



The alternative garden festival

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The Chelsea Fringe comes to Kent

As gardening eyes turn to Chelsea over the next few weeks, Kent is promising its own flower powered celebrations as it has joined forces with The Chelsea Fringe, the alternative gardening festival, which this year has spread outside London with several 'Satellite' projects across the country including here in Kent.

The Chelsea Fringe started in 2012 as the brainchild of Fringe founder-director Tim Richardson, who wanted to create an independent fringe event to run alongside the RHS Chelsea Flower show. The Fringe is run almost entirely by volunteers and provides an exciting festival of flowers, gardens and gardening and the majority of events are free to view.

Now in its second year the Chelsea Fringe 2013, which runs from 18 May – 9 June, will be hosting more than 150 exciting and inspiring events across the capital and in the satellites of Kent, Brighton, Bristol, and even as far as field as Vienna.

Kent plays host to a series of events across the county from 19 May:



19th May in Medway (Chatham)

Fern Alder of Full Frontal fame (fullfrontal.org.uk) is organising a planting event at Gibraltar Terrace (12noon -5pm) in Chatham for FFGT, a recently founded Full Frontal gardening group. Containers will be filled with sustainable planting on the doorsteps of the homes and business in the terrace making a valuable contribution to the 'green corridor' that Full Frontal is dedicated to creating around Medway's urban streetscape.

The Weekend of 25th-26th May 9am – 5.30pm near Hawkhurst

Over in the Weald, the Walled Garden Nursery 01580-752425. www.thewallednursery.com have organised a thrilling weekend of 'all things horticultural'.

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Saturday 25th May

Christine Walkden, a panellist on BBC Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time and author of 'No Nonsense Vegetable Gardening' will be carrying out two demonstrations from her book 'No Nonsense Container Gardening'. Tickets £15. Places are limited so booking is essential.

25th & 26th May

Ask the Expert – Alexis Datta, recently retired from Sissinghurst will be on hand to answer any horticultural questions as will six local garden designers. Delicious lunches cooked by Nicci Gurr, trained by Albert Roux of 'Home Grown' in Cranbrook will be available.

Another event over the weekend of 25th and 26th May in Canterbury

Poetry Lovers will enjoy the 'Pop-Up Poetry Garden'. Inspired by the tradition of the Troubadours Kent based garden designer, Marian Boswall has teamed up with The Poetry Society to put on performances by poets and poetry lovers

Based in the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral by kind invitation of the Dean to be included as part of the NGS Cathedral Open Gardens weekend. On the 25th 11am-5pm and on the Sunday 2pm-5pm.

The Pop-Up Garden will then travel on to Potters Field Park near Tower Bridge on the 28th May 11am-5pm (by the Gherkin). The garden will be an ornately planted vintage land rover and a horse box disguised as a poetry haven. In front there will be a small garden with a performance space for the poets and rugs for people to sit on.

In addition they will be collecting an anthology of Poetry for Garden Lovers to be published in aid of the Shannon Trust's Toe by Toe literacy scheme and the Garden Organic's Mastergardeners' new venture teaching prisoners to garden.

On the 28th May there will also be a Word Workshop for young poets in association with the winners of Foyles Young Poet of the Year 2012.

A half-term event on 27th May 12pm-4pm Bexley

Hall Place and Gardens, Bexley (www.hallplace.org.uk) is launching a new Garden Guide 12pm-4pm. Come and discover the historic buildings and gardens and enjoy fun and games on the lawn.

Another half – term event 28th May 2pm-4pm Faversham

Half –term Children's Activities at the Abbey Physic Garden (01795-539 915) in Faversham. Tucked away in the historic heart of this attractive market town, there will be plenty to amuse children from pond dipping, to making bug boxes to being taught how to 'pot on' a cosmos also organised by Fern Alder of Full Frontal. Admission is free.

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For more information about the Chelsea Fringe, interviews with Tim Richardson and other contacts, and for related images, please contact Jane Southcott: email: press@chelseafringe.com phone: 07787 527430, or call Sally Newall on 07709 429371

Or visit **chelseafringe.com** which has a full list and map of the 2013 projects.

www.facebook.com/chelseafringe
<https://twitter.com/chelseafringe>

Notes to editors

About the Chelsea Fringe 2012

- There were more than 100 events across London – in 2013 there are expected to be more than 150 projects
- An estimated 45,000 people attended events in 2012
- “The Fringe achieved 41% awareness of the Chelsea Fringe among Londoners in one year alone.” Source: Fly Research, June 2012

About the Chelsea Fringe

- The Fringe was an original idea by founder-director Tim Richardson, a garden writer and historian
 - The Fringe is a Community Interest Company (CIC)
 - It is a true Fringe festival, in that it operates on the Fringe of an established event (the RHS Chelsea Flower Show) and entries are on an ‘open access principle’
- For more information about the Fringe, see www.chelseafringe.com/about/faq