



PRESS RELEASE

OPEN GARDEN SQUARES WEEKEND 2018:

Bookable tours and walks go on sale



L to R: Inner Temple, Coutts & Co Skyline Garden, Barbican station pop-up

Open Garden Squares Weekend: Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 June 2018

Open Garden Squares Weekend, London's most popular garden-visiting weekend, has launched its programme of exclusive guided walks and tours for this year's event. Over 200 London gardens will open for public enjoyment and discovery over the 9 and 10 June, and now members of the public can join some extra-special walks and tours. Places are limited and book up fast.

A guided tour of Coutts & Co's rooftop Skyline Garden, an opportunity to explore the first community garden on the Underground as well as over 50 specialist walks are on offer. Visitors can learn about The Green Roofs of the City of London, Art and Culture in Canary Wharf and The Squares of Belgravia, or join a walk celebrating the life and work of the Victorian horticulturalist Fanny Wilkinson.

Tickets are available on a first-come-first-served basis, except [Coutts & Co](#) which is allocated via ballot. Tickets go on sale on 8 May at 12 noon and close on 6 June at 12 noon. The Coutts & Co ballot opens on the 23 April and closes on the 17 May. To find out more, enter the ballot and / or book tickets visit opensquares.org. There is a £3 charge per head on top of the standard ticket price to reserve a place.

Click [here](#) for further information about this year's specialist walks, and [here](#) for further information about specialist tours.

2018 Specialist tours:

The Coutts & Co Skyline Garden - a super exclusive tour of the rooftop kitchen garden at Coutts & Co created by executive chef Peter Fiori. Explore a unique rooftop space, 30 metres above street level, and home to over 9,000 organic plants including vegetables, fruit, herbs and edible flowers. **Ballot allocation**

Barbican Station Pop up Garden - the first community garden on the Underground, created on a 100-metre-long disused platform.

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park - created to host the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The transformation of this brownfield site included the decontamination of nearly 2 million tonnes of soil and the planting of the largest wildflower meadow ever planted in the UK.

2018 Walks highlights:

Regents Park - hear about the development of the park over the last 500 years, including how Henry VIII, Charles I, Oliver Cromwell and George IV all played a part in its story.

The Squares of Belgravia - these are some of the most desirable addresses in Westminster, and they have been lived in by dukes, prime ministers, ambassadors, actors, poets and authors.

The Greenroofs of the City - some of London's most exciting green spaces are up in the skies! Visit three rooftop gardens and learn about biodiversity and sky-top plantings of wild flowers and nectar-rich sources of food high above the noise and traffic at street level.

Copse and robbers - adventures in Caledonia - a journey through London's edge lands taken over by nature.

Horticulture and the law - explore the gardens of four Inns of Court.

Blooms, bomb sites and burial grounds - explore secret gardens and hidden green corners - many of which originate from the Great Fire of 1666, the bomb sites of the Blitz, and the Burial Act of 1855.

Queenhithe - the rise of a medieval port - a riverside walk to include the 30-metre long Mosaic celebrating the Dock.

Cable Street and the local community - a walk celebrating community gardens in the East End.

Visit [here](#) to see more information on walks. A full list of the 2018 gardens can be viewed [here](#).

Advance tickets are priced £15, and are available by visiting opensquares.org. A single ticket gains access to all gardens (excluding those with special conditions for entry) for both Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 June.

Website: www.opensquares.org
Twitter: @OpenSquares #OGSW18
Instagram: opensquaresweekend

Ticket information: one ticket gains access to all gardens (excluding those with special conditions for entry) for both Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 June. Advance tickets are priced £15 and available from www.opensquares.org. A ticket bought over the weekend is priced £20. Children under 12 go free.

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors:

Open Garden Squares Weekend is run by the London Parks & Gardens Trust to raise awareness of the significant social, cultural, environmental and economic contribution that gardens and squares make to the capital and its inhabitants. The Trust provides a centre for education, research, and creative projects for the improvement and conservation of London's green urban spaces. londongardenstrust.org

A portion of each ticket sold is returned to the community and volunteer-run gardens.

Partners:

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Open Garden Squares Weekend also works in partnership with Transport for London.