



Celebrating Cheshire's Year of Gardens 08

www.yearofgardens08.com

Highlight Events

2nd Feb – 2nd March at Rode Hall and Gardens

Snowdrops and Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition

Rode Hall, Tel: 01270 873 237, www.rodehall.co.uk

The first snowdrop was recorded at Rode Hall in 1833. This is a chance to see snowdrops with history, there are some fifty different varieties to be explored. Also, a chance to see Cheshire Artists Network works of art being displayed in and around the Hall.

12th – 17th February at Chester Zoological Gardens

Orchid Festival

Chester Zoo, Tel: 01244 380 280, www.chesterzoo.org

Visit the exquisite orchid displays throughout the Zoo including guest services, Realm of the Red Ape, Tropical Realm, Oakfield Manor and the Grow Zone by the Ark Restaurant.

March - July at Ness Botanical Gardens, Tatton Park, Little Moreton Hall, Combermere Abbey, Arley Hall & Gardens

Something Beautiful

Five Cheshire gardens will reveal commissioned sculptures by local artists. Hundreds of Cheshire residents will also be encouraged to design and build beautiful objects in their own gardens.

March - July at Little Moreton Hall

Something Beautiful

Little Moreton Hall, Tel: 01260 272 018, www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Sculptor, Justine Cook will be using redundant building materials to create accessible thought provoking artworks in the orchard at Britain's most famous moated and timber-framed Tudor manor house, **Little Moreton Hall** in Congleton.

March - July at Arley Hall

Something Beautiful

Arley Hall, Tel: 01565 777 353, www.arleyhallandgardens.com

Rachel Ramchurn specialises in wood cutting using chainsaws and power tools and will be taking fallen trees from the Big Wood on the **Arley Hall** Estate in Northwich to create two abstract sculptural forms that will allow viewers an intimate look at the Arley gardens.

March – July at Ness Botanic Gardens

Something Beautiful

Ness Botanic Gardens, Tel: 0151 353 0123, www.nessgardens.org.uk

Artist Jac Scott will be looking at ways in which humans interact with plants at **Ness Botanic Gardens** in Neston. Her attitudes towards waste, regeneration and renewal will be explored through her interpretation of a garden shed.

March – July at Combermere Abbey

Something Beautiful

Combermere Abbey, Tel: 01948 662 880, www.combermereabbey.co.uk

A performance art project will be taking place in the wild romantic park of **Combermere Abbey**, one of Cheshire's hidden gems located in Whitchurch on the border of Shropshire. It will be a site-specific dance piece with music composed by Praveen Rao.

March – July at Tatton Park

Something Beautiful

Tatton Park, Tel: 01625 534 400 , www.tattonpark.org.uk

Lorna Green is a sculptor and environmental artist from Stockport in Cheshire. She will focus upon the deer that live on the estate creating antlers from fallen branches to alter viewers' perceptions of the surrounding landscape.

11th March at Quarry Bank Mill

Secret Garden Opens

Quarry Bank Mill, Tel: 01625 527 468, www.quarrybankmill.org.uk

The National Trust will open a unique late 18th century garden at the heart of the Georgian Quarry Bank Mill estate at Styal in Cheshire as part of Cheshire's Year of Gardens 08.

20th–21st, 27th–28th April and 4th–5th May at Capesthorne Hall

Bluebell Weekends

Capesthorne Hall, Tel: 01625 861 221, www.capesthorne.com

Come and explore the bluebells found within the Arboretum and the magical six acres of woodland with bluebells on both sides of the woodland path.

19th–20th and 26th–27th April at Arley Hall & Gardens

Bluebell Festival

Arley Hall & Gardens, Tel: 01565 777 353, www.arleyhallandgardens.com

A chance to see vast displays of bluebells in beautiful surroundings.

May–September at Tatton Park

Tatton Park Biennial

Tatton Park, Tel: 01625 534 400, www.tattonparkbiennial.org

An outstanding array of specially commissioned artworks from emerging and established artists.

5th June at Jodrell Bank

Skies Eye View

Jodrell Bank, Tel: 01477 571 339, www.jb.man.ac.uk

On World Environment Day Jodrell Bank will launch an initiative that will run for the rest of the summer: *Skies Eye View* - a 'GPS Drawing' events series centred on the Jodrell Bank Arboretum.

7th – 15th June at Tatton Park

Orchid Festival

Tatton Park, Tel: 01625 374 400, www.tattonpark.org.uk

Experience the delights of Orchids at Tatton's first Orchid Festival, part of Cheshire's Year of Gardens 08 programme of orchid events

15th June at Lyme Park

Brass and Blooms

Lyme Park, Tel: 01663 762 023, www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Be serenaded in the sunshine by local bands and music groups in the delightful setting of Lyme Park's gardens.

20th June at Chester Zoological Gardens

Mid Summer Cycle

Chester Zoo, Tel: 01244 380 280, www.chesterzoo.org

A chance to explore Chester Zoo's 110 acres of beautiful grounds by bicycle.

28th & 29th June at Arley Hall and Gardens

Arley Garden Festival 2008

Arley Hall & Gardens, Tel: 01565 777 353, www.arleyhallandgardens.com

One of the highlights of the horticultural year in the Northwest.

28th June at Adlington Hall

Boodles Nations Cup

Adlington Hall, Tel: 01625 829 206, www.adlingtonhall.com

A quintessentially English garden party accompanied by tennis from some of the world's great champions as they compete in the Boodles 2008 Nations Cup.

5th July at Ness Gardens

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra perform The Four Seasons

Ness Gardens, Tel: 0151 353 0123, www.nessgardens.org.uk

Music inspired by the 15,000 plants gathered from around the world.

16th July at Gawsworth Hall

An Evening with Ray Mears

Gawsworth Hall, Tel: 01260 223 456, www.gawsworthhall.com

The popular bushcraft and survival techniques expert will be sharing the best (and strangest) experiences from 15 years of making television programmes.

19th July at Cholmondeley Castle Gardens

Cholmondeley Fireworks Concert

Cholmondeley Castle Gardens, Tel: 01829 720 383

Outdoor concert with fireworks in the Castle gardens.

23rd - 27th July (23rd RHS Members only)

RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park

Tatton Park, Tel: 01625 374 400, www.rhs.org.uk/tatton

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, this year's RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park offers a truly unique day out for all garden lovers.

7th August at Gawsworth Hall

The Ken Dodd Happiness Show

Gawsworth Hall, Tel: 01260 223 456, www.gawsworthhall.com

A fun-filled show for all the family, crammed with music, songs and jokes.

September at Chester Zoo

Butterfly Garden

Chester Zoo, Tel: 01244 650 209, www.chesterzoo.org/

Official opening of the new and exciting Butterfly Gardens.

25th – 29th September at Crewe Railway Station

BodyCartography

Crewe Station, Tel: 01244 72834, www.yearofgardens08.com

Moving between fact and fiction, dance company BodyCartography, will reveal the intricacies of Crewe Railway Station, one the most historic railway stations in the world, through the eyes of locals and visitors and explore its potential as a vehicle and medium to make art.

25th – 26th October at Arley Hall & Gardens

Pumpkin Games!

Arley Hall, Tel: 01565 777 353, www.arleyhallandgardens.com

A horticultural show featuring such activities as the best, biggest and ugliest pumpkin. New activities are planned for 2008. In addition to the Games there are traders selling local produce made or inspired by pumpkins.

25th October – 2nd November at Chester Zoological Gardens

Pumpkin Festival

Chester Zoo, Tel: 01244 380 280, www.chesterzoo.org

Each child bringing a carved pumpkin with them receives free entrance to the Zoo. In addition to this the Twilight Zone is transformed in to a 'Horror Corridor' and whilst the bats are inside flying around the visitors heads, the elephants are out on their paddock smashing pumpkins!

4th – 5th October at Norton Priory

Quince Festival

Norton Priory Museum & Gardens, Tel: 01928 569 895, www.nortonpriory.org

Norton Priory is the proud guardian of the National Tree Quince Collection, and this weekend will give visitors the chance to find out more about one of the most traditional of English fruits, what they look like and what to do with them! There will also be music, tours, story telling and family activities.

Winter Solstice, December at Grosvenor Park Chester

Something Wishful

A large celebratory event bringing Cheshire's Year of Gardens 08 to a close, with lantern parades, music, street arts, dance and fireworks.