



LEONARDSLEE
LAKES & GARDENS

W I N T E R



Members get

**FREE
TICKETS**

to **ILLUMINATED**

T's & C's apply



There's something magical about winter – from the frosty grass crunching under your boots to seeing low-lying mists sweep across the lakes. There's nothing like discovering our Grade I listed woodland gardens during the winter months.

Dewdrops, winter blooms and frosty grass sparkling in the sunlight are framed in a valley filled with evergreens and bare branches. Overhead, spires of trees reach for the sky, reflecting in the lakes below. It's a photographer's paradise — your ticket to escaping to another world.

Whether you're seeking winter wildlife, joining us for a Boxing Day family stroll or taking time to focus on mindfulness to kickstart the new year, this is the perfect time to wrap up, grab a hot drink from the café and get outside to experience winter.

Winter at Leonardslee shows that the colder months can still be filled with colour and scent.

Glistening across the landscape are camellias, snowdrops, cyclamen and other delicate flowers, all vying for the attention of winter pollinating insects on mild days.



WINTER INTEREST



NOV
- DEC

Camellia sasanqua

Camellia sasanqua is an evergreen shrub that bears beautiful little semi-double white, pink and red flowers in early winter, bringing colour and fragrance to the gardens around the cafés (J) and Dolls' House Museum (I).



DEC
- FEB

Christmas Box *Sarcococca confusa* and *hookeriana*

These unique evergreen shrubs add wintertime charm throughout the season with their sweet heavy scent and masses of small pure white blooms.



DEC
- MAR

Mahonia

Lifting your spirits in winter is the bright yellow scented *mahonia* found along paths in the upper part of the Dell (C). You will often smell this beautifully scented evergreen shrub long before seeing the flowers.



JAN
- MAR



JAN
- MAR



FEB
- MAR

Snowdrops *Galanthus*

Snowdrops are a sign that cold wintry days and nights are starting to come to a close. **Pockets of snowdrops** can be found around our gardens, with swathes expected on **Snowdrop Rise (N)**.

Adding to our already beautiful collection, the gardening team has **planted over 20,000 new slips** (a small plant cutting) by hand around our lakes.

Cyclamen coum

With pockets along paths or found nestled beneath **shrubbery**, *cyclamen coum* has **heart-shaped leaves** and **vibrant pink to purple shell-shaped flowers**.

Witch hazel *Hamamelis*

An abundance of witch hazel such as *Hamamelis x intermedia 'Pallida'* with its **sweet, intoxicating fragrance** and **bright yellow crown**, can be found welcoming visitors when exploring the **myriad of paths and tracks** leading to the lakes.

DID YOU KNOW? Snowdrops contain a natural **anti-freeze**; even if they collapse due to cold weather, they will recover once the temperature rises during the day.



CHAMPION TREES

Champion trees are the superheroes of the arboreal world being either the tallest or with the widest trunk! These unique trees are like natural landmarks that stand out in a crowd, dazzling us with their exceptional size, beauty and age.

These incredible trees, verified by the Tree Register, are the biggest in the country, Britain & Ireland, or even the world. In the winter, they stand tall and enchanting, draped in snow or glistening with frost.

We have over 80 trees with champion status. Look out for their blue plaques through the gardens to identify them.



Record Breaker: Our *Quercus canariensis*, or **Algerian Oak**, has been confirmed as a **Monumental Tree** and measures 33.6m tall. This means it is the **tallest tree** of its species in the world! Our **Monumental Algerian Oak** can be found by looking for the **golden star** on the map of this winter guide.





HOLLY CHAMPIONS

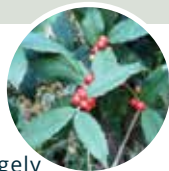
Showcasing their winter finery of rich evergreen colour and red berries that make this season so unique, we have two Champion holly trees for visitors to admire.

American Holly *Ilex opaca*



At 13 metres tall, this American Holly found below Daffodil Lawn (G) is the county champion for height and girth. It is native to the eastern and central United States and has longer leaves with fewer spines than our native holly.

Himalayan Holly *Ilex dipryena*



This evergreen Himalayan Holly has quite different, largely spineless leaves compared to the European Holly. This specimen is the British height champion at over 15 metres tall and is also the county champion for girth.



Find our Champion holly trees by looking for the red stars on the map of this winter guide.

FUN FACT: Holly is dioecious (Greek meaning for 'two households'), which means that every individual holly tree is either male or female and bushes laden with berries are always female, while those without might be male or a female that's growing in isolation.



THE LAKES

On a calm winter's day, in the heart of our valley, you will find near-perfect reflections of the surrounding landscape shimmering on the surface of our seven interlinking lakes (A).

Sit on one of the many benches around our lakes and watch and listen to nature around you. With sounds of water rippling in the breeze or the rustle of life in the trees above or bushes nearby, take a moment to enjoy nature and what makes this season so beautiful.



Share your images with us on social media using the tag @leonardsleegardens #leonardsleegardens



ROCK GARDEN

Our famous Rock Garden (K), built in 1890, is a favourite attraction for visitors. With its distinct colours and textures, the Rock Garden becomes a sea of greens, blues, and yellows with lichens and moss in winter.

While a few hellebores will flower for the first time since their autumn planting, some of the best showings occur in late winter.

Visitors can expect to see *Narcissus cyclamineus* and *bulbocodium*, *Iris reticularis*, and snowdrops bloom late in the season.



DID YOU KNOW? The Rock Garden fell in with the Victorian trend and was designed to look like natural rock and features unique Pulhamite rock formations with a hidden stone lion, a sculpture of Pleiades and hidden waterfall.



TOP GARDEN & DEER PARK

Venture into the wildest part of our 240-acre estate; the **Top Garden (E)** and **Deer Park (U)**. Frosty mornings transform this part of the garden into glistening carpets of icy grassland and heather. With several routes to take, this is the perfect place for a pair of wellies and a sense of adventure.



The **Top Garden** was the original site of a **Pinetum** and was first planted by **Sir Edmund Loder** between 1901 and 1905. Unfortunately, most of the trees were lost during the great storm of 1987 that affected so much of this part of the country. Today, the **Top Garden** is a haven for wildlife, with badgers and hares regularly seen and a host of other mammals, birds and insects. You might even spot a wild wallaby if you're lucky

The **Deer Park** falls directly south of **Leonardslee House (L)** and covers 70-acres, and includes our largest and oldest lake, **New Pond**. This is a much wilder part of the estate than the rest of the gardens, having been a deer park since the nineteenth century. It is home to deer, including **Sika** and **Fallow Deer**, as well as our free-roaming wallabies, which you might see grazing under trees or on the banks.



WALLABIES

With both free-roaming wallabies and wallabies in the maternity enclosure (P), keeping the young joeys safe, Leonardslee is an extraordinary place to see these animals up close.

Our colony of winter-hardy Bennett's Wallabies are descendants of the original herd brought here by Sir Edmund Loder in 1889. They spend their mornings enjoying the winter sun with their thick, warm coats before foraging in the gardens.

**WALLABY FEEDING TIMES:
12:00 - 12:15 DAILY**

DID YOU KNOW? Bennett's Wallabies, also called Red-necked Wallabies, are members of the macropod family, which also includes kangaroos & wallaroos.





The combination of **seven undisturbed lakes** and extensive **woodland** means that **Leonardslee** is particularly rich in a range of interesting and scarce **birdlife**.

With the change in **seasons**, we will say farewell to some **migratory birds** as they head **south** for the winter, but we also welcome birds arriving from far north to spend **winter** in our **woodlands**. Including **redwings** ① and **fieldfares** ② from **Scandinavia** and **crossbills** ③ and **siskins** ④ from the continent.



A MAGICAL WORLD IN MINIATURE

An incredible journey awaits you as you step inside the **magical world** of the 'Beyond the Dolls' House' exhibition (I) that is sure to inspire wonder in young minds and delight adults alike.

As you walk through this **miniature world**, you can explore every nook and cranny in **1:12 scale** incredible **Edwardian village and country estate**. From the quaint village shops to the rustic farmhouse and grand country home, there are rooms with all sorts of surprises.



FUN FACT: Occasionally, some of the figures move – sawing timber, scaring granny with a spider, an elevator moving between shops and a moving toy train in the toy shop.

Leonardslee is a treasure trove of art and nature. Explore beautiful sculptures by local talents from Surrey and Sussex, blended with Anton Smit's acclaimed works from South Africa.



SCULPTURE PARK & ART GALLERY

Visit the Art Gallery within Leonardslee House where smaller-scale works are displayed. All works are available for sale.



Viewing of Sculpture Park & Art Gallery is included in garden entry.



Members receive priority booking and free or discounted tickets to events!*
Visit www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk/all-events



Workshops & More

Embrace the magic of winter with our exciting lineup of workshops! From hand-painted bauble decorating and festive candle making workshops to wreath making to get you in the festive spirit.

Learn a new skill in the new year with calligraphy, jesomite coaster making, and acrylic pouring workshops. Whether you're a child or an adult, there's a workshop to ignite your creativity and fill your season with warmth and wonder.

Garden walks & forest bathing

Our garden walks and forest bathing sessions are an opportunity for you to step inside our beautiful grounds, soak in some of the sights and sounds of nature around us, and experience everything we have to offer that will help you connect with nature.



View our full list of upcoming events & workshops online.

LEONARDSLEE ILLUMINATED 24 NOVEMBER – 21 DECEMBER

Walk through the beautiful grounds of Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens as they come to life with spellbinding illuminations, large-scale projections, sounds & colour.

*Prices from: Adults (aged 16+) £16 | Children (aged 2 – 15) £10
Free for children aged 1 & under*



**FREE
TICKETS**
for Leonardslee
members
T's & C's apply



Restaurant



Interlude
AT LEONARDSLEE GARDENS

INTERLUDE

Evenings only | Thursday - Sunday

A unique inspired Michelin Star dining experience, with a multi-course menu that changes with the seasons. With ingredients foraged directly from the 240-acre Grade I listed Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens we call home.

Travel to the heart of the Sussex countryside and take a day or two to immerse yourself into our journey.



MICHELIN



Enhance your experience and

STAY THE NIGHT

AFTERNOON TEA



LEONARDSLEE HOUSE

10%
DISCOUNT
for Leonardslee members



CHRISTMAS

AFTERNOON TEA

1 - 24 DECEMBER

Enjoy seasonal favourites with Christmas Afternoon Tea at Leonardslee House.

Thursday - Sunday | 13:00 - 16:00
Garden entry included

STAY

LEONARDSLEE HOUSE



Ten bespoke rooms, each with their own individual décor and en-suite bathrooms.

0871 8733 363

www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk



MANNINGS HEATH ESTATE



Join us for an

Unforgettable

New Year's Eve Celebration

Dance, laugh and create lasting memories with your loved ones at Mannings Heath Estate - only 3 miles away!

TICKETS:
£95
per adult

A PARTY TO BRING IN THE NEW YEAR

Glass of Benguela Cove Cuvée58 bubbly on arrival and at midnight to bring in the New Year
Four-course menu

Live Band Entertainment by Danny Fisher and his Rock n Roll band
A beautifully decorated function room and a warm and wonderful welcome!



Pre-booking is required

sales@manningsheath.com | 0871 873 3388

LIVE LIFE IN FULL BLOOM

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

For less than
£1 per week*

Support our gardens and the vital conservation work by becoming a member of **Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens**. It's fun and helps ensure the future of this special place.

Leonardslee members receive **free tickets to major sell out events, exclusive benefits and discounts** throughout the year!*

**Terms apply | *Per adult in a joint direct debit membership*

JOIN TODAY AT RECEPTION and get your garden entry **REFUNDED!**

BUGGY SHUTTLE SERVICE



The **Leonardslee Shuttle Service** is available free of charge for visitors with limited mobility and runs on most days. This service relies on volunteers and is **subject to availability**.

VOLUNTEER



Volunteering to help at **Leonardslee** is an opportunity to be actively involved in ensuring that this national gem can continue to bring pleasure for generations to come.

Visit our website or contact us for more information.

OPEN DAILY

OFF-PEAK:

29 OCT - 30 MAR | 09:00 - 16:00
LAST ENTRY 14:30
LAST MEMBER ENTRY 15:30*

*Last entry during **Leonardslee Illuminated** is 14:30 for all visitors & members.

PEAK:

31 MAR - 26 OCT | 09:00 - 17:00
LAST ENTRY 15:30
LAST MEMBER ENTRY 16:30

CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

LEONARDSLEE IS CASH FREE

For security and hygiene purposes we do not accept cash.



    #leonardsleegardens

www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk | 0871 8733 389 | info@leonardsleegardens.co.uk
Brighton Road, Lower Beeding, Horsham, RH13 6PP



LEONARDSLEE LAKES & GARDENS

- A SEVEN LAKES**
Our gardens are set within a tranquil valley; at the heart, a series of seven lakes play host to an array of wildlife.
- B MEMORIAL TABLE**
Make your way to the Memorial Table for one of the most spectacular views across the gardens.
In memory of Sir Edmund Loder, the table bears the inscription "In memory of Sir Edmund Loder who made and loved these gardens 1889-1920."
- C THE DELL**
Don't miss the famous Dell for outstanding views across the valley.
The Dell is home to a 35ft Cornish Red Rhododendron planted in the 1800s.
- D CORONATION GARDEN**
Planted in 1952 to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
This garden features many Rhododendron Loderi hybrids.
- E TOP GARDEN**
Newly reopened, the Top Garden was the original site of a Pinetum.
Planted by Sir Edmund Loder between 1901 and 1905, most of the trees were unfortunately lost during the great storm of 1987 that affected so much of this part of the country.
- F LODERI GARDEN**
With a magical feel, this is the oldest part of the garden, with large old rhododendrons, giant conifers & hidden palm trees.
- G DAFFODIL LAWN**
A carpet of golden daffodils covers the slopes of Leonardslee from early March. Offers a fine view across the valley towards Mossy Ghyll Pond.
- I DOLLS' HOUSE MUSEUM**
A magical world in miniature awaits you at the famous 'Beyond The Dolls' House' exhibition.
- K ROCK GARDEN**
Created in 1900, our famous Rock Garden is one of the most beautiful areas of the gardens.
- MONUMENTAL TREE**
Quercus canariensis, our enormous Algerian Oak measures at 33.6m tall making it the tallest known example of this species in the world.



- L LEONARDSLEE HOUSE**
The stunning Italianate house is home to Restaurant Interlude, art gallery & sculpture sales and our ten boutique en-suite rooms.
- M ENGINE HOUSE**
The Engine House once pumped water up to the top of the valley. It is a stunning spot for views across the lakes.
Seasonal refreshments are available.
- N SNOWDROP RISE**
During late winter, swathes of snowdrops rise from the banks near the Engine House towards the top of the valley.
- O CAMELLIA WALK**
A pretty walk, noteworthy for its incredible colour and palm trees.
This area includes an interesting group of piers including *Japonica variegata* and piers Wakehurst.
- P WALLABY ENCLOSURE**
Make sure to visit baby joeys and their mums in the wallaby enclosure.
FEEDING TIME:
12:00 - 12:15 daily
- Q VINEYARD**
In 2018 we planted the UK's first Pinotage Vineyard.
Whilst our vines are maturing, why not enjoy a wine tasting from our sister property in South Africa, Benguela Cove Lagoon Wine Estate.
- R BLUEBELL BANK**
The wild beauty of Bluebell Bank will take your breath away as an enchanting carpet of blue and purple stretches across the glade during early spring.
- S CAMELLIA GROVE**
Several hundred varieties of camellia, mostly Japonica, were planted here in 1957-58.
- T BIRD HIDE**
The perfect spot to sit and listen to the birds that call Leonardslee home.
- U DEER PARK**
Home to a herd of over 100 Sika & Fallow deer.
- HOLLY CHAMPIONS**
American Holly *Ilex opaca* and Himalayan Holly *Ilex dipyrrena*.

KEY			
TOILETS	H & J	ART GALLERY & SCULPTURE SALES	L
GIFT SHOP & GARDEN CENTRE	H	FIRST AID / AED MACHINES	J & M
CLOCKTOWER & COURTYARD CAFÉS	J	MAIN PATHS	
LEONARDSLEE HOUSE	L	WOODCHIP / GRASS PATHS	
FREE WIFI AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ESTATE		STEPS	
		WINTER WALK	
		ULTIMATE TRAIL	
		VIEW POINT	
		BUGGY PICK UP / DROP OFF POINT	



WINTER WALK

 MEDIUM

Approx. 40 – 50 minutes | 3.4km | ± 3750 steps

Searching for a winter, Boxing Day or New Year's walk? Explore the gardens and experience our winter trail that passes the Loderi Garden, our lakes and the Rock Garden.

ULTIMATE TRAIL

 DIFFICULT

Approx. 1hr 30 minutes | 5km | ± 7500 steps

Winding its way through our woodland gardens, this route goes off the beaten track and allows you to experience all that **Leonardslee** has to offer as you walk along our **seven lakes**, explore our **Top Garden** and some of the most beautiful areas of the garden.

**please note that sections of this trail may be closed for maintenance*

For the accessibility map, please visit www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk/visitor-information or scan here.





New!



We are excited to announce that starting in 2024, you can hold your dream wedding at Leonardslee House; where love blooms, and memories flourish!

Discover how Leonardslee House can be exquisitely, exclusively, yours for a weekend wedding.



Visit our website or email weddings@leonardsleegardens.co.uk for more information.

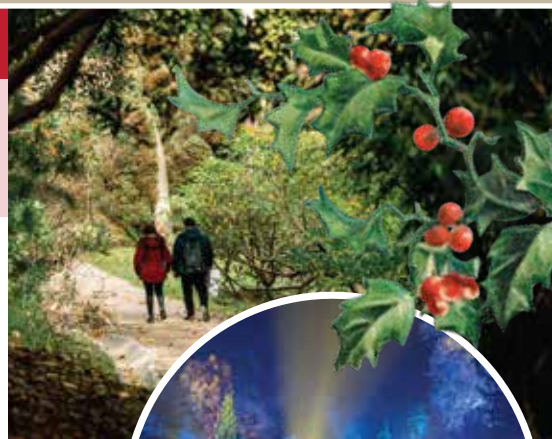


GIFT VOUCHERS

Gift the gift of Life in Full Bloom with an annual membership and treat them to the world of Leonardslee!

A membership is the perfect gift for family, friends and loved ones to enjoy every season in our Grade I listed gardens, not to mention receive a number of benefits including **FREE** or discounted tickets to events, including the sell-out Leonardslee Illuminated.

You can also treat your loved ones to a Stay at Leonardslee House, Restaurant Interlude or experience vouchers for the ultimate Leonardslee experience.



Visit our website for more information www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk