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Lindley Library London – Temporary closure

Update March 2012

We are delighted to announce that we plan to re-open the Lindley Library London on 2 July 2012. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all our customers. We are however still experiencing a period of unprecedented transition in the Lindley library and we would appreciate your understanding.

While building and conservation work continues, most of our research material will remain offsite. Where possible, we would like to provide some limited research opening by appointment – further details below.

Our building reinstatement is improving the way our collections are housed in our stack areas, extending our environmentally controlled, secure areas to give the best protection we can to our art and rare books collections.

We are excited at the recent news that some of the money from the lease of the Lawrence Hall will be invested in Lindley Library London. In the short term however a large number of our collections, housed until now in the Lawrence Hall, will need to be moved before April. We also need to move collections at Lindley Library Wisley because of building improvements happening there. A significant proportion of our collections at present are either offsite being stored; offsite being conservation cleaned; or are in the process of being rehoused.

Library staff are working hard to evaluate the needs of our different collections. They are listing, packing, moving, and rehousing thousands of books, archives, photographs and artworks to challenging deadlines. Their office space is still the Upper Reading Room. The lower reading room is currently being used for collections organisation and packing before sending to archive store.

Contacting the Library

- **London: Limited research opening by appointment only** : Before the library reopens fully we would like to provide some limited research access by appointment only. Appointments will be assessed by staff on a case-by-case basis. Materials available for consultation will depend on the collections currently on-site, their fragility, the quality of environment we are able to provide (including what building work is happening at the time), and the availability of staff. When contacting the library about access to the collections, please give full details of the items you wish to see. This will help us to give you as much information as possible as to whether these items are likely to be available prior to full re-opening. Building timetables are subject to change without notice and are therefore beyond the library's control.
- **Lending Service from Vincent Square** : Library staff will be available on

Tuesday and Friday from 2.00 to 4.00pm for collection of pre-reserved material. We regret that there can be no access to the Library at these times. When you arrive, please ask reception staff to contact the Library.

- **How to identify London lending stock:** London lending material on the library catalogue www.rhs.org.uk/libraries is marked London Lending Stock Upper Reading Room. Books marked Stack, Lower Reading Room, Rare Books Room, or Pamphlet Collection are not accessible. Wisley lending material is still available as normal.
- **Lending Service via Lindley Library Wisley:** Material can be sent to Lindley Library Wisley for you to collect from there. Please contact us at library@rhs.org.uk or phone 01483 212428 (11am to 4pm daily).
- **Enquiry Service:** London and Wisley Library staff are handling research enquiries, where access to materials makes this possible. Contact us at library@rhs.org.uk or phone 01483 212428 for further information.
- **Research collections:** Lindley Library Wisley has a good published research collection, including Gardeners' Chronicle, and a large lending collection (open to all garden visitors 11am to 4pm daily). Plant monographs and science works are held in the Science Research Collections (open to members and the public by appointment Mon-Fri, telephone 01483 212428). Some materials may be made available at weekends in the Wisley Garden Library by prior arrangement.
- **Image Request Service:** For commercial or research image requests please contact images@rhs.org.uk until further notice.
- **Lindley Library Wisley** and the other Garden Libraries remain open as usual.

We once again apologise to our readers and researchers for the continuing disruption to our services.

With kind regards,

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