

GARDEN MUSEUM

PRESS RELEASE

The Garden Museum presents its new exhibition, the first major retrospective on the life and work of Christopher Lloyd. Opening on April 1 2010, *Christopher Lloyd: A Life at Great Dixter* will present a unique perspective on the life and work of one of the great characters of 20th century gardening.

Born in 1921 Christopher Lloyd lived and worked for most of his life at his family home, Great Dixter. It was at Dixter that he, through his adventurous changes and characteristic use of colour, created one of the world's best loved gardens. His work in the gardens informed and inspired his distinctive writing, published in national press and numerous books, which made him a household name and the most engaging plantsman of his generation.

This new exhibition will bring together personal objects from Great Dixter, recollections and stories from Christopher's friends and colleagues, examples of his writing and stunning images of his garden to piece together a picture of the life behind the garden. It will be the first time that this selection of Christopher's possessions, and those of his family, have been on public display: including his gardening galloshes and his Glyndebourne shoes, designs by Lutyens and photographs from the family's private darkroom. From his childhood at Dixter, through his education as a gardener and the early days of the nursery business, to his later life and career, visitors will be able to examine the links between Christopher Lloyd's public persona and his private interests and enthusiasms, from his annual pilgrimages to Scotland and Glyndebourne to cooking, contemporary design, and mischievous correspondence.

Christopher Lloyd: A Life at Great Dixter will be the second in a series of retrospectives of great modern garden makers in the Garden Museum's new exhibition gallery. Like 2008's retrospective on Beth Chatto, the exhibition will endeavour to place Christopher Lloyd's work in context; asking why he was such an influential figure in 20th century gardening and whether his posthumous reputation will continue to endure. The exhibition coincides with the centenary of Nathaniel Lloyd, Christopher's father, founding the gardens at Dixter and an appeal by The Great Dixter Trust to raise the remaining £1.1 million needed to complete Christopher Lloyd's vision for the estate.

***Christopher Lloyd: A Life at Great Dixter* will be accompanied by a series of events at the Garden Museum; these include:**

Fergus Garrett and Anna Pavord

Reflections on Christopher Lloyd

Fergus Garrett, Dixter's Head Gardener and Chief Executive, and Anna Pavord give their personal accounts of knowing Christopher Lloyd.

Thursday 1 April, 6.30pm

Tickets £20 / £15 Museum Friends

Reputations: how are gardeners remembered?

The Museum joins forces with the Garden History Society for a debate on the posthumous reputations of great gardeners and garden designers. Penelope Hobhouse, Dominic Cole, GHS Chairman, and Christopher Woodward, will discuss the notion of heroes and heroines in the world of gardening.

Thursday 8 April, 6.30

£15/£10 Museum Friends & Garden History Society Members

Mary Keen & Frank Ronan

Christopher Lloyd: Friend and Host

Christopher Lloyd was well known as a host, opera lover, cook and collector. Mary Keen and Frank Ronan talk about their memories of Christopher's passions.

Tuesday 13 April, 6.30pm

Tickets £20 / £15 Museum Friends

Tickets can be booked in advance on 020 7 401 8865 ext*822

- ENDS -

For press enquiries and image requests please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Garden Museum

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- The Garden Museum is Britain's only museum dedicated to gardening and garden design
- It was founded by John and Rosemary Nicholson in 1977 in the churchyard of St Mary-at-Lambeth following the rediscovery of the tomb of the 17th century plant hunters the John Tradescants
- In November 2008 the museum re-opened following a re-design by the architects Dow Jones. The newly designed interior includes individual spaces for exhibitions, the permanent collection, education, café and shop
- The Museum holds over 9000 objects representing British gardens and gardening.
- The Museum is open:
Sunday – Friday 10.30am – 5pm and Saturday 10.30am – 4pm. Closed on the first Monday of every month.
- Admission Charges
£6 adults/ £5 concessions / £3 Art Fund members / FREE for students, Museum friends, Under-16s and carers of disabled visitors.

Great Dixter

Northiam

Rye

East Sussex

TN31 6PH

www.greatdixter.co.uk

- The house and gardens at Great Dixter are open:
1st April to 31st October
Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays.
Gardens 11.00 to 5.00pm (last admission)
House 2.00 to 5.00pm
- Admission Charges
With Gift Aid, (Standard Charge in brackets)
House and Gardens: Adult £9.35 (£8.50), child £4.40 (£4.00)
Gardens only: Adult £7.70 (£7.00), child £3.85 (£3.50)
- The Great Dixter Trust was established in 2004 in order to keep the garden open to the public and maintain the training programmes that Christopher Lloyd had established. Since his death the Trust has worked to raise money in order preserve Christopher's remarkable garden and historic home. In May 2009 they were successful in raising funds, from the HLF and other major donors, to acquire the 60% share in the estate outside their ownership. A further generous donation enabled them to buy Nathaniel Lloyd's Dixter farm buildings. Work is now beginning on a major conservation project to carry out essential repairs to the buildings, to conserve and catalogue the Lutyens and Lloyd archive and house collections and set up educational facilities. £3.3 million has already been raised for the work; however, £1.1 million is still needed.

For further information on the Great Dixter Trust and fundraising appeal please contact the Fundraising office on 01797 254048 or friends@greatdixter.co.uk