



Relax and unwind in the gorgeous gardens at Valentines. Discover the historic kitchen garden, the Old English walled garden and the Victorian rose garden.

There are also a whole host of unique features like the Long Water canal, rococo grottoes and dovecote. Valentines Gardens provide a wonderful setting for events throughout the year, from open-air theatre to farmers' markets. Families can enjoy the trails, or borrow an outdoor games bag from the mansion.

Discover a beautiful country house and gardens in the heart of Ilford. Visit the recreated Victorian kitchen and Georgian rooms, with gorgeous views over surrounding parkland.

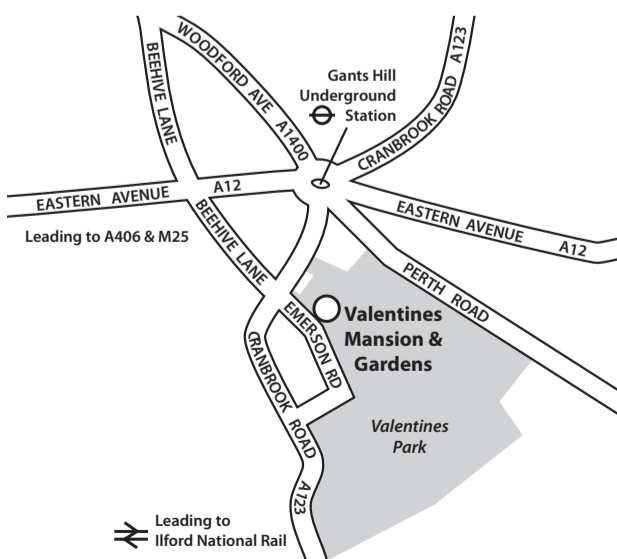
Enjoy contemporary art exhibitions and installations. Explore the stunning historic gardens. Bring the whole family for hands-on games, activities and discovery trails.

Valentines Gardens

Welcome to another world

Getting there

- Tube:** Gants Hill Underground Station. (Central Line) 5 minutes walk.
- Rail:** Ilford National Rail, direct line from Liverpool Street Station.
- Bus:** Take bus routes 396, 128, 179, 123, 296, 167 from Gants Hill Underground Station and 128, 296, 150, 396, 167 from Ilford National Rail to stop 'Valentines Mansion and Park'.
- Cycle:** Cycle to the mansion through Valentines Park. Cycle racks are provided at the mansion.
- Road:** Easily accessible from the A406 (junction for A12) and the M25 (junction 27 for M11, and follow on to the A406 East). Car parking is available at the mansion (charges apply).



Opening times and charges

Valentines Mansion opens on 14 February 2009 and then throughout the year:

Tuesday	10am to 5pm
Wednesday	10am to 5pm
Sunday	11am to 4pm
Admission:	FREE
Guided tours for groups:	£3 per person (must be pre-booked)

Please note most events are charged separately.

Access

Designated car parking spaces are provided for disabled badge holders.

The mansion has level access throughout, with a lift to all floors.

For access advice call 020 8708 8100.

Photographs by Paul Riddle, Leanne Benson. Illustration by Rolf Parker



Valentines Mansion,
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Web site: www.valentinesmansion.com
E-mail: valentines@redbridge.gov.uk
Bookings and general enquiries: 020 8708 8100



V History

Valentines Mansion is more than 300 years old.

The house was built in around 1696 for Elizabeth Tillotson and her family, after the death of her husband, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

At that time the new brick house stood in open countryside, several miles from the edge of London.

Valentines has changed hands many times since then. City merchant and banker Robert Surman bought the estate in the 1720s and created the walled gardens, dovecote and grottoes.

In the 1760s owner Sir Charles Raymond spent part of his fortune renovating Valentines, giving the house its Georgian appearance.

Sarah Ingleby, the last private resident of Valentines, died in 1906 and the council acquired the house in 1912. Since then, the mansion has been a home to wartime refugees, a hospital, a public health centre, and a council housing department.

After standing empty for 15 years, Valentines has now been restored with Redbridge Council and Heritage Lottery funds, and strong community support to create the historic but contemporary venue it is today.



V Events

Special events run throughout the year at Valentines, including talks, tours, school holiday activities, and open-air shows:

- The first Sunday of every month is Family Sunday, featuring FREE activities ranging from dance to story telling, and egg hunts to ghost hunts!
- The fourth Sunday of every month is a farmers' market

A separate events leaflet is available.

V Schools

Valentines Mansion offers an exciting new education programme for school children, exploring the house and gardens, and including role-play activities.

For more information call 020 8708 8100 or visit www.valentinesmansion.com.



V Families

Valentines welcomes families, and features a special family room packed with hands-on fun. Get all dressed up in Victorian costume and pose for a portrait picture. Play cook at the mini kitchen range. Delve into the history of Valentines on the touch screen computer. Take a trail around the house or gardens, or relax with a book or some jigsaws.



V Venue hire

With its lovely period rooms, grand staircase, and beautiful walled gardens, Valentines provides a unique setting for a whole host of functions, from weddings and celebrations, to business meetings and seminars. You can hire individual rooms, or the whole mansion.

For more information, please call 020 8708 8100, e-mail hiringvalentines@redbridge.gov.uk or visit www.valentinesmansion.com.



V Art

Exhibitions and unique installations showcase contemporary art at Valentines. There are also arts workshops and private viewings.

The top floor of Valentines has been converted to artists' studios. Open studio days provide a chance to visit the studios, meet the artists and view their work.