurcombe-house/>

Apple Day, Hemsley Walled Garden, York

8 October

Apple Day will be a garden festival of all things apple with talks, demonstrations, food, orchard tours, pruning clinics and a celebration of the nation's favourite fruit

www.helmsleywalledgarden.org.uk/

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www.changingscenes.co.uk/courses

Enchanted Woodland Walk, Dorothy Clive Garden, Shropshire

October

Enjoy a stunning and magical light display at Dorothy Clive Garden as you wander around the Woodland Quarry and garden. The Quarry will be lit up to emulate the colours of our Spring Spectacle in the Woodland Quarry and all will be set to music. Also enjoy winter warmers such as roasted chestnuts, homemade soup and mulled cider.

<http://dorothyclivegarden.co.uk/>

NOVEMBER

Autumn Woodfest, RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Essex

5 – 6 November

Visitors can enjoy many different demonstrations including horse logging, willow weaving, pole lathe turning and wood carving as well as woodland walks, live music and tasty food treats.

www.rhs.org.uk/hydehall

DECEMBER