

SO MUCH TO DO AS PENSHURST PLACE HOSTS GLORIOUS GARDENS WEEK
1ST-8TH JUNE 2014

Master Class in floristry
Professional photography workshop
Garden tour with Lady De L'Isle
Thespians in the grounds
Historic performance of Elizabethan play
Head Gardner's tours

There's always something to see and do at Penshurst Place but for Glorious Gardens Week there is a very special line up of events. The week runs from June 1 to June 8 and as well as the chance to glory in the wonderful Gardens in full bloom, the following new events are lined up.



Floristry Demonstration – 2 June at 2pm, South Lawn (included in standard admission)

Master Florist Lesley Young will be putting on an hour long floristry demonstration from Hadlow College. In the free to view demonstration, Lesley will guide her audience through how to create a Pedestal arrangement, a Bridal bouquet, a Table Top arrangement and a Hostess bouquet.

Lesley teaches across all courses at Hadlow College and will be showing the techniques used in producing beautiful and memorable pieces. She has been instrumental in the college winning Gold and Silver floristry medals at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show.

Qualified to the highest level in floristry, Lesley is the co-author of the acclaimed book 'Floristry - A Step by Step Guide', which she wrote in 2010 with Judith Blacklock.

The event is free of charge and will be held on June 2 from 2pm to 3pm and will be held on the South Lawn. Entry to Penshurst Place & Gardens is required – admission charges apply.



The Art of Seeing – Photography Workshop – 4 June at 11am (included in standard admission)

Professional garden photo journalist, Leigh Clapp, hosts this exciting two-hour demonstration and photographic workshop. Visitors are invited to bring their cameras along and learn from an expert how to capture the finest details. With Penshurst Place as your canvas you will have some fabulous plants and flowers on which to practise your new skills.

Leigh is well-known for her beautiful horticultural photography, and is skilled at capturing the timeless beauty of flora, fauna and blooms. Her work has been featured in *Period Homes & Interiors*, *Kent Life* and *Home & Country*.

The workshop is free of charge to visitors although normal garden admission price apply. Pre-booking of free tickets is essential and can be made via www.penshurstplace.com/etickets It takes place on 4 June between 11am and 1pm.

Lady De L'Isle's Garden Tour – 6 June at 2pm (ticketed event & pre-booking required)



As the highlight of Glorious Gardens Week Vicountess De L'Isle will be giving a very personal and fascinating tour of the historic Grade 1 listed Elizabethan gardens at Penshurst Place.

Lady De L'Isle is passionate about ensuring the gardens remain the glittering jewel in the crown of Penshurst Place and will be sharing her detailed knowledge about the evolution of the estate. She has been tireless in her work to bring together the rich heritage of the formal layout of the historic gardens, with the inclusion of more modern touches

and commemorative additions that combine effortlessly into the beautiful landscape.

The tour will follow the format written by Lady De' L'Isle and set out in the new guide book to the 11 acre garden at Penshurst Place. She will be explaining the history and significance of key garden areas and will be pointing out where best to enjoy the seasonal displays of blooms and foliage within the grounds.

After the tour, The Garden Restaurant will serve a delicious afternoon cream tea for visitors who are free to continue to exploring the grounds and garden at leisure.

Pre-booking for this tour will be essential and tickets are priced at £25, to include ground admission, private tour and afternoon cream tea in The Garden Restaurant. There will be limited numbers for the tour so it will be advisable to book early.

The tour takes place on June 6 at 2pm. Tickets can be booked via www.penshurstplace.com/etickets

Read Not Dead on the road at Penshurst Place: *Love's Victory* by Lady Mary Wroth (c.1620)
8 June 2014



**GLOBE
EDUCATION**

Globe Education's celebrated staged reading series has hit the road touring venues (and fields) nationwide including Glastonbury, Wilderness and Latitude festivals and to the Halls of the Inner Temple and Gray's Inn, London.

This summer Read Not Dead *On The Road* visits Penshurst Place, home of the Sidney family since 1552, for an exclusive premiere performance of *Love's Victory* by Lady Mary Wroth, the niece of the famous poet, courtier and soldier, Sir Phillip Sidney.

Wroth's drama depicts four contrasting couples and a variety of human responses to love. Venus and Cupid preside over three rival lovers and. Because Venus believes that humans disdain their immortal power, she urges Cupid to make the young lovers suffer by shooting them with arrows of jealousy,

malice, fear, and mistrust, and the drama ensues – with a villainous shepherd, Arcas, thrown in to complicate matters.

Only one complete manuscript of *Love's Victory* survives. Known as the *Penshurst Manuscript*, it has remained in the ownership of the Sidney family since it was written by Lady Mary Wroth in circa 1620. A facsimile copy edited by Professor Michael Brennan, has been published as *The 1st Viscount De L'Isle VC KG Roxburghe Club Edition*.

The staged reading will take place in the stunningly beautiful 14th century Baron's Hall. Rehearsals are open to the public in the House and Gardens from 11.00am (Penshurst Place grounds admission prices apply) before the script-in-hand performance at 5.00pm.

Further details and ticket information for the evening performance can be found online at

www.shakespearesglobe.com/education, or contact ed.events@shakespearesglobe.com

For details on Penshurst Place & Gardens and admission prices see www.penshurstplace.com

Head Gardeners Tour – 1 June and 8 June at 2pm (ticketed event & pre-booking required)



Our Head Gardener Cory will be giving two tours of the Gardens during Glorious Gardens week; on June 1 and again on June 8, where he will be revealing his future plans for the Gardens and highlighting the work that has been undertaken in recent times.

Top of the tour will be the famous 100-metre Peony Border with four fragrant varieties of pink peonies. This sensory experience is now so famous Penshurst Place runs a peony alert service to let visitors know immediately the first bloom appears.

Another key element in the tour is the Jubilee Walk, Penshurst Place's double herbaceous border that underwent a complete renovation in 2012. Designed by Chelsea Gold Medal Winner, George Carter the magnificent herbaceous border has ten distinct bays, separated by grassed areas with inset benches from which visitors can admire the view. Each bay has herbaceous planting featuring a different colour scheme, a concept which reflects Gertrude Jekyll's views on colour in gardens. Graduating from red through to blue, the planting scheme also draws from Humphry Repton's principle that hot colours should be seen in the foreground of a scene, progressing to cooler hues in the distance.

After the tour, the Garden Restaurant will serve a delicious afternoon cream tea for tour visitors who are able to continue to exploring the grounds and garden at leisure.

Pre-booking for this tour will be essential. Tickets are priced at £20 to include ground admission, private tour and afternoon cream tea in the Garden Restaurant. There will be a limited number of tickets available for the tour so it will be advisable to book early. Bookings can be made via www.penshurstplace.com/etickets

The tours will be held on June 1 and June 8 at 2pm.

With records dating back to 1346, the 11-acre walled garden at Penshurst Place has enchanted its owners and visitors for hundreds of years. Glorious Gardens continues this tradition.

Welcoming the new events Ben Thomas, General Manager said: "Glorious Gardens week is a special time of the year for Penshurst Place. It marks a moment in time when the Gardens are laden with bloom and scent that fills the grounds; from the scent of the marvellous 100-metre peony border with

four varieties of pink peonies, and wonderful lilacs though to the magnificent double herbaceous border Jubilee Walk, now entering its third year of display.”

- Ends -

For further press feature information please contact Jacqui Green at JGMPR Jacqui@jgmp.com – for urgent requests her mobile is 07885 270349. For further general press information and jpeg photographs email: abbie@penshurstplace.com or contact Abbie Voice, Marketing Executive at Penshurst Place: 01892 870307.

Notes to editors:

BACKGROUND TO PENSHURST PLACE & GARDENS

Set in the beautiful Weald of Kent, Penshurst Place and the Estate have stood on the banks of the river Medway since the 14th century, when the awe-inspiring medieval Baron's Hall was built as a country retreat for the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John de Pulteney. Used as a location for many a large film and small screen productions, Penshurst Place has a unique place in history – with literary connections from Sir Philip Sidney, Ben Jonson to Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The property was owned by many Dukes and Nobles with Royal blood in their veins, until King Henry VIII forfeited it from the previous owner, the Duke of Buckingham in 1521. It was then used by Henry and his friends as a hunting lodge. In 1552 the property was gifted by Edward VI to a member of the noble courtier family, the Sidneys, in whose family's hands it has been ever since – and is currently owned by Philip Sidney, 2nd Viscount De L'Isle MBE, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent.

The historic gardens are as old as the house, with records dating back to 1346. These enchanting formal gardens were laid out in Elizabethan times and have remained remarkably true to their early design. Over a mile of yew hedging separates this 11 acre walled garden into a series of self-contained 'rooms'. Each garden offers an abundance of variety in form, foliage and bloom, which ensures a continuous display from Spring to Autumn. The Herbaceous Borders have recently been redesigned into the stunning Jubilee Walk.

In the House, alongside the unique and stunning Baron's Hall, built in 1341, there are a series of staterooms containing an impressive collection of portraits, tapestries, furniture, porcelain and armour. In addition, visitors will enjoy a reminder of bygone childhoods in the Toy Museum, a delight for all ages.

Our Garden Restaurant, managed by Leith's serves a delicious selection of hot and cold lunches; and is where you can enjoy the perfect afternoon tea. Our Porcupine Pantry cafe is an alternative to the Restaurant serving freshly baked hot and cold pastries. Both can also be booked for group lunches and light refreshments. Our wonderful Gift Shop, *free to visit all year*, has a wide selection of gifts.

There are also parkland and riverside walks across this ancient estate – and a cycle path from Tonbridge Castle to Penshurst Place's doorstep – Sustrans regional route no 12. Find out more at: www.penshurstplace.com/outdoorpursuits

OPENING TIMES & PRICES 2014

OPEN SEASON: Weekends from 15th February to 30th March. Half Term 17th to 21st February. Daily from 31st March to 2nd November.

CLOSED SEASON: 3rd November to 31st December (excluding 25th & 26th December)

	OPEN SEASON	CLOSED SEASON
HOUSE	12 noon – 4pm <i>(closed 17th – 21st February)</i>	Closed
GARDENS & GROUNDS	10.30am – 6pm <i>(or dusk if earlier; last entry 1 hour before close)</i>	Closed
ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND	10.30am – 6pm <i>(or dusk if earlier; last entry 1 hour before close)</i>	10.30am – 4.30pm <i>(weekends only; for Season Ticket holders only; last entry 1 hour before close)</i>
TOY MUSEUM	12noon – 4pm <i>(last orders 15 minutes before close)</i>	Closed
GARDEN RESTAURANT	10.30am – 5pm	Closed
GIFT SHOP	10.30am – 6pm	10.30am – 4.30pm
PORCUPINE PANTRY	9am – 6pm	10am – 4.30pm
PARKLAND	Free to visit and open all year to cyclists and walkers	

	HOUSE, GARDENS & GROUNDS	GARDENS & GROUNDS
ADULT	£10.00	£8.00
CHILD (ages 5-16) <i>(Under 5s max 2 children per adult charged at £5.00 per child, per visit thereafter)</i>	£6.50	£6.00
FAMILY (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children)	£28.00	£25.00
FAMILY (2 adults + 1 child)	£24.00	£20.00
INDIVIDUAL SEASON TICKET (Cardholder + 1 guest) <i>(Free entrance for up to 2 children under 5 per cardholder, per visit. £2.50 per child under 5 thereafter)</i>	N/A	£45.00
FAMILY SEASON TICKET (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children) <i>(£7 per additional child, maximum of 5 children per card)</i>	N/A	£70.00

For cyclists and those arriving by public transport £1 off entry per person.