

# What's on at West Dean Gardens in 2011

Near Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ  
[www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)

## FEBRUARY

### **1 February, West Dean Gardens re-open**

**Garden Lecture: Rain gardens – managing water sustainably in the landscape  
Saturday 5 February, 10am-3pm, £59 (inc tea, coffee and lunch)**

**The Auditorium (West Dean Gardens entrance)**

Rain Gardens are a hot topic in the USA but yet to make a real impact here. They offer the opportunity for gardeners and designers to respond to the challenges of climate change. This movement aims to integrate buildings with the landscape or garden, whilst capturing, storing, cleaning and returning to the soil as much rainfall as possible. Nigel Dunnett will lead this lecture and explore how rain gardens may be applicable to your own garden.

<http://www.westdean.org.uk/Events/GardenEvents/Garden%20and%20Food%20Lectures.aspx>

## MARCH

### **1 March, Summer opening of West Dean Gardens**

## APRIL

**Garden Lecture: Crûg Farm Plants – extraordinary tales of modern day  
plant hunting**

**Saturday 16 April, 10am-3pm, £59 (inc tea, coffee and lunch)**

**The Auditorium (West Dean Gardens entrance)**

Bleddyn Wynn-Jones and his wife Sue travel to remote parts of the world to collect rare and unusual plants for their nursery; their collections are much sought after around the world. Bleddyn will talk about their expeditions to Taiwan and Vietnam and explain how they have scaled mountains and volcanoes, explored hidden canyons and dodged armed bandits to seek out elusive specimens.

<http://www.westdean.org.uk/Events/GardenEvents/Garden%20and%20Food%20Lectures.aspx>

## JULY

**Garden Event: MedFest: A Taste of the Mediterranean**

**Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 July, 10.30am – 5pm, £10 (on the door)/£8.50 (online) plus concessions**

**West Dean Gardens**

This new event at West Dean promises to be another winning combination of food and drink, live music and dancing with a great party atmosphere and sensational setting. Each year MedFest will explore different national traditions from across the Mediterranean. In 2011 MedFest will be paying special tribute to the food, drink and culture of Spain and Lebanon.

<http://www.westdean.org.uk/Events/GardenEvents/MedFest.aspx>

**AUGUST**

**Garden Event: Chilli Fiesta**

**Friday 5, Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 August, 10.30am – 5pm**

**West Dean Gardens**

Don't miss this annual event - the UK's biggest and longest-running Chilli Fiesta. From flaming food to salsa dancing and Hot!Hot!Hot! chillies – there's something for everyone. A great day out for all the family with food, drink, live music and dancing.

Tickets: £8 (on-line) or £8.50 (on the door) – Friday 5 August

£8.50 (on-line) or £10 (on the door) – Saturday 6 August and Sunday 7 August

3-day pass £17 (bookable on-line only)

<http://www.westdean.org.uk/Events/GardenEvents/ChilliFiesta.aspx>

**The West Dean Festival**

**Friday 26 August (From Midday) – Monday 29 August (Midday)**

For the first time ever the stunning location of West Dean will be home to a three day family-friendly festival which promises to be a cross-generational celebration of the best in music, performance, storytelling and creative making. Camping available on site.

Please see website for ticket prices.

[www.westdeanfestival.org.uk](http://www.westdeanfestival.org.uk)

**OCTOBER**

**Garden Event: Apple Affair**

**Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 October, 10.30am – 5pm, £8**

**West Dean Gardens**

Over 150 apples on display, apple tastings, demonstrations, The Big Draw competition and apple games. Don't miss the annual opening of West Dean House and see the glorious staterooms in all their splendour.

<http://www.westdean.org.uk/Events/GardenEvents/AppleAffair.aspx>

...ends/

## **Notes to editors**

- The Edward James Foundation, a charitable trust comprises the West Dean College, West Dean Gardens, West Dean Estate, West Dean Gallery and the West Dean Tapestry Studio. Charity No. 1126084.
- The College runs over 700 short courses in arts, crafts, gardening, food, creative writing and music each year as well as postgraduate programmes in visual arts, conservation and making and creative writing.
- The Gardens are open for 11 months of the year (closed in January), and there are five garden events each year celebrating aspects of the gardens.
- Any journalist interested in attending a course or event for news or review purposes should contact the communications office.
- West Dean College is situated on the A286, six miles north of Chichester and six miles south of Midhurst.

**For further information and high-resolution digital images, please contact**

**Ellen Cheshire, Head of Communications, +44 (0)1243 818277**  
**[ellen.cheshire@westdean.org.uk](mailto:ellen.cheshire@westdean.org.uk)**

**Christine Virginie, Marketing Officer, +44 (0)1243 818280**  
**[Christine.virginie@westdean.org.uk](mailto:Christine.virginie@westdean.org.uk)**

**West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ**  
**[www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)**