

# ary

things to do, see  
to get festive!

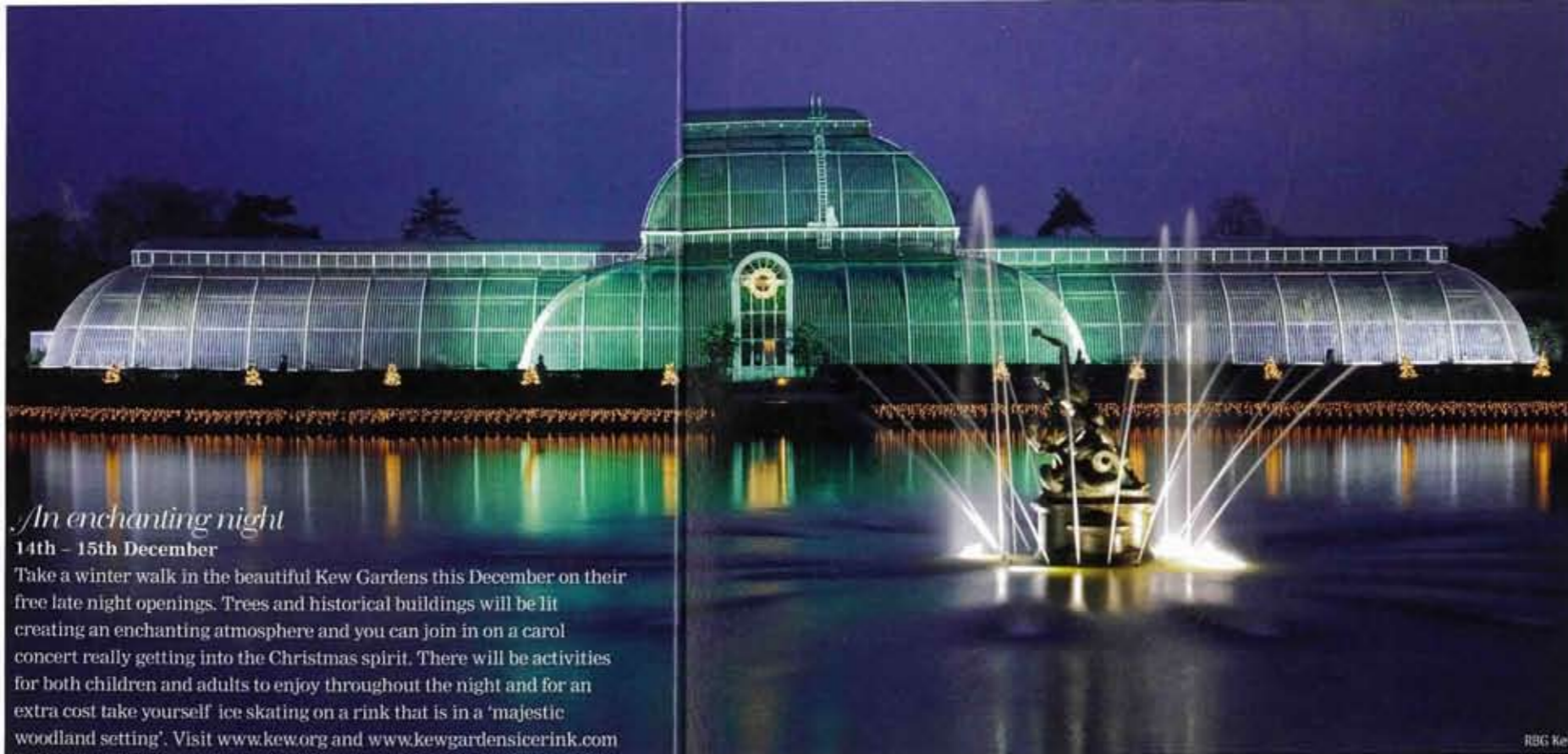
## ESSENTIAL READING



Hatfield's Herbal, The Secret History of British Plants by Gabrielle Hatfield, published by Allen Lane, £17.99. ISBN: 97801140515770. For many years plants have been used for remedies and folklore, including many Christmas and winter plants. This book is full of stories and memorable information from all over the British Isles covering 150 plants. It even includes the kissing tradition of Mistletoe, just perfect to read up on at this time of year!

## Christmas shopping

**1st & 2nd December**  
Quintessentially English is once again hosting a special Christmas shopping weekend where you can take advantage of a 10% discount on the entire range of organic hand-blended soaps, beauty products, People Tree clothing, candles and many stunning gifts for the home and garden; perfect for picking up Christmas goodies. With spiced mulled wine, mince pies and also free soap samples with all purchases over £25 it is definitely worth a trip to the village of Lacock. Tel: 01249 730100 or visit [www.quintessentially-english.co.uk](http://www.quintessentially-english.co.uk)



## An enchanting night

14th - 15th December

Take a winter walk in the beautiful Kew Gardens this December on their free late night openings. Trees and historical buildings will be lit creating an enchanting atmosphere and you can join in on a carol concert really getting into the Christmas spirit. There will be activities for both children and adults to enjoy throughout the night and for an extra cost take yourself ice skating on a rink that is in a 'majestic woodland setting'. Visit [www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org) and [www.kewgardensicerink.com](http://www.kewgardensicerink.com)



## Cornish Christmas celebrations

16th December

Christmas the traditional Cornish way is a must for any festive lover and provides a lovely day out. Go along to Pendennis Castle for the one day Nadelik - A Cornish Christmas event where you can expect to be treated with mince pies, mulled wine, Christmas lights, carol singers and of course traditional Cornish music and dancing. Adults, £5.40, concessions, £4.10, child £2.70, family ticket £13.50. English Heritage members enter for free. Open from 11am - 4pm. Tel: 0870 333 1181 or visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## One winter's evening

5th, 12th, 18th and 19th December

Why not treat yourself to a Christmas evening out and visit Waddesdon House for one of their Winter Evening events? Take a tour around the house admiring all the festive displays and listening to the beautiful harpist. Finish off by enjoying a glass of Champagne in their award-winning gift shop and then dine on a Rothschild Christmas Dinner in the Manor Restaurant. Tel: 01296 653226 or visit [www.waddesdon.org.uk](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk)



The North Front Waddesdon Manor, The Rothschild Collection (The National Trust)  
©The National Trust, Waddesdon Manor. Photographer: Paul Watson

## Three days of Christmas

24th - 26th December

If you are looking to do something a little special over Christmas then why not take yourself along to the Swan Hotel in Southwold, Suffolk for their three night Christmas Package? The first day consists of port, cream teas, Champagne and canapés, as well as traditional carols and a five-course dinner. Christmas morning will start with a bucks-fizz breakfast followed by a traditional Christmas lunch in the afternoon and a Christmas buffet in the evening. Boxing day is again full of delicious food and a chance to play games in the board room and listen to songs from the 1920s and 30s. A perfect getaway without the Christmas stress, prices start from £650 per person. Tel: 01502 722186 for more details.



## ESSENTIAL READING



2008 Dairy Diary, £5.75 (plus p&p). This might not be a book as such, but it is a must-have. With all the usual diary compartments this is also jam-packed with additional information. Every week has a different recipe for you to indulge in and it is full of facts and figures, home and garden information and tips, health advice for both your family and pets and travel information. It really is a diary with a difference. Tel: 01536 762922 or visit [www.dairydiary.co.uk](http://www.dairydiary.co.uk)



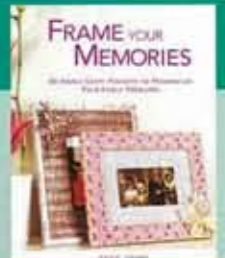
## A celebration for a Palace

7th - 9th December

With choirs singing all of your favourite, traditional Christmas carols and silver bands filling the courtyard of Blenheim Palace you will be put well and truly in the festive mood. Other Christmas entertainment includes organists and brass bands each Sunday from 10th November - 9th December. And don't miss the Blenheim Singers on 1st December in the Chapel. Visit [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)



## BOOK OF THE MONTH



Frame your Memories by Susie Johns published by New Holland Publishers, £19.99. ISBN: 9781845378752. This book is perfect if you are the crafty type and is packed full of ideas on how to create a frame to fit any occasion. You can make them for yourself or give as a great gift with a personal touch. Period House readers can get this for a special price of just £17.99 including free postage and packaging. Just call 01476 541080 and quote 'Frame your Memories', ISBN: 9781845378752 and offer code NHFYM/01. Closing date: 2nd January 2008.

PH  
READER  
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