



Press Release

Thursday 6th May 2010
For Immediate Release

Open Gardens at Canterbury Cathedral

The private gardens of the clergy at Canterbury Cathedral will be open to all on the weekend of the 5th and 6th of June 2010. Set with the magnificent background of Canterbury Cathedral, this is a truly unique and magical family day out. What is new this year? Come and see!

Visit five private Canonical gardens, all within the historic Precincts of magnificent Canterbury Cathedral. Enjoy the large Deanery garden, with its “wild area”, small orchard, unusual Medlar tree, herbaceous and vegetable borders. The Archdeaconry garden includes an ancient Mulberry tree and contrasts traditional & modern planting. Three further Precinct gardens, varied in size, offer sweeping herbaceous banks, delightful enclosed spaces, or areas planted to attract birds and insects. Step back in time amongst the monastic dormitory ruins and see the herb garden, which reflects the monastic use of herbs for medicinal purposes during the Middle Ages; the Iden Croft herbalists will be on hand to talk about the plants and their uses. The walled Memorial garden has a wonderful wisteria tree, formal roses, mixed borders and a stone war memorial at its centre.

In addition to the enchanting gardens of the Cathedral Precincts we are excited to announce that Gary Railton and his Harris Hawk will be swooping in to join us. We will also be joined by the Dover Bee Keepers who will delight spectators with their fascinating Observation hive and delightful range of honey and beeswax products. There will also be a number of stalls within the garden of No 15 The Precincts, selling a variety of produce ranging from refreshments, delicious homemade cakes, plants, Fairtrade crafts, and second hand books.



This year the Cathedral's nominated charity is The Pilgrims Hospice. The weekend is part of the National Garden Scheme – more details may be found at www.ngs.org.uk. The gardens will be open from 11.00 am – 5.30 pm on Saturday, 5th of June and 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm on Sunday 6th June. Admission to the gardens will cost £4; and normal Precincts entry charges will apply. Refreshments will be available throughout both days. Last year, in excess of £6,000 was raised and the proceeds were given to nominated charities, including the Woodland Trust and Farm Africa; please help us to raise even more this year.

E N D S

Notes to editors

- 1 For more information, please contact Christopher Robinson on 01227 865282 or Lisa Rowe on 01227 865221
- 2 Images of the gardens taken on earlier occasions are available upon request. Interviews with the Cathedral's Head Gardener or the Receiver General may also be arranged.
- 3 More information about the Idenn Croft Herbalists and their extensive range of plans can be found at www.uk-herbs.com
- 4 Gary Railton is the official pest controller for the Houses of Parliament and specialises in flying Birds of Prey. The birds are used as a natural deterrent and are only used to scare pests. He has been working with Hawks for 25 years. The Harris Hawk is native to the southern states of North America.
- 5 More information can be found out about the Dover Bee Keepers at www.kentbee.com
- 6 Pilgrims Hospices is a charity providing specialist palliative care free of charge to people in east Kent. Caring for people with incurable illnesses including cancer, heart failure, respiratory conditions and neurological diseases. Care is provided from three sites, in Canterbury, Ashford and Thanet, as well as in patients' homes and via community programmes. Support is also extended to families and carers. More information is available at www.pilgrimshospice.org