

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: Calendar of Events 2012

This year Kew is pleased to bring you its biggest art exhibition since *Henry Moore* - one of the UK's most prolific sculptors, **David Nash**, will display a number of works created on-site, alongside existing works, for this year-long show. In a career spanning 40 years, David Nash has created over 2,000 sculptures out of wood, many of them monumental in scale. He adopts a responsive and adaptable approach to his work, allowing nature to dictate the direction that his creations take. David Nash and Kew therefore make the perfect partnership; a combined force that will inspire visitors to understand their place in the natural world. The exhibition will open to members of the public in **June 2012**, with sculptures, installations, drawings and film in place throughout the Gardens, glasshouses, and exhibition spaces.

Alongside this cultural highlight there are a number of exciting events throughout the year, including our **Tropical Extravaganza** festival in February, the premiere in May of a three-part 3D television series filmed at Kew and presented by **Sir David Attenborough**, as well as a whole year of **horticultural highlights** from snowdrops in Spring, to stunning Autumn colours, making 2012 a truly memorable year at Kew!

February	4 Feb - 4 March	Depressed by the long winter months? Then put Saturday 4 th February into your diary, which marks the opening of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's month long Tropical Extravaganza orchid festival. This year's theme is <i>Forces of Nature</i> , exploring the four classical elements: air, fire, water and earth through different flowering displays. It's a celebration of all things bright, beautiful, and of course tropical, in the Princess of Wales Conservatory. For more information: http://www.kew.org/about-kew/press-media/press-releases-kew/explosion-of-colour-tropical-extravaganza-2012/index.htm
	14 Feb	Enjoy a romantic Valentine's day dinner in the Orangery at Kew. http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/whats-on/Valentines-dinner.htm
	Signs of Spring – Visit Kew's snowdrop collection in the Rock Garden, see http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/BulbWatch/ for the latest information.	
March	3 March - 12 April	International Garden Photographer of the Year Exhibition is back for its fifth year. The winning images from one of the most prestigious international photography competitions are revealed on 3 rd March. The display in the Nash Conservatory showcases the best garden, nature and outdoor photography from around the world.
	March sees Kew host the biggest spring flowering display in the country. With 5 million bulbs including daffodils and crocuses filling the Gardens with colour, this is the perfect setting to enjoy Mothering Sunday (18 th March). More information at: http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/BulbWatch/	
April	31 March - 15 April	Easter at Kew is all about family adventure, fun learning and of course, heaps of chocolate! If you want to learn more about where chocolate comes from, why not join our Mayan themed family trail around the Gardens, or take part in a chocolate workshop that will be available throughout the Easter holidays. The traditional Easter Egg hunt (Sunday 8th April) is a fantastic way to round off a family weekend. http://www.kew.org/about-kew/press-media/press-releases-kew/easter-2012/index.htm
	31 March - 7 May	Check out Rachel Pedder-Smith's study of Herbarium specimens - The Pressed Plant in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art .
	Now - 9 April	It's your last chance to see Plants in Peril: Paintings of Endangered Plants from The Shirley Sherwood Collection. Also catch Joseph Hooker Naturalist, Traveller and More before it ends, celebrating the life and work of Sir Joseph Hooker, Director of Kew from 1865 until 1885.
	April, date TBC	David Nash will start work on the first phase of his exhibition in April. Working on site, Nash will be creating new pieces for his exhibition using trees from the Gardens that have come to the end of their natural life, forming part of the <i>Crack and Warp</i> series. This is a wonderful example of the collaboration with nature that characterises Nash's work. The artist will select the wood and makes cuts, the air then takes over and dries the wood, producing astonishing cracks and warps in accordance with the characteristics of the particular wood

		species used. This ongoing work will be on show from October 2012. For more information see http://www.kew.org/about-kew/press-media/press-releases-kew/david-nash-at-kew-gardens/
	April, date TBC	North American Landscape: Kew at the British Museum. This April sees the launch of the final landscape in this five year series, in partnership with the British Museum. The programme celebrates the shared vision of both institutions to strengthen cultural understanding and support biodiversity conservation across the world. The North American themed display will be installed in the museum's forecourt until October 2012.
	Spring is in full swing with cherry blossoms leading the way along Cherry Walk, magnificent magnolias appearing near the Main Gate, and lovely lilacs flourishing by White Peaks.	
May	5 May 2012 - April 2013	A major new exhibition launches in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art in May: Portraits of Leaves and Fungi - Paintings from The Shirley Sherwood Collection. Feast your eyes on toadstools collected near St Petersburg painted by botanical artist Alexander Viazmensky, alongside portraits of leaves selected from The Shirley Sherwood Collection, capturing their ephemeral beauty and variety.
	18 May	Kew is excited to announce the premiere of the first episode in a sensational new three-part series, shot over the course of a year at RBG Kew. In Kingdom of Plants 3D, David Attenborough explores the fascinating world of plants. Using 3D time-lapse and pioneering techniques in 3D macro photography, he traces plants from their beginnings on land to their vital place in nature today, exposing new revelations along the way. The series, produced by Atlantic productions for Sky 3D, will premiere at Kew on the 18 th and will broadcast on Sky 3D in late May, showing later on Sky Atlantic in 2D.
	19 May – 10 June	The Chelsea Fringe festival runs alongside the Chelsea Flower Show. The aim of the Chelsea Fringe is to encourage people to get swept up in the excitement of all things garden related. Kew will host a series of events during the festival, including guided tours of the gardens, a lecture on Ginkgo , and educational courses on vegetable growing and photographing trees .
		Photographing Trees by Edward Parker book release: This new book by renowned wildlife photographer Edward Parker is suitable for all photographers regardless of equipment and experience. This inspiring, yet simple guide shows you how to get the very best from your camera whether it is a point-and-shoot compact or a top of the range DSLR. For more information see http://www.kewbooks.com/asps/ForthcomingDetails.asp?id=920
	The bluebells in the conservation area are in full bloom in May and make a stunning day out.	
June	9 June - 14 April 2013	The David Nash exhibition officially opens , with work including sculptures, installations, drawings and film on display throughout the Gardens, glasshouses, and exhibition spaces. See http://www.kew.org/about-kew/press-media/press-releases-kew/david-nash-at-kew-gardens/
July	3 - 8 July	Kew the Music returns with big name artists taking to the stage for five days of sweet sounds and sunshine!
		Enjoy the Gardens in full summer bloom: highlights include giant water lilies in the Waterlily House, the rhododendron dell , as well as the wildflower display featuring British native orchids nestled around the bee hives near Main Gate.
September	September, date TBC	Join Kew as we dim the lights for the launch of our new cinema festival, Kew the Movies!
October		A new phase of the David Nash exhibition opens in October with work that Nash has created on site finally on display. Nash will select sculptures with forms that are in sympathy with the architecture of the historic Nash Conservatory. The <i>Crack and Warp</i> series will be a key feature for this space, made using wood from Kew and Wakehurst Place.
		Experience Kew's beautiful autumn colour and the changing canopy of Kew's Arboretum from the top of the Xstrata Treetop Walkway. Check www.kew.org/events for more details.
December		Experience Christmas at Kew! Stroll down Holly Walk or explore the Pinetum, take part in a Christmas themed tour led by one of our volunteer guides or escape the cold and warm up in the steamy glasshouses. Check www.kew.org/events for more details

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