visitgreenwich
time after time

# Greenwich - Discover London's Secret Gardens

October 2015

## 1. Seasonal Specials

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY**

**Crocuses in Eaglesfield Park**
Situated on top of Shooters Hill, Eaglesfield Park is the second highest point in Greater London and has excellent views across Kent to the South East and across London and the city to the North and East. It forms part of the Green Chain Walk and links Oxleas Wood with Woodlands Farm and Bostall Wood and Lesnes Abbey beyond and is permanently accessible with picnic tables, a children's play area and a wonderfully restored wildlife pond with a surrounding meadow.

http://eaglesfieldpark.org/

**Snowdrops at Eltham Palace**
Early bulbs are clearly visable at Eltham with cyclamen, snowdrops, yellow aconites, primroses, sky-blue wood anemones and wine-coloured hellebores-

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/eltham-palace-and-gardens/things-to-see-and-do/seasonal-garden-highlights/

**APRIL-MAY**

Explore the bluebell wood at **Severndroog Castle** (further Castle details below in no.3)

www.severndroogcastle.org

**JUNE**

Roses can be found in bloom at **Eltham Palace** during summer in both the Rose Garden and the Rose Quadrant. Historic rose varieties include Rosa'Gruss an Aachen' bred in Germany in 1909. Also excellent are the indispensable hybrid musk roses such as R. 'Felicia.' Along the top of the sunken wall of the Rose Garden is a lavender hedge which, with the roses, scents the garden throughout the summer.

The **Rose Garden at Greenwich Park** is located on the eastern side of the park and forms the backdrop to the Ranger's House, an elegant Georgian villa which was originally the residence of the Park Ranger. It now belongs to English Heritage and houses The Wernher Collection, a remarkable collection of works of art amassed by diamond magnate Sir Julius Wernher (1850-1912).

https://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/greenwich-park/things-to-see-and-do/gardens-andlandscapes/the-rose-garden

**The Boating Lake in Greenwich Park**
Take a pedalo or rowing boat across the Boating Lake in Greenwich Park, situated near the St Mary's Gate entrance, the lake often stays open late on summer evenings.

Weekends, school holidays and bank holidays from Easter-October, 10am-5pm. Prices: Adult £4 | child £2 | family £10. No credit cards.

**JULY-AUGUST**

Enjoy the fruit trees of **The Queen's Orchard** and the delights of the **Herb Garden** and **Flower Garden** in Greenwich Park. The ornate garden of box hedges surrounding a pretty central fountain is the perfect place for peace and quiet in the Herb Garden and with its lake and deer park viewing areas quintessential Edwardian 'Flower Garden' is a favourite spot for parents with small children.

Enjoy festival fun in the Urban Garden on the **Greenwich Peninsula** with music events and festivals planned throughout summer.

Explore **Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park** in the summer months of June and July, made up of four acres of freshwater habitat and is home to a fascinating array of wildlife, the wild flower meadows are at their peak in the summer.

http://www.greenwichpeninsula.co.uk/on-the-peninsula/summer-jazz/

Make the most of the sunshine in the children's playground and boating lake at Greenwich Park.

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**

Try leaf-peeping in **The Queen's Orchard in Greenwich Park** (London's oldest enclosed Royal Park) at its best in autumn for harvest time, this beautifully secluded area is newly opened:

https://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/greenwich-park/things-to-see-and-do/gardens-and-landscapes/the-queens-orchard

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**

Enjoy the forest schools, den making and bug hunts activities at East Greenwich Pleasaunce along with outdoor Storytelling and 'Mud Kitchen' events.

http://fegp.org/gardens

2. **Accommodation with a great garden**

**Eltham Palace**

Eltham is home to more than 19 acres of stunning 'pleasure' gardens including the herbaceous border designed by award-winning garden designer Isabelle Van Groeningen in 2000 as part of the Contemporary Heritage Garden scheme. The gardens include a mesmerising Rock Garden complete with a series of pools and cascades running down to the moat (London's oldest working bridge) and a peaceful, sunken rose garden.

The lady of the house, Virginia Courtauld, had a passion for roses, and even had a red rose named after her. Her husband was also a keen gardener and won several Royal Horticultural prizes for the orchids he grew in the glasshouses at Eltham.

This stunning part showpiece of Art Deco design and 1930s cutting-edge technology, and part medieval royal palace was re-opened in Spring 2015 following £1.7million of refurbishment and reinterpretation works and now includes fantastic new rooms such as the wartime basement bunker and hidden map room. Guests can enjoy a garden tour on the multi media guide, and garden 'bats' of interpretation dotted around the garden that help explain the history of the garden to visitors.

For every season there is a spectacle to enjoy, from snowdrops to poppies and peonies and an array of wildflowers.

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/eltham-palace-and-gardens/things-to-see-and-do/seasonal-garden-highlights/

**Severndroog Castle**

The Castle offers breathtaking views across London and seven counties from atop its 360 degree viewing platform above the bluebell wood. The Oxleas Woods around the Castle are one of the few remaining areas of ancient deciduous forest in the Royal Borough and parts date back over 8,000 years to the end of the last Ice Age. Visitors can enjoy views, historical tours, activity sessions and tea and cake at the castle's tea rooms.

Enjoy the surroundings of the recently restored Severndroog Castle, the 18th Century gothic tower was built by Lady James in 1784 as a memorial to her late husband Sir William James whose most famous exploit was destroying a fleet and stronghold of 'pirates' on the island fortress of Severn Droog in India.

The Green Chain Walk passes the Castle along the way visitors can discover the delightful open spaces of Shooters Hill, Maryon Park, Woolwich Common and Eltham Palace along with many more.

www.severndroogcastle.org

**Ranger's House in Greenwich Park**

Close to the Rose Garden at Greenwich Park this elegant Georgian villa was originally the residence of the Park Ranger. It now belongs to English Heritage and houses The Wernher Collection, a remarkable collection of works of art amassed by diamond magnate Sir Julius Wernher (1850-1912).

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/rangers-house-the-wernher-collection/

## 3. Restaurants with gardens / garden-themed restaurants.

**The Guildford Arms**
http://theguildfordarms.co.uk/

This handsome Georgian gastro pub has a sunken garden that features both lawn and terraced areas. Silver birches, tall grasses and kitchen herbs to create an oasis of calm among the hustle and bustle.

**Craft London**

Craft London is a new British restaurant, café, cocktail bar and shop focusing on quality in production by collaborating with modern experts to create world class products through the roasting of coffee, smoking of fish, bee keeping, meat curing, fermentation of vegetables and the creation of a **contemporary kitchen garden** just a few hundred yards from the restaurant in the urban garden on the Greenwich Peninsula.

http://www.greenwichpeninsula.co.uk/on-the-peninsula/peninsula-hop-farm

## 4. Culture in gardens

**East Greenwich Pleasaunce**
http://fegp.org/gardens

Year-round activities include the Tree Trail and the 'have a go' volunteer-run Orchard as well as monthly markets and a summer festival of music, dance, art and food catering for families.

**Greenwich Peninsula Gardens**

Shortlisted for the Society of Garden Designers Award for 2015 this new green space with its own kitchen garden, orchard, beehives and smokehouse, and an amphitheatre hosting music, cinema and outdoor theatre

An example of this summer's events:

http://www.greenwichpeninsula.co.uk/on-the-peninsula/summer-jazz/

http://urbanvillagefete.co.uk/

**On Blackheath (held in Sept - 2016 dates TBC)**

This 2 day festival of music, art and food takes place on Dartmouth Field on Blackheath and includes family fun such as hula-hooping lessons, chef clubs and magical story sessions as well grown-up foodie displays from celebrity chefs and health gurus such as Hemsley & Hemsley. The park lends itself to the children's garden maze and family playground with live outdoor art sessions.

http://www.onblackheath.com/

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors:**

www.visitgreenwich.org.uk

About Visit Greenwich

Visit Greenwich is a private sector led destination management company, supported by the Royal Borough of Greenwich, with the aim of growing the visitor economy and raising the profile of Greenwich for the benefit of businesses, visitors and residents. A public/private partnership led by a board of tourism professionals, representing different sectors of the industry, with an independent chair, Visit Greenwich works with local visitor attractions, accommodation providers, transport operators, meetings and events venues, the hospitality and retail sector and local businesses to promote Greenwich as a visitor destination for leisure and business.

Set alongside the river Thames in south east London, the Royal Borough of Greenwich is one of London’s most popular visitor destinations, stretching from the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, eastwards to cross the Prime Meridian of the world to Greenwich Peninsula for The O2, the Emirates Air Line cable car and new attractions and restaurants, and onwards to the historic Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, Eltham, Charlton and Blackheath.