



BOWOOD

BOWOOD HOUSE & GARDENS OPENS ITS PRIVATE WALLED GARDEN FOR ONE DAY ONLY ON SUNDAY 15th JUNE.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne's private garden at Bowood (between Calne and Chippenham, Wiltshire) will enjoy a special, 'one-off' 2008 opening to the public on Father's Day, from 11am-4.30pm. Originally created between 1755-1760, the Walled Garden is tucked away behind Bowood House and features four acres of productive and ornamental gardens.

On Sunday 15th June, Bowood's gardeners will be on hand to answer questions from the visiting public and point out special highlights of the Walled Garden that is divided into distinct one acre squares and surrounded by sixteen foot brick walls.

Lord Lansdowne took over the running of Bowood in 1972. At that time the walled garden was semi-derelict and a long term restoration plan was mapped out which took almost ten years to implement. As keen gardeners themselves, Lord and Lady Lansdowne have both firmly placed their mark on the garden as it is today and he provides some colourful insights as part of a general overview: "When I was a boy, the north east square was the pony paddock. Today, my wife's prize hens enjoy this free range space, secure from marauding foxes, although not always from our cocker spaniel!"

Lord Lansdowne continues, "Three of the six original greenhouses that were constructed in the mid 19th century have been restored. In the northwest square, the greenhouses now produce pot plants for the public and private rooms at Bowood. One greenhouse is almost entirely dedicated to hundreds of geranium cuttings which are grown on and planted out on the terraces in June.

"The south west square of the walled garden, is divided into a vegetable garden and grass spaces. Here, vegetables for Bowood House, the Restaurant and Queenwood Golf Lodge are grown.

"My parents re-designed the south east square to incorporate a pool and tennis court. As the ground sloped to the east, hundreds of loads of soil had to be imported to create a level site. With it

came Mare's-tail, which has been an uninvited guest ever since! The eight Wisteria arches between the tennis court and lower path were planted at that time, replicating the design of those over the paths. The two gnarled old Wisterias interwoven in those arches are "Wisteria Macrobotrys" with racemes up to a metre in length!"

Lord Lansdowne adds, "The private garden was last opened up to the public three years ago and my wife and I are delighted to be opening it again this June - to coincide with Father's Day on Sunday 15th - and will look forward to welcoming garden lovers to a spot that is so precious and enchanting to us."

Ticket sales (at £3 per person) will be donated to the Wiltshire Blind Association, Dorothy House Hospice Care and Rowdeford School Charitable Trust.

Bowood is set in 2,000 acres of Grade I listed parkland mapped out by the fashionable 18th century garden designer, Capability Brown in the 1760s. Over 100 acres of gardens and grounds are now open to the public and virtually every period of English garden design, from the Georgian period onwards, is represented at Bowood.

Bowood House & Gardens is open to the public during 2008 up until (and including) Tuesday 4 November, from 11am-6pm daily – with last admissions at 5pm (closing one hour earlier after the autumn clocks go back).

Individual entrance tickets start at £4.50 per head for children aged 2-4 and go up to £8 per adult. Special rates for groups and senior citizens are also available, as are Family and Season Tickets.

For further details, log on to www.bowood.org or call 01249 812102.

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For further press information, please contact:

May 2008

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