



Merriments Reveals Events Programme for ‘Summer Spectacular’

Between 4 July and 31 August 2009 Merriments Gardens and Nursery, located near Hurst Green in East Sussex, is holding their **first ever ‘summer spectacular event’** designed to highlight the beauty of their four acre gardens which are at their peak during the summer months.

Visitors are invited to admire the stunning four acres of gardens as well as enjoy a variety of special events being organised in the gardens during the ‘summer spectacular’ which are FREE with garden admission unless stated.

What’s on When

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| 5 July | Chris Difford and his band perform in the gardens (<i>evening event tickets £10 in advance only</i>) |
| 19 July | Music in the gardens with the Charleston String Quartet (all day from 11am) |
| 26 July | Gardens open in aid of Hospice in the Weald |
| 31 July | Music by Sussex Jazz Kings with delicious hog roast (<i>evening event tickets £10 in advance only- preference given to garden club members</i>) |
| 15 August | Falconry display by Xtreme Falconry (all day from 10am) |
| 18 August | Cric the Croc puppet show with storytelling for the whole family |
| 22 August | See beautiful rare owls with ‘Static Owls’ and have a picture taken holding one (all day from 10am) |

22/23 August Bird Weekend with talks and much more
25 August Photography course by photographer David Dixon (*book in advance*)
30 August Gardens open in aid of Demelza House Children's Hospice

Cream Teas can be taken in the gardens throughout the summer spectacular only (weather dependent).

A free to enter photographic competition will run throughout the summer spectacular and photographs of the garden can be sent by post to Merriments Gardens for entry into a competition to win a variety of prizes – see website for details of prizes and how to enter www.merriments.co.uk

To purchase tickets to events listed call 01580 860666.

“Our lovely gardens are at their peak in the summer months and we are looking forward to welcoming extra visitors to our first ever summer spectacular event which takes place in July and August this year.” said owner David Weeks.

The inspirational gardens at Merriments have a careful mix of trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses to provide interest and imaginative colour combinations to delight the visitor from spring to autumn. The gardens were originally started as a display garden for the nursery but are now one of the finest gardens in Europe.

Full of interesting plantings and colour, these wonderful formal gardens with water features and fountain include a stunning bridge erected over large ponds in the style of Monet's 'Grande Allee' at Giverny in France. There is also a gravel garden, water garden, a foliage border, woodland area and a rock and scree garden.

To add further interest, there is a wild area in the garden which includes a bird watching hide, with multiple bird feeders that attract an amazing variety of wild bird species.

After visiting the gardens, the nursery is sure to tempt gardeners with its choice of unique and unusual plants, many of which can be seen growing in Merriments Garden. There is also a shop selling the latest garden products and gifts.

A visit to Merriments wouldn't be complete without enjoying time in the newly refurbished and licensed Garden Terrace Restaurant with its own kitchen and chef who serves up

daily specials, hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and delicious light meals. There is a choice of tables or comfy sofas inside or tables outside in the pretty courtyard.

Merriments is on the A229 and signposted from the A21 at Hurst Green, East Sussex. There is plenty of free parking. Follow the signs from the A21 for the summer spectacular event.

Gardens open Monday – Saturday 10am – 5.30pm and Sunday 10.30am – 5.30pm.
Entrance Adults £4.50, Children 5 - 16 £2.00, Groups of 15 or more £4.00.

Garden enthusiasts who join the growing **Gardening Club** can take advantage of free access to the gardens, 10% off all shop purchases, special offers, regular newsletters and an invitation to an annual summer event held in the garden which this year will be on 31 July 2009. A two year membership is £30 for two people or £25 for one person. Further info at www.merriments.co.uk or call 01580 860666.

For further information, photographs or to request a visit contact Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on **01892 616647** or e-mail caroline@penningtonpr.com