OTHER GARDENS OF INTEREST IN THAMES AND CHILTERNS South Oxfordshire

Prosperous, historic market towns of Henley-on-Thames, Wallingford and Thame provide an alluring introduction to South Oxfordshire's roll-call of fascinating houses and gardens. Close to Henley is a rich variety of historic houses that includes picturesque Greys Court, Stonor, home of Lord and Lady Camoys and the Stonor family for over 800 years and Mapledurham, the Elizabethan manor on the Thames which inspired E. M. Shepherd's illustrations of Toad Hall - now with the only working water mill on the river. Other places of note are Nuffield Place, the 1930s-style home of Lord Nuffield (William Morris of Morris Motors) whose 4 acres gardens were developed during and after World War One and Waterperry Gardens near Wheatley, formerly an agricultural college. Waterperry boasts superb herbaceous borders and a shop selling home produced fruits and flowers - it is also home to the large annual event 'Art in Action'. Specialist centres include the delightful Herb Farm at Sonning Common with its Saxon Maze and Mattocks Roses found at Notcutts Garden at Nuneham Courtney.

For more information on South Oxfordshire and its gardens, visit www.southoxon.gov.uk or contact the following Tourist Information Centres: Henley-on-Thames **Tel: 01491 578034** / **www.visit-henley.org;** Wallingford **Tel: 01491 826972**; Didcot **Tel: 01235 813243**; Thame **Tel: 01844 212834**.

DON'T MISS!

THE Q GARDEN COMPANY

Thame Road, Chinnor OX39 4QS. **Tel: 01844 353540**
A Victorian-style garden offering rare and unusual hardy and tender plants. Specialist stock includes elusive, exotic and sub-tropical plants for gardens and conservatories, in the true spirit of the Victorian plant hunter!
Open: All year, Mon-Sat 09.00-17.30, Sun 10.00-16.00.
Admission: Free.

THE HARCOURT ARBORETUM

Nuneham Courtney, Oxfordshire OX44 9PX. **Tel: 01865 343501**
85-acre site owned by Oxford Botanic Garden, derived from a pinetum planted by the Harcourt family in 1835. Displays now include camellias, rhododendrons, bamboos, magnolias and acers. 10-acre bluebell wood and meadow.
Open: all year, except 8-21 Apr & 22 Dec-4 Jan. May-Oct, daily, 10.00-17.00; Nov Apr, Mon-Fri, 10.00-16.30. Admission: Free.

NEWINGTON NURSERIES

Newington, Wallingford OX10 7AW. **Tel: 01865 400533**
www.plants@newington-nurseries.co.uk
Specialising in the unusual and the exotic, the nursery stocks a varied selection of rare and beautiful plants including endangered specimens from the lush, tropical rainforest, majestic banana plants, palms, orchids and exquisite citrus trees. Home to the National Collection of Alocasia, from the Asian rainforest. Chelsea Gold Winning garden designers.
Open: all year, Tue-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 10.00-16.00.
Admission: Free.

OTHER PLACES TO VISIT...

GREYS COURT

Rotherfield Greys, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 4PG
Tel: 01491 628145 www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Originating from the 14th century, Greys Court nestles in a maze of old walls which make up a series of beautiful walled gardens containing wisteria, old fashioned roses and an ornamental vegetable garden.
Open: 14.00-18.00. *Garden:* 7-31 Mar, Wed; 1 Apr-30 Sept, Tue-Sat; 1-20 Oct, Wed (and all BH Mons).
Admission: *Garden:* Adults £3.40, Children £1.70; *House & Garden:* Adults £4.80, Children £2.40. Concessions.

PLACES TO STAY...

THAME

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