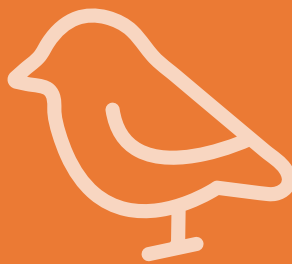




Royal Botanic Gardens

Kew



Community Open Week 2024

Visual guide



**The theme for Community
Open Week 2024 is**

Networks

**Activities will be themed
around networks in nature
and between people**



Visitors inside one of the glasshouses at Kew Gardens

Contact details

For Community Open Week specific queries:

community@kew.org
020 8332 3600



Visitor information:

020 8332 5655



Email:

info@kew.org



First aid or emergency helpline:

020 8332 3333 (or staff at ticket offices)

Lost property:

020 8332 5121



Visitor information desk at Victoria Plaza

How to get here by public transport

Bus

65: Lion Gate, Elizabeth Gate and Victoria Gate

110: Kew Gardens station and Elizabeth Gate

237 and 267: Kew Bridge station



Kew Gardens station

0.5 km from Victoria Gate

Kew Bridge station

0.8 km from Elizabeth Gate

Richmond station

1 km from Lion Gate

Kew Pier

0.5 km from Elizabeth Gate

Bicycle

Parking available at all gates



Disabled parking

Postcode for car park:

TW9 3AF (near Brentford Gate)

Drivers displaying a blue badge can park free of charge.

There are eight disabled parking spaces (you can use other spaces if full).

There are two disabled parking spaces to the right of the Elizabeth Gate on Kew Green.



Blue Badge spaces in the Kew Gardens car park

Community Open Week timings

Community Open Week will run from Wednesday 22 to Sunday 26 May 2024.



Community Open Week activities run from 10.30am to 4pm each day.

The Gardens are open from 10am to 7pm on Wednesday to Friday and 10am to 8pm on Saturday and Sunday. Please note that last entry is one hour before closing. The glasshouses close at 5pm.



The Visitor Information board near the Elizabeth Gate entrance

Relaxed day

Thursday 23 May will be our Relaxed day



All days will be as accessible as possible, but this day is designed for visitors who need a calmer environment and /or visitors who are planning to attend specific activities due to accessibility requirements.

There will be fewer visitors attending and BSL interpreters will be available this day.



Entrance gates

These are the big gates where you come into Kew Gardens.

Victoria Gate:

Victoria Gate is the closest entrance for Community Open Week activities.

Look for the Community Open Week visitor host wearing an orange T-shirt. They will help fast-track your entry and can provide directions.

There is a café, shop, and wheelchair-accessible toilet here.



Elizabeth Gate

Brentford Gate:

There is a fully accessible Changing Places toilet with hoist and bench near the Brentford Gate entrance.

Lion Gate



Prayer and reflection room

There is a multifaith prayer and reflection room at Victoria Plaza.

The room does not have any articles of faith like prayer mats or texts, so visitors need to bring their own.

There is a wudhu basin. There aren't any paper towels, so you will need to bring your own if you would like to use some.

The room has capacity for 2 people.

See the slider on the outside of the door. It says whether the room is currently in use.



The prayer room

Getting to Community Open Week activities

Activities will be taking place in the Community Hub area. This is next to the Davies Exploration House.

Look for orange signs for the Community Hub that will show you how to get there.

Look out for staff or volunteers who can help you. Community Open Week staff will be wearing orange T-shirts. Volunteers will be wearing blue T-shirts.

Staff may also have radios or phones which you might **hear**.



Community Open Week staff and volunteers

Community Open Week Hub

There are **seven** spaces that are part of the Community Open Week Hub:

- **A welcome tent**
- **Two stretch tents (a type of large activity tent)**
- **The Davies Exploration House**
- **A small activity area made up of four small tents**
- **The Temperate House**
- **Mediterranean Garden**

The Hub is an open, relaxed, and welcoming space to be yourself.



The Temperate House, the stretch tent and the Davies Exploration House

Welcome tent

This is where you should go once you arrive.

Here, you can get a programme and find out about the activities taking place.



Meet the person running the tent. Someone from Kew will be there from 10.30am to 4pm, so you can always go there if you need help.



Welcome tent at Community Open Week

Davies Exploration House

The Davies Exploration House will be home to indoor activities.

Feel the difference in temperature (the glasshouse can get quite hot in the summer).

Hear the echo of the glasshouse (it can get quite loud with lots of people inside).

See and **smell** the plants from Australia.

Feel the wooden benches on the side of the plant beds.

See artwork made by community participants.

You can also give feedback here to help us evaluate the week. Anyone who helps us this way will get a free ticket to visit Kew in the future.



The Davies Exploration House

Stretch tent

The stretch tents will be home to lots of games and activities that will be different every day.



See the activities and games.



Hear people taking part.



Feel the shade and the breeze through the tent (it is open on three sides).

See a piece of collaborative artwork that everyone can add to.



Welcome sign in front of the stretch tent

★ **Temperate House**

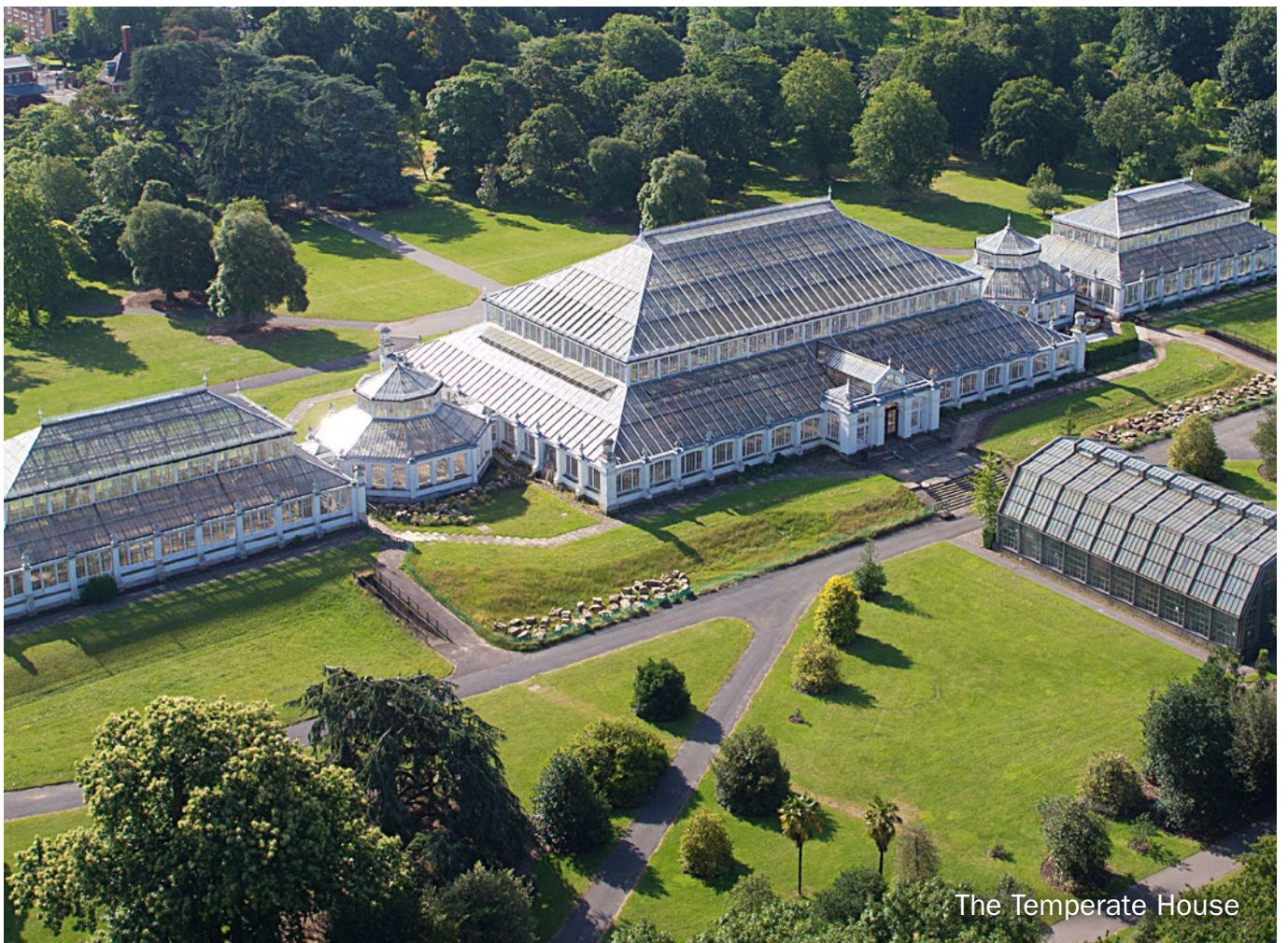
Walk through big palms, tropical leaves and trees in this glasshouse.

Feel the change in temperature.

Hear the sound of water running under your feet.

Feel the warmth rising up through the grates in the floor.

Accessible for **wheelchairs** and **mobility scooters**.



The Temperate House

Small activity tent

This area will be home to science-themed games and activities.



See and **hear** people taking part in the games.



Feel the hands-on activities.



Meet scientists and researchers from Kew and across the UK.

Feel the shade from the tents.



Small activity tent

Mediterranean Garden

Smell the scent of rosemary, sage, and lavender (rub or pinch the rosemary to release the smell).

See and **hear** people looking for pollinating insects as part of the BioBlitz activity.



The Mediterranean Garden

People you might meet

Look for the Community and Access Learning team. They will be wearing orange T-shirts. They will be organising the events but will be happy to help if you need.



You may **see** artists, facilitators, gardeners, guides, scientists, and university students who are helping to run events.

You will **see** volunteers and staff wearing Kew lanyards who are helping to run events.

You may **see** young people in light blue t-shirts and lanyards running games and activities.

You will also **see** people of all ages and community groups taking part in activities.



Youth explainers

Things you might hear at the Community Hub

Kew Gardens is under a flightpath, so you will **hear** and **see** aeroplanes flying overhead.

You may **hear** live music and applause in the temperate house on Sunday.



An aeroplane flying over the Palm House

Nearby quiet areas

There are lots of quiet spaces near the Community Hub:



- Winter Garden (5 mins walk)
- Japanese Landscape (10 mins walk)
- Chinese Garden (10 mins walk)
- Redwood Grove (10 mins walk)
- Queen Charlotte's Cottage (15 mins walk)



The Japanese Gateway, within the Japanese Landscape

Places to eat and drink

Cafés & restaurants on site:

- Pavilion Bar and Grill (5 mins walk)
- Victoria Gate Café (10 mins walk)
- Family Kitchen (15 mins walk)
- Orangery (20 mins walk)

You are welcome to bring your own food and drink into Kew. You can find lots of benches or places to put down your picnic blanket around the Gardens.



Inside the Family Kitchen

Nearby facilities

There are wheelchair-accessible toilet facilities near the Community Hub:



- Temperate House South Octagon (2 mins walk)
- Pavilion Bar and Grill (5 mins walk)
- Camellia Walk (6 mins walk)

The Changing Places toilet is by Brentford Gate (30 mins walk).

There are also toilets below the North Octagon of the Temperate House that can be accessed via the stairs.



The Temperate House

Thank you

and we look forward
to seeing you.



Community Open Week bunting and lights on the stretch tent

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Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

Part of this guide was created in consultation with

artburst
.co.uk