



November 2025 Symposium: Bulbs at Great Dixter – a practical symposium

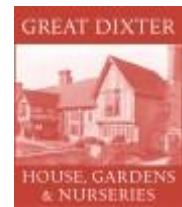
Symposia at Great Dixter offer a rare opportunity for gardeners to learn and practise traditional techniques first-hand in the Great Dixter gardens, to discuss aspects of border design and maintenance and to visit other nearby exclusive gardens with Fergus Garrett and the Great Dixter team. Great Dixter has been running annual symposia for twenty years and many participants return as they know they will receive excellent horticultural tuition and become part of the Dixter family.

Saturday 1 November to Saturday 8 November 2025
Bulbs

This is a practical, hands-on symposium with 80% of the time being spent outdoors

Lectures and workshops with head gardener Fergus Garrett will explore the following topics:

- An introduction to Great Dixter
- Choosing and using Bulbs – the varied use of bulbs in the garden including permanent underplanting, using bulbs as pocket plantings and creating bulb displays in containers
- Bedding out with bulbs
- Integrating bulbs in borders – permanent planting



- Nursery propagation – general propagation techniques as well as seasonal propagation. Pruning, composting, protection of tender plants and the shutting down of a garden for the winter
- A visit to The Silk Route Garden, Woolbeding to plant species bulbs throughout the rock garden areas

Also includes:

- An in-depth tour of the house with an insight into how garden and house intertwine
- Suppers in the House with time for discussion with members of the Great Dixter team

Further information:

Great Dixter Symposia span one week, and the teaching is held throughout Dixter in the lecture room and the garden borders. Attendees should prepare accordingly for these activities (see the check list below). Other than having the right gear and the necessary travel arrangements in place, attendees are comprehensively looked after by the Great Dixter team. Accommodation, meals, as well as transport to and from the Hotel every day are included within the price of the course. **Please note transfers to and from the airport are not included and should be independently arranged by attendees.**

This is a practical symposium with a maximum of 8 attendees. 80% of the time will be outside in the garden and 20% indoors.

Travel arrangements for the start and finish of the Symposium:

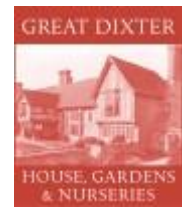
Attendees are responsible for arranging their own transportation from the airport (or other location) directly to the hotel on Saturday 1 November (and any return journey required for Saturday 8 November). Attendees should leave their bags at the Hotel and then we will collect all attendees from the Hotel at 12.15pm and bring you to Dixter for the start of the Symposium at 12.30pm.

The Symposium will begin at 12.30pm on Saturday 1 November 2025 at Great Dixter. This afternoon is a key part of the Symposium during which Fergus will share an introduction to Dixter and the format for the week ahead. Fergus will be wishing to learn about the gardening interests of each guest and the style of their own garden, as well as their gardening ‘zone.’ This is a bespoke symposium and so these conversations will enable Fergus to tailor the week appropriately.

For Saturday 8 November, attendees should ensure that they have pre-booked return transportation from the Hotel to the airport (or other location) well in advance. We suggest allowing approximately 2.5 hours for the airport transfer to London Heathrow and therefore recommend any return flight be booked for 2.30pm onwards to allow for check-in and any queues.

Hotel arrangements:

During your stay, attendees will each have a private room at a lovely boutique Hotel at [The Old Rectory](#), located in the nearby town of Hastings. We will collect attendees each day from the hotel and return everyone in the evening.



What to bring:

Check List: comfortable, casual, warm and appropriate clothing for daytime (particularly as you will be working outside!), and evenings. Layering is the key. By casual, we mean jeans/trousers, t-shirts, shirts, jumpers, sweatshirts, trainers (sneakers). We are very informal here. You will transition into the evening and supper from the daytime programme so there is no 'change of clothes' needed for dinner.

Please bring a warm hat and gloves and notebooks, pens, and pencils. We provide wet weather gear and any garden tools that may be required.

Most attendees bring a camera. Please note that a UK adapter is needed for all electrical items (e.g. phone chargers) that require mains power (plugging in). Wi-fi is available at Great Dixter for those wishing to bring a portable computer.

Price:

£3,650.00 per person.

A (non-refundable) deposit of £750 is required to secure a booking with the balance payable 8 weeks before the start date of the Symposium (6 September 2025). Of course, if you wish to pay the amount in full, this can be arranged.

Please see below for our cancellation policy.

Cancellation Policy:

If you have to cancel:

All deposits are non-refundable. If a booking is paid for in full, this includes a non-refundable deposit.

Payment of the balance for a Symposium is due 8 weeks before the start of the Symposium.

Fees are non-refundable if you cancel within this 8-week period.

We recommend that insurance is taken out in case cancellation is necessary through illness or unforeseen circumstances.

Payments cannot be transferred to other Symposia, courses or events.

In the event of Great Dixter holding a waiting list for places on a Symposium, we will attempt to replace your booking. If we are successful, a refund will be made (less the non-refundable deposit).

If Great Dixter has to cancel:

Great Dixter reserves the right to cancel a Symposium for whatever reason but where this happens, we will endeavor to give as much notice as possible. In the event of a cancelled Symposium, your fee and deposit will be refunded.

Enquiries:

If you have any questions, please email us at enquiries@greatdixter.co.uk