

World Tour of Devon, 2007

Souvenir tour guide

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1. Itinerary

Friday 29th June

2pm Depart from Royal Caribbean House, Weybridge

6pm (ish) Arrive in Exeter and check-in

-- free time in Exeter --

7:30pm for 8.... Meal at "*Pitcher and Piano*", 79-81 Queen St

8:05pm-late Wild carousing.

Saturday 30th June

8-9:30am See who doesn't make it to breakfast

-- free time in Exeter --

11am Depart from the Clock Tower hotel

-- free time in Sidmouth --

2:30pm Set-up for concert in Sidmouth

3-4:30pm **Concert:** Connaught Gardens Bandstand, Sidmouth

-- free time in Sidmouth (& on the beach) --

6pm (ish). Depart for return to Exeter

6:30pm-late Wild carousing

Sunday 1st July

8-9:30am See who misses breakfast 2 days in a row

-- free time in Exeter --

10:30am Check-out and depart from the Clock Tower hotel

11:30am Set-up for concert in Exmouth

12-2pm **Concert:** Manor Gardens Bandstand, Exmouth

-- free time in Exmouth --

3pm Depart for home

7pm(ish)..... Return to Royal Caribbean House, Weybridge

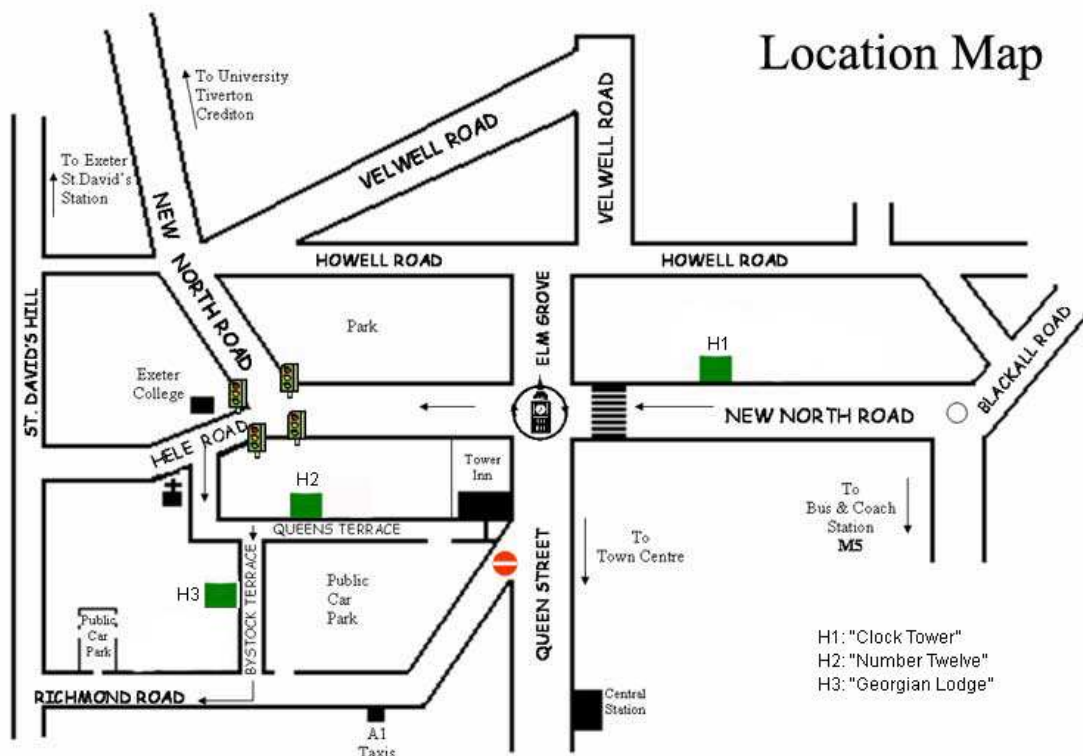
2. Hotels & Contacts

We are staying at three hotels that are run by the same company and close to each other. The main hotel and check-in is:

The Clock Tower Hotel (New North Rd)
Tel. 01392 424545

The other hotels are:

Number Twelve (Queens Terrace).
Georgian Lodge Hotel (Bystock Terrace)
Tel 01392 213079 (for both)



In case of emergencies,

Diana	07747 035074
Graeme	07966 522116
Mike	07929 242673

3. Devon for Dummies

Devon is a large county in South West England, bordered by Cornwall to the west, and Dorset and Somerset to the east. It is unique among English counties, in that it has two separate coastlines, on the English Channel and Bristol Channel branches of the Atlantic.

Although Devon is the official county name, Devon and Devonshire are both used, with Devonshire often indicating a traditional or historical context. The addition of the "-shire" suffix is sometimes attributed to the existence of the Duke of Devonshire, resident in Derbyshire, which is said (although hard evidence cannot be found) to have been a mistake in the making of the original letters of patent for the Duchy. This mistake may have been clerical, or a direct mistake of the King (James I).

The Dorset and East Devon Coast is known as the Jurassic Coast due to its geology and geographical features. Geologically, Devon, along with its neighbour Cornwall is known as the "*Cornubian massif*". This geology gives rise to the unique landscapes of Dartmoor and Exmoor, both National Parks. In addition to these, Devon has many seaside resorts and several historic towns and cities, plus a mild climate, accounting for the large tourist sector of its economy.

4. Exeter Street Map





5. Things to see and do in Exeter

- Have a cream tea
- Go to "Dix Neuf" (Jazz club), 92 Queens Street, Exeter. Live jazz on Friday nights. Tel: 01392-422606 Apparently, its "*...fast becoming THE Jazz/Blues centre of the South West...*"
- Sorry; I couldn't find a live music/jazz venue with anything for Saturday
- Visit the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter
- Exeter's Historic Quayside is popular with locals and visitors alike for its fascinating history, interesting architecture and lively pubs & restaurants, craft workshops and events.
- Have a 3-legged pub crawl, preferably with a friend.
- Visit the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery on Queen Street, open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm
- Do some unlicensed Busking
- St Nicholas Priory, a 900 year old guest wing of a former Benedictine priory and one of Exeter's hidden jewels. St Nicholas Priory can be found down a lane called The Mint which runs from Fore Street to Bartholomew Street West.
- Walk around Northernhay Gardens - Quarried in Roman times for stone from which to build the adjacent city walls, the gardens incorporate a stretch of Roman wall and the only length of Saxon town wall to be seen in England.

- Have another cream tea
- Visit Rougemont Gardens, the site of one of England's most dramatic sieges in the 12th century. The gardens are home to many historic features, including the Roman city wall and also the bank and ditches of William the Conqueror's castle.
- Visit The Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Cinema and Popular Culture. Founded in 1994, the Centre contains an enormous collection relating to the history of film and visual media - from shadow puppets to Shirley Temple dolls, from magic lanterns to Marilyn Monroe postcards.
- Go and see "The House That Moved"... a 15th Century Timber-framed house located in Exeter's 'West Quarter', off Fore Street, in West Street. Although it looks like this building belongs here, it was moved 70metres, encased in a wooden structure, on rollers in 1961. Quite interesting, actually.
- Have a cream tea

6. Things To Do On The Coach

Notice: Due to enhanced security measures, all cork grease and valve oil must be sealed into transparent plastic bags and handed to the Band Manager on boarding the coach.

- Learn the sequence of tunes in "*Instant Concert*"
- Have a tournament to see who can hold their breath the longest.
- Count the quavers in "*The Light Cavalry*" or "*Amparito Roca*".
- Have an argument about reeds or mouthpieces
- Name one composer for each letter of the alphabet
- *Gb* Major... Discuss.
- Make up new lyrics for "*Puppet on a String*"
- Sort your pad into alphabetical order
- Learn to paradiddle (see Brenda for details)
- Learn circular breathing with a straw and a bottle of water
- Explain why you like your favourite mute
- Play "*musical numberplate bingo*": the winner is the first to spot car numberplates beginning with all the note-name letters A to G. (Make up your own rules about accidentals, and whether to complete the sequence in order of a nominated scale, etc).
- Forget the sequence of tunes in "*Instant Concert*"

7. A Clotted History...

Devon was one of the first areas of England settled following the end of the last ice age. Dartmoor is thought to have been settled by Mesolithic hunter-gatherer peoples from about 6000 BC. The name 'Devon' derives from the name of the Celtic people who inhabited the south western peninsula of Britain at the time of the Roman invasion c. 50AD, known as the Dumnonii, thought to mean 'Deep Valley Dwellers'. The Romans held the area under military occupation for approximately 25 years.

By the ninth century, the major threat to Saxon control of Devon came not from the native British but from Viking raiders, and sporadic incursions continued until the Norman Conquest although in 722 AD the Britons of both Cornwall and Devon allied with Danish Vikings to destroy an Anglo Saxon army at "Hehil", giving both Devon and Cornwall 100 years of peace from Saxon attacks.

A few Norse place names remain as a result, for example Lundy Island and Bideford (from the Norse "Bide-Fjord", fjord being the Viking name for an estuary), though the Vikings' most lasting legacy is probably the move of the cathedral from Crediton to Exeter.

Devon has featured in most of the civil conflicts in England since the Norman Conquest, including the Wars of the Roses, Perkin Warbeck's rising in 1497, the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549, and the English Civil War. Perhaps most notably, the arrival of William of Orange to launch the Glorious Revolution of 1688 took place at Brixham.

8. Ten Famous People From Devon

- Sir Francis Chichester
- J K Rowling
- Sir Walter Raleigh
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- Agatha Christie
- John "Jack" Russell¹
- Bill Bailey
- Tommy Cooper
- Sir Francis Drake
- Matthew Locke²

¹ Dog breeder, inventor of the "Jack Russell"

² A Baroque Composer... *No, I've never heard of him either.*

9. Local Customs

Devon's place names include many with the ending 'combe' or 'tor' (meaning hill or mound) that are elements of Brythonic origin (compare Welsh cwm and twr) borrowed into English. Whilst 'combe' is found in other counties (for example, in neighbouring Cornwall and Somerset), its frequency is greatest in Devon, where it is the second most common place name component (after 'ton').

Devon is home to a number of unique customs, such as the sport of 'outhurling' which was played in some regions until the twentieth century (e.g. 1922, at Great Torrington).

[Some band members might be doing some outhurling on Friday or Saturday night.]

Other surviving ancient customs include Dartmoor step dancing, and 'Crying The Neck'.

[Special prize for anyone who can find out what this is, and demonstrate it on the way home!]

Devon also has a rich variety of odd festivals and practises. Residents of Ottery St. Mary are called upon to celebrate Bonfire Night by running through the village, (and the gathered crowds) with flaming barrels of tar on their backs.

10. Fascinating Facts

- The Dorset and East Devon Coast is the only natural UNESCO World Heritage Site in England.
- The Meteorological Office is based in Exeter, so we can expect good weather!
- Devon is the first place in modern Britain to cultivate olives.
- Devon has its own form of wrestling.
- Devon is the name of a variety of ham; in Australia, Devon is a name for luncheon meat.
- There is an annual "Vibraphonic" festival held in Exeter in the spring - a fortnight of soul, blues & jazz.
- Devon is the only county in England to have two completely separate coastlines.
- Devon has a wide range of wildlife – birdwatchers can find over 100 species in the county in a single day.
- Devon's Exmoor coast has the highest cliffs in southern Britain, culminating in the Great Hangman, a 1043 ft "hog-backed" hill with an 820 ft cliff-face, located near Combe Martin Bay.
- Contrary to popular belief, Exeter is not a seaside resort.
- Tourists and other persons not originating from Devon (ie, us!) are referred to as "*Grockles*".
- Devon is geographically the fourth largest of the English counties, with a population of 1,109,900.

11. Concert Programmes

Provisional programmes for the weekend's concerts (these will probably change around a bit, at which point you may wish you'd sorted your pad into alphabetical order after all!):

Sidmouth

Knightsbridge March
Andrew Lloyd Webber
(A Symphonic Portrait)
Buglers' Holliday
Light Cavalry
French Festival
I wanna be like you
Cavatina
Hootenanny
Fanfare & Soliloquy
At the sign of the swinging
cymbals
Chicago
Arnhem
West Side Story

Exmouth.

Under the Double Eagle
Grease
Trumpeter's Lullaby
Italian Festival
Puppet on a String
Panis Angelicus
Instant Concert
Sound of Music
Mancini Magic
One Moment in Time
Liberty Bell
Amazing Grace
Pirates of the Caribbean



East Devon District Council

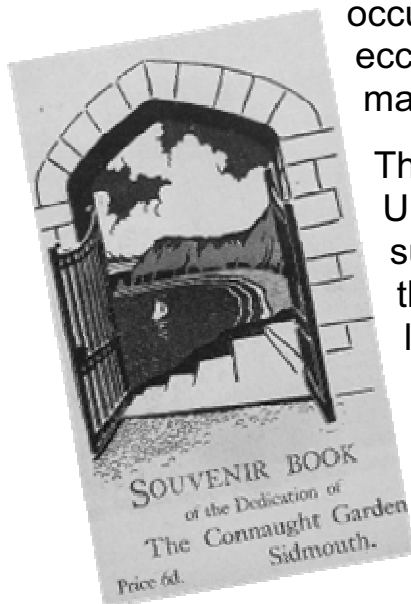
CONNAUGHT GARDENS, SIDMOUTH



Welcome to Sidmouth's Connaught Gardens! The Gardens are now nearly seventy years old and although they have changed and developed over that time, they still retain the unique character that makes them the special place they are today.

The History of The Gardens

The formal use of this land dates back to around 1820 when Emmanuel Lousada, owner of Peak House nearby, commenced construction of a detached marine villa, named Cliff Cottage, on the headland at the western end of the Esplanade. In the late 19th century, the property was renamed "Sea View" and continued to be occupied by a succession of private owners until 1930 when its eccentric and reclusive owner, a Mr Jemmett, placed it on the market.



There was much controversy at the time when Sidmouth Urban District Council decided to acquire the Gardens for the sum of £3,500. The Authority decided at the outset that these gardens required different treatment to the typical local authority park of the day which consisted of wide paths with massed flower beds and a children's playground. They therefore contacted the Gardens Department of Dartington Hall Ltd, based at Dartington Hall, Totnes, to design a scheme and carry out the construction works.

It was decided to demolish the old house as it was in such poor condition it could serve no useful purpose in the proposed layout. Some of the house walls, however, were retained and incorporated into the overall design. The main lawn was modified slightly and remains the focus today of activities in the Gardens. The high walls were considered essential in order to provide shelter and the old entrance drive was also retained. It is these features that still survive today and provide the main backbone to the structure of the garden and areas such as "The Jungle" remain much as they were then, as this old postcard shows.

The Gardens now contain a fine range of plants that thrive in the temperate climate including a new herbaceous bed by the main lawn. A leaflet with a guided plant walk is available from staff in the Gardens or by telephoning East Devon District Council's Parks Development Officer on (01395) 516551 who will be pleased to send you one by post.



Why “Connaught Gardens”?

The gardens were named after His Grace, The Duke of Connaught, Queen Victoria’s third son. Although the Duke’s first visit to Sidmouth was not until 1931, the Royal link with Sidmouth continues back over a century earlier when the young Princess Victoria, aged only 6 months, visited with her parents and stayed in what is now the Royal Glen Hotel. It was the Duke himself who formally opened the Gardens on 3rd November 1934 at the age of 84. The plaque marking this grand opening is still clearly visible within the Gardens overlooking the main lawn.



Connaught Gardens during the War

Connaught Gardens are located in an important strategic location, looking out to sea and along the coastline for some distance. During the Second World War, they played an important role in the defence of the south coast. They were closed to the public and two 138mm swivel guns, taken from the French battleship ‘Paris’ were installed looking out to sea (although a lack of shells meant that they were only fired a few times!). The clock tower was fitted with a searchlight and another gun was

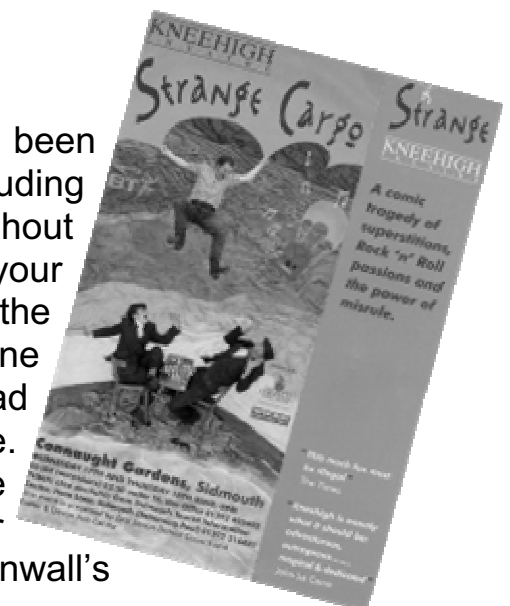


placed in the Sunken Garden for practice. A concrete emplacement was built near the main entrance to the Gardens and this can still be seen today.

Even in the 19th Century, Peak Hill was used to defend against attack from the sea. Guns and a stone ammunition store were a permanent feature of the slope as shown in this painting.

Entertainment in Connaught Gardens

Since their opening, Connaught Gardens have been extensively used for a range of different activities including music, theatre and art exhibitions. Most weeks throughout the summer there is at least one band performing for your pleasure – why not settle back in a deckchair on the main lawn and soak up the warm sunshine and fine music! The notice board by the steps from Manor Road lists all of the forthcoming events and all are welcome. Occasionally, there is the opportunity to see theatre performed outdoors, either by a local company or even a nationally renowned company such as Cornwall’s Kneehigh Theatre!



Jacob's Ladder

Jacob's Ladder itself is the tall white set of steps that have been constructed to link the Gardens to the beach below. This is not, however, the first structure in this location. An access in this area actually dates back to the mid 19th Century when steps were cut into the cliff to give access to the beach below which had been largely inaccessible until then. This developed into a cart track that was used to transport lime (brought in by boat from places such as Branscombe) to the lime kiln which has now been converted into the Clock Tower Tea Rooms. The ongoing cliff erosion caused the path to fall in 1870 but access to the beach had become so popular with the Victorian population by this time that an extremely long ladder was built, like Jacob's ladder to heaven, hence its name. The steep ladder was not popular though, being difficult to use in the dress of the day, and so a new ladder was constructed in much the same style as the steps of today.



One notable difference from today which can be seen in the postcard to the right (dating back to 1910, some 24 years before the opening of the Gardens) is that the only access to the beach is via the ladder or round the base of the cliffs (only then possible at low tide). The chine with the zig-zag path down to the beach was not created until the 1950's, the esplanade walk around the base of the cliff being completed a few years later.

Peak Hill Slope

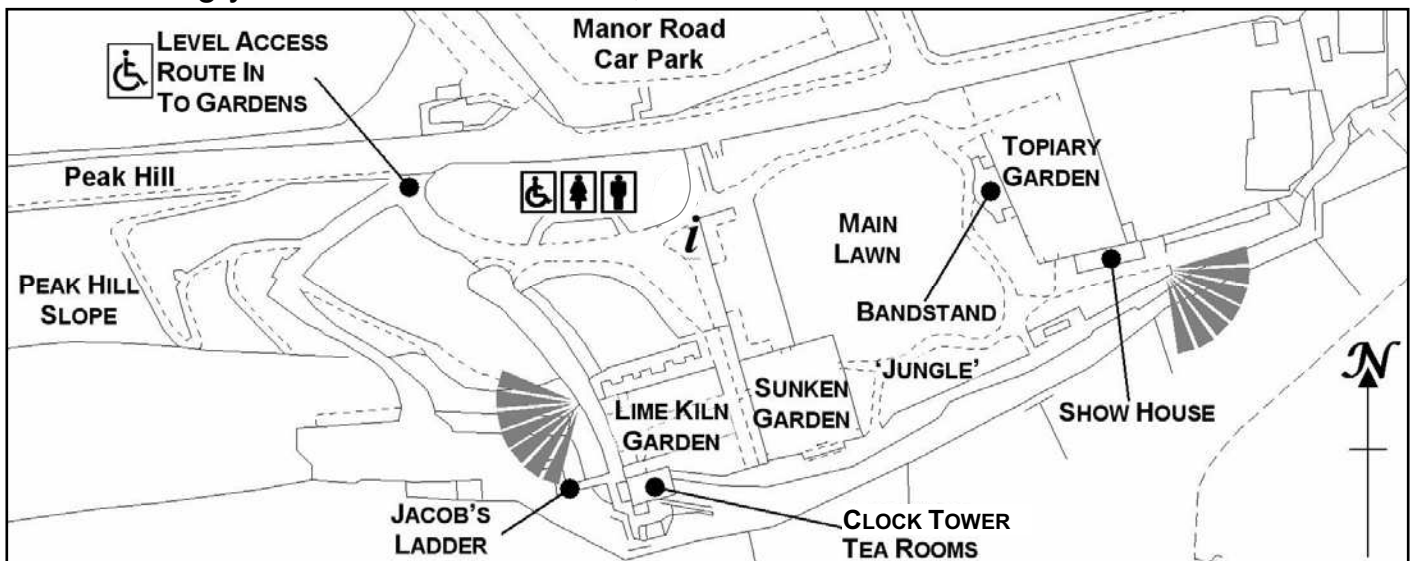
Although the Gardens offer a peaceful relaxing environment, there is nowhere better for energetic children or dogs to let off steam than the long grassy slope of Peak Hill. Why not take a walk up to one of the benches and take in the view while the kids see just how many roly-poly's they can do...

Peak Hill slope is also one of the finest places to watch the Red Arrows perform when they visit Sidmouth. You don't need to climb far up the slope to find yourself above the planes as they perform their breathtaking manoeuvres below you!



Around The Gardens

During your visit to the Gardens, here are five activities not to be missed!



1. **Take a look at the plants in the showhouse:** This contains a range of carnivorous plants and cacti. The sweet smell as you enter the showhouse comes from the citrus trees along the back wall.
2. **Stroll through the Topiary Garden:** This small peaceful garden with its sunken centre and water feature was originally the kitchen garden for Clifton Cottage immediately to the east.
3. **Explore 'The Jungle':** This winding route takes you through the overhanging Holm Oaks and has changed little since the Gardens were open (see the picture on the front cover). A must for children with vivid imaginations – see if they can spot the fossilised shell on the grotto arch!
4. **Enjoy the views along the cliffs:** Some of the finest views along the Jurassic Cliffs of this World Heritage Site are to be seen from Connaught Gardens. Look west through the gothic arch from the Lime Kiln Garden and be amazed!
5. **Relax with a cup of tea or ice cream:** The "Les Routiers Guide" recommended Clock Tower Tea Rooms offer anything from a refreshing warm drink to a fine meal. Ice cream is also available in the kiosk below!

Sir John Betjeman and Connaught Gardens

A devoted fan of Sidmouth was the Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman. His love of the West Country is self evident in many of his works and he wrote a poem dedicated to Sidmouth, a verse of which is included below.



***Pause on Peak Hill, look eastward to the town,
Then to the Connaught Gardens wander down
And in the shelter of its tropic bowers,
I see its bright and outsize Devon flowers.***

Sir John Betjeman, 1906 - 1984

If you have any comments or suggestions concerning Connaught Gardens, please contact East Devon District Council's Parks Development Officer on (01395) 516551



East Devon District Council
MANOR GARDENS
EXMOUTH



Welcome to Exmouth's Manor Gardens. The Gardens are now well over 100 years old, first being dedicated to the use of the public on September 7th, 1896. Since then, they have changed considerably but still remain one of the most attractive features in the centre of the town.

**THE HISTORY OF
MANOR GARDENS**

As the name suggests, "Manor Gardens" was originally part of an old Manor House (shown in this photograph). The Manor House was home to the Ducarel family during the eighteenth century and then subsequently to a Mr Charles Prettejohn. It was a large building set into the hill and featured



extensive cellars, some of which are still in existence today, extending under Chapel Hill. Apparently, one of the butlers in the property was well known for disappearing from the house discretely in the evening, venturing over the road from the back entrance to the pub at the foot of The Beacon!



The Manor House, late 18th century



The same view today

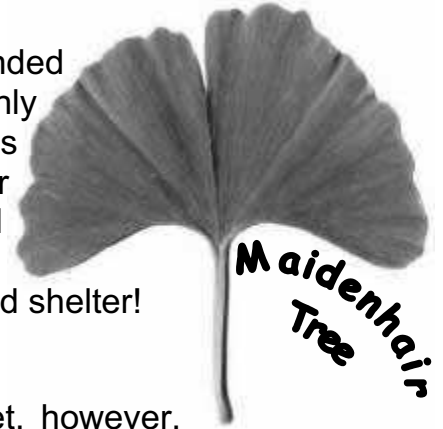
It was in 1893 that the Local Board (the local authority of the time) first sought to lease the gardens from the Rolle Estate for public use. The Manor House was demolished in 1894 and a 99-year lease granted by the Hon Mark Rolle to the Local Board. The rent was £50 per annum (worth approximately £3,500 today) – a very generous arrangement, especially when you consider that the Rolle Estate also donated £50 per annum to the Local Board to contribute to the upkeep of the Gardens!

Eucalyptus



The grounds were made even larger in 1905 when they incorporated the kitchen garden of the Imperial Hotel and in 1907 a Deed of Conveyance finally gave the entire area over to the local council, a condition being that nothing should ever be built there.

Now the Gardens are again surrounded by iron railings but these were only reinstated in the mid 1990's. The railings which were there originally were taken down as part of the war effort but there is no doubt that their replacements have helped restore the original appearance of the Gardens. The cellars also played their part during the war when they were used as an air raid shelter!



Maidenhair Tree

ENTERTAINMENT IN MANOR GARDENS

The Gardens are still intended to be a place for rest and quiet, however, since they were opened to the public, they have also been used for a wide variety of public entertainment. In the summer of 1896, several months before the Gardens had even been dedicated to public use, a band played every day. During the evenings, some of the country's most eminent bands performed "*illuminated promenade concerts with charming and brilliant effects*".



The Gardens have for a long time benefited from a bandstand. The postcard on the left dates back to around 1910 and shows it in its full glory. It was used for a range of musical performances and the original bandstand was replaced in the early 1950's by a new replacement whose condition declined until it was finally dismantled in 1993. The new bandstand was opened in April 2004 and has proved to be a huge success already.

The picture to the right is from 1908 and shows the original bandstand obscured by trees. In the photograph, it is just possible to make out the Monkey Puzzle tree on the right hand side of the picture. There is now another Monkey Puzzle in a similar location which was planted some time ago. These unusual trees are now rare in their native land of Chile.



It was not only music performances which graced the Gardens. There have been numerous theatre companies, both amateur and professional who have performed since the

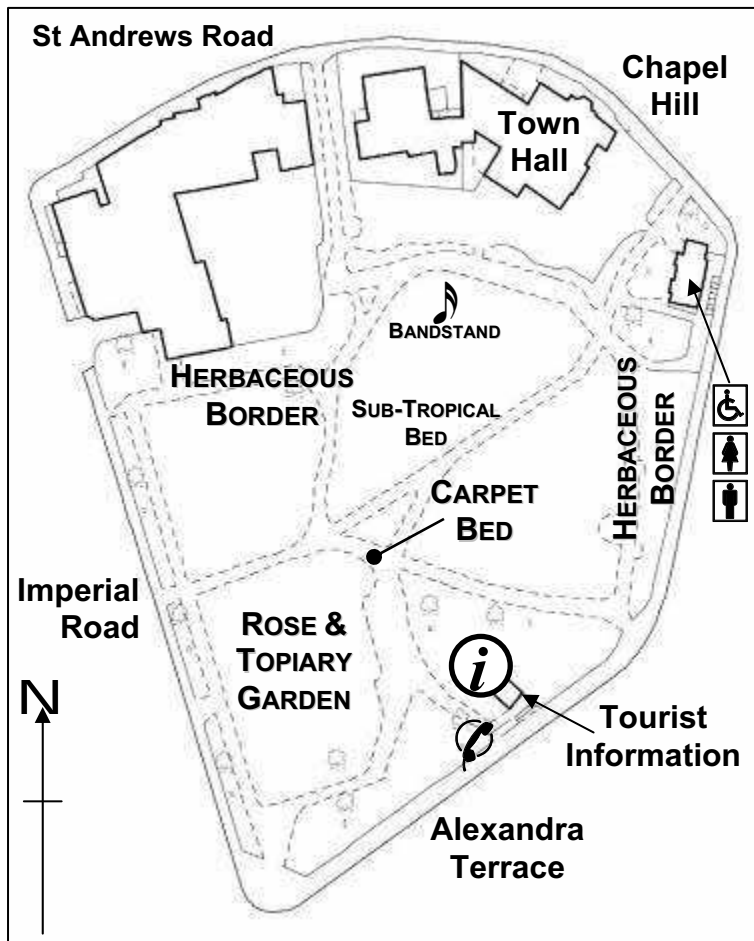


Gardens were opened to the public. This picture shows the cast of a Shakespeare play performed in the grounds in 1914. To this day, theatre can still be enjoyed within the Gardens.



Bamboo

THE PLANTS



The Gardens have been split into a number of different areas, each one reflecting a different character or style. The map below shows the layout of the Gardens.



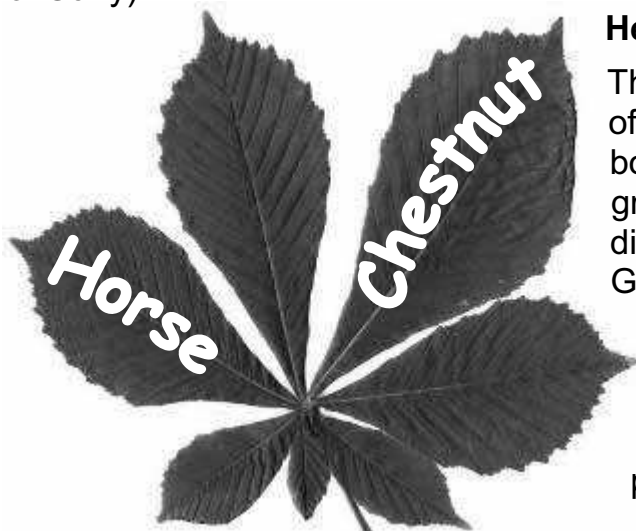
Trees

The Gardens have always been dominated by mature trees, the old pictures of the Gardens being defined by the presence of large specimens, many of them Elms. Sadly, like in so many other parks across the country, Dutch Elm Disease completely changed the landscape in the 1960's. This, however, gave the opportunity to plant many new trees and there is still a diverse range of trees present in the Gardens, many of which date back to the early 20th Century. Species present include Copper Beech, Holm Oak, Turkey Oak, Monterey Cypress (known locally as

Macrocarpa), Horse Chestnut, Yew, Purple Sycamore and many more. Note also the line of pollarded Limes which trail through the garden, increasing the formal character.

Sub-Tropical Bed

The Sub-Tropical Bed is a new feature which has been added to Manor Gardens. The mild climate here in Exmouth means that there are a greater range of plants which can be successfully grown. Species used include a variety of *Agave's*, *Chamaerops humilis*, *Lamphanthus spectabile* and mixed *Yucca's*. There are two particular plants of note from Mexico, these being *Beschorneria yuccoides* and *Dasyilirion acrotrichum* (also seen at the gardens in Tresco on the Isles of Scilly).



Herbaceous Borders

There are a number of herbaceous borders which add great variety and diversity to the Gardens throughout the year. Again, the mild conditions here in the South West are ideal for plant lovers!

KIDS CORNER

On these two pages, there are leaves from five trees which you can find here in Manor Gardens. The Eucalyptus comes from Australia and is the favourite food for the Koala Bear. The Bamboo is from China and will happily feed a Panda! The Maidenhair Tree is the oldest tree in the world, being 200 million years old! Horse Chestnuts are fun in autumn when they give us conkers. As for the Turkey Oak, it drops acorns, but could you grow a Turkey from one?

Rose and Topiary Garden

The Rose and Topiary Garden is not an original feature but it is in keeping with the style of a Victorian formal landscape. This example has been created using Box which is kept carefully clipped to give the precise appearance you see now. The small hedges surround bedding plants which give an attractive splash of colour throughout the summer and winter.

Carpet Bed

The Carpet Bed has been a feature of Manor Gardens since the 1960's. The pictures are created using a range of different bedding plants, the foliage of each one helping form the picture which always has a local link or theme (the one shown here is from 2001 when the Exmouth Voluntary Service were the lucky beneficiaries).

The bed is painstakingly laid out and planted up over the course of around 3 days using up to 9,000 plants. The hard work does not end there: it needs to be clipped weekly to keep the lines clean and sharp. There is no way that the bed can be walked on of course – all the work is done from long planks suspended across the bed! There is a second carpet bed on Exmouth seafront which is equally spectacular!



Magnolia grandiflora cv. 'EXMOUTH'



this photograph from 1947 showing the ceremonial planting of a *Magnolia grandiflora* cv. 'EXMOUTH' opposite The Beacon

Exmouth has given its name to one of the most popular varieties of Magnolia. It was first brought to Britain in the early 18th century by Sir John Colleton, the former Governor of South Carolina who planted the tree in the front garden of his house, Elm Cottage (near what is now Exmouth Library). Examples are still to found outside Lloyds Bank on the Strand and outside Exmouth Library on Exeter Road (where a specimen was planted by the Exmouth Society in the 1980's). There is one young specimen present in Manor Gardens now although others have been planted in the past,

This guide was written by Tom Hurley with the assistance of Exmouth Library on Exeter Road and Exmouth Museum on Sheppards Row. Thanks also to Mr Mike Vine of East Devon District Council and Mr Bill Sleeman for additional historical information. Carpet bedding photograph taken by Jill Drury (Archant Devon) and supplied by Exmouth Journal.