



Press release: for immediate release

**OPEN GARDEN SQUARES WEEKEND 2017 SNEAK PREVIEW:  
FREE EVENTS, ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN,  
POETS-IN-RESIDENCE AND CYCLE RIDES**

**Open Garden Squares Weekend: Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June 2017**



*Top l to r: King Henry's Walk, Trumpeters' House, Cleveland Sq  
Bottom l to r: Providence Row, Secret Gardens Walk, Eversheds Sutherland*

Tickets are selling rapidly for this year's Open Garden Squares Weekend - London's biggest garden visiting weekend. Over 230 London gardens, a record number for the event, will open to the public over the weekend of 17 and 18 June.

Visitors will have the unique opportunity to discover some of the capital's most fascinating squares, gardens and cultivated spaces, as well as taking part in a large number of exciting free events and activities with the purchase of a weekend ticket.

Highlights this year include a pop-up gin garden, a botanical art workshop, herbal tea and medieval soap ball-making, talks on aquaponics, bee-keeping and urban farming, exhibitions, plant sales, poetry and live music.

Children can take part in pond-dipping, seed-planting, nature trails and hunts, build an insect house, create a wild flower meadow, storytelling and face painting.

The popular poets-in-residence programme #MixedBorders, in collaboration with The Poetry School, and supported by Arts Council England, returns for a third year. Mixed Borders places poets-in-residence in many of the gardens participating in Open Gardens Square Weekend. This year, 27 gardens will host poets looking to compose new work inspired by the Weekend. Last year's creations can be found [here](#).

Cyclists can join three different group rides, visiting gardens in the City of London, Southbank and Westminster; Camden and Islington or Westminster, City of London, Bloomsbury and Marylebone. Click [here](#) to find out more.

All of the above events and activities are free with the purchase of a weekend ticket. Tickets are priced £13 in advance (£15 over the weekend). Families can take advantage of a £40 ticket (two adults and up to three young people aged 12-18). Children under 12 go free, a Young Person ticket is £10 (12-18 years). A single ticket gains access to all gardens (excluding those with special conditions for entry) for both Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June. Visit [www.opensquares.org](http://www.opensquares.org) to purchase.

Organised by the London Parks and Gardens Trust, and now in its 20th year, Open Garden Squares Weekend highlights the significant social, cultural, environmental and economic contribution that gardens, squares and green spaces make to the capital and its inhabitants.

### **Garden event highlights:**

**Bee Urban**, SE11: beekeeping, crafts and candle-making, honey tasting.  
Sat & Sun 10am-5pm

**Bonnington Square**, SW8: performance from Junction Jazz (Saturday 3-5pm), refreshments and food.  
Sat & Sun 10am-5pm

**British Medical Association Council Garden**, WC1: displays, discussions and demonstrations around the 'gardens for health' theme.  
Sat 10am-5pm

**Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses**, SE24: Ginger House exhibition, plant sale.  
Sat & Sun 10am-5pm

**Brunel Museum Gardens**, SE16: sound and light show in underground chamber, cocktails & souvlaki (Sat 5-7pm, discount for ticket holders).  
Sat 10am-10.30pm

**Centre for Wildlife Gardening**, SE15: wildlife garden tours, bug-hunting, pond-dipping, wild garden trail.  
Sun 10.30am-4.30pm

**Charlton Manor Primary School**, SE7: pond-dipping, beehive talks, garden tours.  
Sat 10am-5pm & Sun 10am-3pm

**Cleveland Sq**, W2: pop-up gin garden with drinks inspired by garden, meadow and hedgerow, traditional garden games, G&T ice-cream.  
Sat 12-6pm

**The Compound, Stave Hill Ecological Park**, SE16, nature trails, create a wildflower meadow, build an insect house, craft activities.  
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

**Cordwainers Garden**, E8: mix and make your own herbal tea bag.  
Sat 11.30am-3.30pm

**Eaton Sq**, SW1: live brass band 'The Master Butchers', Punch & Judy from John Styles, David Harber sculptures.  
Sun 10am-5pm

**Highgate Day Centre**, NW5: botanical art workshop with Jaco Nel (Sat 12 noon).  
Sat 11am-4pm

**King Henry's Walk**, N1: traditional summer fete.  
Sat 12-4pm

**Paradise Co-op Urban farm**, SW18: guided walks, scavenger hunts, face-painting.  
Sat 10am-5pm

**Pooles Park Primary School**, N4: hanging basket and willow art workshop.  
Sat 1-5pm

**Museum of the Order of St John**, EC1: London Tea Party pop-up, make a medieval soap ball workshop.  
Sun 10am-5pm

**Roof East**, E15: seed-planting workshops for children (1-3pm), talk on aquaponic urban farming (3-4pm).  
Sat & Sun 12-7pm

**Sellincourt Primary School Edible Garden**, SW17: seed-planting, leaf sculptures & children's art activities, salad and fruit 'make & taste' sessions.  
Sat 10am-4pm

**Southwark Cathedral**, SE1: Shakespearean botanical trail, special choral evensong (Sat 4pm).  
Sat 10am-5pm & Sun 10am-4pm

**Winterton House Organic Garden**, E1: guided tours, plant sale, music by The Mudlarks.  
Sun 10am-5pm

**World Peace Garden**, NW3: music, poetry, story-telling, talks, art classes.  
Sat & Sun 10am-5pm

A full list of the 2017 gardens can be viewed by visiting: [www.opensquares.org/list.php](http://www.opensquares.org/list.php)

Website: [www.opensquares.org](http://www.opensquares.org)

Twitter: @OpenSquares #OGSW17

Instagram: opensquaresweekend

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LondonOGSW/?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/LondonOGSW/?fref=ts)

**Ticket information:** one ticket gains access to all gardens (excluding those with special conditions for entry) for both Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June. Advance tickets are priced £13 and available from [www.opensquares.org](http://www.opensquares.org). A ticket bought over the weekend is priced £15. Family ticket £40. Young person £10. Sunday-only tickets are priced £10. Children under 12 go free.

**Listings Information:** Open Garden Squares Weekend: Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June 2017. Over 230 private, unusual and little-known gardens and green spaces open to the public for one weekend only. Organised by the London Parks and Gardens Trust to celebrate the capital's unique urban, green space network. Includes an exciting programme of tours, walks, talks and cycle rides.

Weekend tickets: £13 in advance / £15 over the weekend. Under 12s go free

Visit [www.opensquares.org](http://www.opensquares.org) to book and for more info. Follow on Twitter @OpenSquares

-ENDS-

**Press contact, and for images and access to the gardens:** Sarah Harrison 07768 372892 or email [sarah@sarahharrisonpr.com](mailto:sarah@sarahharrisonpr.com)

Notes to Editors:

Open Garden Squares Weekend is run by the **London Parks & Gardens Trust** to raise awareness of the significant social, cultural, environmental and economic contribution that gardens and squares make to the capital and its inhabitants. The Trust provides a centre for education, research, and creative projects for the improvement and conservation of London's green urban spaces.

Sponsors and Partners

- Hamptons International Estate Agents @Hamptons\_PR
- City of London Information Centre @cityoflondon
- Transport for London @tfl
- Arts Council England (Poets-in-residence programme @poetryschool)
- Green Man & Van @GreenManAndVan