

Autumn Notes

FROM WEST GREEN HOUSE GARDEN

October 2011



West Green House concludes a wonderful year with
Our Annual Country Style Christmas Fair

Daily 16 November to 11 December from 11am to 4pm



Coffee, tea and light lunches available daily
or

Prebook a Special Afternoon Tea to entertain your friends
in our flower filled greenhouses
(must be prebooked 24 hours in advance)

West Green House, Thackhams Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8JB
01252 845582 enquiries@westgreenhouse.co.uk www.westgreenhouse.co.uk

Oh what a year!

Dear Friends

2011 has been the most marvellous year at West Green House. The garden has loved the warm spring and wet summer (I'm not sure we did) making the autumn flowers and fruit the most abundant and colourful we have ever experienced.

Every year we redesign the plantings in the potager, it always looks most colourful, but this year was splendid because our fruit trees were laden, especially the brilliant red step over apples planted as square boxes within boxes where rows of dark red Antirrhinum "Regal Red", purple pansies, purple cauliflowers and annual lavender highlighted their form and colour.

Now as autumn is coming to an end huge golden quinces rise above pillar box red single dahlias, all from "The Bishop" dahlia range, a flat daisy like form that seems correct in the potager.

The Opera season was a huge success, with *The Merry Widow* playing to rave reviews and packed houses. Afterwards, our leading man George von Bergen left to fly to Zagreb to perform and then on to make his debut as Ned Keene in *Peter Grimes* at La Scala, Milan. Our "Merry Widow" Yvonne Kenny departed for an Australian season, leaving West Green House with only the song of the birds and a great feeling of satisfaction about the reception the whole season had received.



Yvonne Kenny as *The Merry Widow*, August 2011

The heavens smiled on our garden concerts this year. Players from the Basingstoke Symphony orchestra were our guests on a perfect day for music and picnics beside the lake in June, then only a few weeks before, on another day of totally blue skies, members of the Bourne-mouth Gilbert and Sullivan Society had performed highlights of "The Mikado" in the Green Theatre to a delighted capacity audience.

The Opera season for 2012 is announced and for the first time we are joining with Garsington Opera to present their younger professional singers in a new production of "The Magic Flute". The second opera programmed is from the West Green House Opera team headed by Jonathan Lyness and Richard Studer with Roberto Recchi, who is joining us from Milan to present an evening of two comic operas.

A group of West Green House patrons saw the first of our comic opera's "La Serva Padrona" performed by Roberto at the Wexford Opera festival and we left the theatre convulsed with laughter. All of us who saw Roberto said we- must do this opera in its complete form at West Green House one day, so this hilarious opera is programmed along side Puccini's very witty "Gianni Schicchi", a small opera that includes the famous aria "Oh my beloved father".

The West Green House Christmas Fair does not follow the current trend of featuring a collection of different stalls, instead we choose and source our goods in Europe, then design and decorate our fair to reflect our own style and the latest ideas we have seen.

This year one barn will be decorated to celebrate our chickens' blue and white chinoiserie pavilion with gifts that celebrate this look. The greenhouses' display flowers and everything for the gardeners' Christmas stocking as well as the most imaginative ideas for the Christmas house and trees. Our tables for teas will be decorated with amazing decorations found in Paris.

Do be tempted and come for we look forward to seeing you at Christmas.

Marylyn Abbott

The Opera Garden Collection

West Green House Garden on a summer's night of Opera inspired one of the UK's most famous fabric houses GP & J Baker to design their Baker Lifestyle 2011 collection around it. The creation of these painted designs is the most exciting tribute to the garden and its operas.

Designs on cotton, linen and silks, both embroidered and printed fabrics celebrate not only the garden flowers, follies, even its chickens, but also the impressions of the garden's Opera nights, of evening clad gentlemen's bow ties, orchestral instruments and the silhouettes of performers are all translated into design.

A complementary collection of checks and striped fabrics with wallpaper designs that include a re-creation of the patina of the old orangery walls, the gravel paths and the whimsical imprint of a chicken's footsteps captured forever as one strayed across the wet concrete adds up to the most imaginative range. For more information on the range, you can visit their showroom in the Design Centre at Chelsea Harbour or visit the website www.gpjbaker.com/operagarden

"Opera Garden" has also been translated into a beautiful gift collection ranging from cushions, linen accessories, serviettes, stationery plus more.

The entire fabric, wallpaper and gift ranges are a highlight of the West Green House Christmas Fair from November 16 to December 11 from 11am until 4pm.



Some of the designs from The Opera Garden, Baker Lifestyle collection

West Green House Special Events Diary 2012

March 18

Mothering Sunday - stroll among the swathes of early spring bulbs in the lakefield then a "Ritz style" special afternoon tea in the flower filled greenhouses. Gardens open from 2pm. Tea from 3pm.
Tickets £17.50 per person

April 22

Tulips, music and tea - enjoy the music of Broadway, a special afternoon tea in the greenhouse and time to see our thousands of tulips.
Gardens open at 2pm, music 3pm, tea 4pm
Tickets from £39.00

May 20

Afternoon tea with Mr Gilbert and Mr Sullivan - with the award winning Bourmemouth Gilbert and Sullivan society in concert.

A special afternoon tea in the greenhouse and time to see the gardens in spring.
Gardens open at 2pm, music 3pm, tea 4pm.
Tickets from £39.00

June 24

Midsummer Music - picnic by the lake and listen to the lead players of The Basingstoke Symphony orchestra presenting Music from the Movies.
Gardens open at 11am, music 12.30pm
Admission £15 (booking not required)
Admission with table, chairs and a picnic provided £30 (booking essential)

July 14 & 15

Two Italian comic operas - Pergolesi's "La Serva Padrona" and Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi".
Tickets £95.00
Gardens open at 5pm. Performance 7pm.

July 21 & 22

In conjunction with Garsington Opera Studio Programme presents Mozart's "The Magic Flute".
Tickets £95.00
Gardens open at 5pm. Performance 7pm.

September date to be advised

Music from the Purcell School of Music - a special afternoon tea in the greenhouse and time to see the garden in autumn
Gardens open at 2pm, music 3pm, tea 4pm.
Tickets from £39.00

BOOKINGS FOR THESE EVENTS ARE ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED.

The booking office is open 10am - 4pm every week day. Telephone 01252 845582 to secure your booking, or email: enquiries@westgreenhouse.co.uk

Keep up to date with West Green House events and subscribe to our e-letters via our website
www.westgreenhouse.co.uk

Opening Times 2011 - 2012

Gardens open from 16 November until 11 December 2011, 11am - 4pm,
Garden entry £3.50
Free to National Trust members

Christmas Fair from 16 November until 11 December, FREE ENTRY, 11am - 4pm

Gardens reopen on Easter Saturday 8 April until 30 September 2012,
Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11.00am - 4.30pm

Except Music and Opera days where times will vary

Cost £8.00 p.p.

Children (School Age) £4.00 p.p.

Luncheons, morning coffee and afternoon teas available.

Directions

From M3, exit 5 to Hook, to Mattingley, then turn right at the West Green Garden signs and follow these to the entrance. **From M4**, exit towards Basingstoke; take B3349 to Hook, Mattingley then left at West Green Garden signs and follow these to the entrance. **Trains** leave Waterloo Station for Winchfield station. Taxis are available for the seven minute drive.

See www.westgreenhouse.co.uk for full directions and map.

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Nr Hartley Wintney,
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Join West Green House Garden's 'Green Fitness'

Any form of physical activity can be beneficial to health. Digging, raking, lifting and dividing plants are all activities that will have you using your muscles and give you a good workout, whilst weeding and dead-heading are quite relaxing and will help you switch off from all the stresses and strains of the day. Greenhouse work requires more concentration so whatever you do both your health and gardening skills will improve.

Our plan for you - Teri, who worked as a registered general nurse before taking up horticulture, will be on hand to supervise you. Don't worry if your gardening experience is minimal as there is always someone around to show you what to do and to ask for advice.

For enrolment and further information phone Teri or Pip on 01252 845582



Step over apples in the garden in September