

THE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

Weekends at the School of Horticulture

Join us as we shine the spotlight on different mind-altering plants and fungi each weekend throughout the festival.

ALCOHOL: THE CULTURE OF INTOXICATION

20 – 21 September

FREE TALKS

SATURDAY

11.30am – 12noon and 1.45pm – 2.15pm

Foraged flavours

Jason Irving, Kew

Explore the unique flavours of wild plants and learn how they are extracted in alcohol.

12.15pm – 12.45pm and 2.30pm – 3pm

Alcohol doesn't get you drunk

Angus Bancroft, University of Edinburgh

Learn about how many of the effects of alcohol are tied to our expectations of what it will do to us.

1pm – 1.30pm and 3.15pm – 3.45pm

Intoxicating cures: alcohol and renaissance medicine

Phil Withington, University of Sheffield

Discover more about the role that alcohol played in renaissance medicine.

4.15pm – 5pm

Brainwaves

Panel discussion, See below

BRAINWAVES

20, 27, 28 September, 4, 11, 12 October. 4.15pm – 5pm School of Horticulture Free

Each weekend join in the discussion as we bring all of our speakers together for a lively exchange of ideas.



SUNDAY

11.30am – 12noon and 1.45pm – 2.15pm

A world of flavour

Jo Farish, The Gin Garden

Discover first-hand how plants and flowers can be used to create extraordinary alcoholic concoctions.

12.15pm – 12.45pm and 2.30pm – 3pm

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4.15pm – 5.15pm

Bright Club

Princess of Wales Conservatory Film Room

In conjunction with UCL

Finish the day off with some light entertainment as researchers, academics and plant-lovers take to the stage to tell you about their intoxicating work.

COFFEE: THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE LEGAL HIGH?

4 – 5 October

WORKSHOPS

A World of Coffee

The Secluded Garden Lawn

Over 2 billion cups of coffee are consumed across the world every day. Join coffee experts from Taylors of Harrogate to learn more about this extraordinarily popular drink, and try different strengths.

FREE TALKS

SATURDAY

11.30am – 12noon and 1.45pm – 2.15pm

Coffee and climate change

Mauricio Galindo, International Coffee Organisation

Discover the impact that climate change is having on coffee farmers across the world.

12.15pm – 12.45pm and 2.30pm – 3pm

Coffee: goats, garlic and globalization

Aaron Davis, Kew

Find out about the history of coffee and where goats appear in the story, as well as learning about the amazing work that Kew is doing with coffee.

1pm – 1.30pm and 3.15pm – 3.45pm

Did coffee make modern politics?

Phil Withington, University of Sheffield

Learn about how the introduction of coffee into Europe in the 17th century has been linked to the birth of modern politics.

4.15pm – 5pm

Brainwaves

Panel discussion

See details (above).



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CANNABIS: DRUG, HERB, MEDICINE OR SACRAMENT?

27 – 28 September

WORKSHOPS

Hemp Knitting Tent

10.30am – 5pm Secluded Garden Lawn

Come and try your hand at knitting with hemp (aka cannabis), and learn more about this extraordinary plant with the Kew Craft Club.

FREE TALKS

SATURDAY

11.30am – 12noon and 1.45pm – 2.15pm

Cannabis: under the skin

Melanie Thomas and Tim Utteridge, Kew

Join Kew scientists to learn about this extraordinary plant which has a controversial reputation.

12.15pm – 12.45pm and 2.30pm – 3pm

UK cannabis-based medicine development

David Potter, GW Pharmaceuticals

Come and meet the cannabis plant. Hear how a plant with a dubious reputation is used to make a variety of highly efficacious medicines.

1pm – 1.30pm and 3.15pm – 3.45pm

Cannabis: pleasure, madness... and medicine?

Val Curran, DrugScience

Did you know that cannabis contains over 100 unique ingredients? Discover more about these 'cannabinoids' and how our mind and brain reacts to them.

4.15pm – 5pm

Brainwaves

Panel discussion

See details (left).

SUNDAY

11.30am – 12noon and 1.45pm – 2.15pm

The Hashish Club

Mike Jay

Who were the first Europeans to take cannabis, and how did they describe their experiences?

12.15pm – 12.45pm and 2.30pm – 3pm

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Seeing through the smoke

Josh Hulbert, DrugScience

Take a scientific look at the harmful and helpful properties of the cannabis plant, and discover the collective power that people hold to minimise its risks and maximise its benefits.

4.15pm – 5pm

Brainwaves

Panel discussion

See details (left).



MAGIC MUSHROOMS: GODS, FAIRIES AND CHEMICALS

11 – 12 October

WORKSHOPS

Fungarium Open House

11am, 12noon, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm

Jodrell Laboratory

Tickets £5 (£4 Friends of Kew)

booking essential: kew.org/intoxication

Get exclusive access to the world's largest Fungarium, holding over 1.25 million specimens of fungi. Meet our friendly mycology team and find out more about their amazing work.

FREE TALKS

SATURDAY

11.30am – 12noon and 1.45pm – 2.15pm

Fungi and psilocybin

Bryn Dentinger, Kew

Learn about the powerful chemical which makes some mushrooms magic, with one of the world's leading mycologists.

12.15pm – 12.45pm and 2.30pm – 3pm

Flesh of the gods: the history of the magic mushroom

Andy Letcher

Andy, author of 'Shroom: a Cultural History of the Magic Mushroom' will explore the life story of these extraordinary fungi.

1pm – 1.30pm and 3.15pm – 3.45pm

Magic mushrooms: their chemistry

Monique Simmonds, Kew

An overview of the magic powers of mushrooms.

4.15pm – 5pm

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Psilocybin, telepathy and religious experience

David Luke

From the CIA to doctors and theologians; explore how mycology has played an important role in the fusion between religion, magic and science.

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