

## **OUR 2024 SUMMER GARDEN VISITS**

(All garden visits are at your own risk. PEGS cannot accept any liability for loss or injury during the outing.)

### **WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY**

#### **MOUNT EPHRAIM GARDENS, HERNHILL ME13 9TX**

Departure by Wealden Wheels at 1.30pm from outside The Black Horse, Pluckley. Cost £11 for members. Booking deadline: Wednesday 15th May.



[www.mountephraimgardens.co.uk](http://www.mountephraimgardens.co.uk)

**Mount Ephraim** estate has been home to the Dawes family for over 300 years, comprising 800 acres of woodland, lakes and a fruit farm. The gardens we are visiting have a bit of everything; a rock garden, a water garden, a huge lake which is peaceful and relaxing to walk around, and most lovely of all the rose garden and terrace which was featured in *Gardeners World*. We just hope our timing is right to see the roses in full flower! The garden is built on a slope which gives you amazing views but is not so good for our members with reduced mobility. However, if you restrict yourself to the rose garden and herbaceous borders you will be fine and there are benches everywhere for a relaxing break. There is also a tearoom serving ice creams, cakes and cream teas.

### **SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

#### **GREAT DIXTER HOUSE AND GARDENS NORTHAM TN31 6PH**

Departure by Wealden Wheels at 1.15pm from outside the Black Horse, Pluckley. Cost £18.00 for members. Booking deadline: Friday 7th June.



[www.greatdixter.co.uk](http://www.greatdixter.co.uk)

**Great Dixter** is one of Kent's most loved gardens, the family home of the gardener and writer extraordinaire Christopher Lloyd whose vision and energy changed the way we garden. Now under the stewardship of his protege Fergus Garrett and the Gt. Dixter Charitable Trust. The garden is an inspirational place, from the front porch with its everchanging pot displays to the amazing long border which is a masterclass in successional planting. The garden is also an astonishing haven for wildlife as shown by the results of a recent biodiversity audit. We are choosing to visit in mid- June when the meadow will hopefully be at its most beautiful. We are also going to tour the family home of Christopher Lloyd which is a historic building and was restored by Sir Edwin Lutyens in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is an excellent nursery selling plants that Christopher Lloyd thought garden worthy and a shop selling gifts and very special gardening tools. There is also a cafe with healthy light lunches and homemade cakes with gluten free and vegan options available.

**SATURDAY 6th JULY**

**TWO GARDENS TRIP**

**PHEASANT BARN, OARE ME13 0QB AND BELMONT HOUSE, THROWLEY ME13 0HH.**

Departure by Wealden Wheels at 10.15am from outside the Black Horse, Pluckley.

Cost £14 for members.

**Numbers restricted to 30.**

Booking deadline: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June but booking on first come basis as spaces limited.



<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/21854/pheasant-barn>

### **Pheasant Barn**

A series of smallish gardens around award-winning converted farm buildings in a beautiful situation overlooking Oare Creek near Faversham. The main garden is nectar rich planting in a formal design with a contemporary twist inspired by the local landscape. There's also a vegetable garden, a dry garden, water features, mowed paths through a wildflower meadow, fruit trees, late summer perennial beds and a grass labyrinth. Featured on Gardeners World in September 2023.



<https://belmont-house.org/>

### **Belmont House Gardens**

Belmont House was built in 1769 by the storekeeper of the famous Faversham Powder Mill, but elegant as the house is, we are visiting the estate, with its 3,000 acres of Kentish North Downs. The garden has woodlands, formal lawns, a pinetum, a walled garden filled with perennials, but it is often the large kitchen garden which people find most interesting.

Unfortunately, there is no restaurant open at Belmont on a Saturday and there are no refreshments available at Pheasant Barn. However, The Old Stables Tea Room at Belmont has tea and coffee available on a self-service basis and we can use the honesty box as payment. We suggest everyone brings a picnic and makes use of the lovely surroundings to relax and have lunch.



## **SATURDAY 17th AUGUST**

### **NYMANS HANDCROSS RH17 6EB**

The annual PEGS subsidised coach trip.

Departure by Carrs coach at 9am from outside the Black Horse, Pluckley.

The coach is free for all PEGS members, but the trip will cost £15.20 for entry to the garden if you aren't an RHS or National Trust member. If you are, then the trip is totally free, as long as you bring your RHS/NT membership cards with you on the day! Booking deadline: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August.



<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/nymans>

**Nymans** is a Grade II listed 600 acre garden created by Ludwig Messel in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Ludwig was a passionate plantsman bringing back exotic new plants from around the world and together with his head gardener bred new cultivars that are still around today and known as the Nymans Collection. The Gothic Mansion at the centre of the garden was ravaged by fire in 1947 and although has been partly restored is now part house and romantic ruins. 500ft above sea level Nymans is a great place to view the surrounding countryside. There are garden buggy tours at 11.15am, 1pm and 2.30pm or you can grab a map and take your own tour. The terrace is filled with hardy exotics and annuals against a dramatic backdrop of the ruined mansion. At the top garden there are Nymans famous summer borders crammed with colour at this time of the year. The Rose Garden has 600 rose bushes underplanted with lavender and now a South African Meadow with a mix of grasses, perennials, and annuals. Nymans also has a cafe serving hot and cold food, plus plant sales and a book shop.

## **WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER**

### **PASHLEY MANOR GARDENS AND DAHLIA FESTIVAL TICEHURST TN5 7HE**

Departure by Wealden Wheels at 11am from outside the Black Horse, Pluckley.

Cost for PEGS members £13.50.

Booking deadline: Wednesday 4th September.



**Pashley Manor Gardens** has been visited by PEGS many times over the years and there is always something special to see in its lovely 11 acre garden. The Dahlia Days event is truly spectacular; literally thousands of dazzling dahlias are planted throughout the garden with hot reds and oranges intermingled with canna lilies, penstemons and roses in their second flush. It's also a great way to choose which dahlias you want to grow the following year – and there is usually a shop selling dahlias too. Pashley Manor has a good cafe serving locally sourced light lunches and delicious cakes and there is also a gift shop.

<https://www.pashleymanorgardens.com/>