

Background

The Harris Garden was once the home paddock of 'The Wilderness', a Victorian house which was built in the remains of a famous landscape garden created at Whiteknights by George, Marquis of Blandford (later 5th Duke of Marlborough) between 1798 and 1819.

A small botanic garden which covers approximately 5 hectares was established in the 1970s and extended over subsequent years to become a teaching resource in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 2010 the responsibility for the garden transferred to the Estates department. The garden is open to all with recreation and conservation being its primary functions.

Grounds Maintenance has been working in conjunction with the Friends of the Harris Garden and volunteers to maintain and develop the garden.

Open days

The gardens are open to the public daily from 9am – dusk. Charity fundraising open days are held monthly from 2:00pm until 5:00pm



Directions and parking

Please visit our website for comprehensive maps and parking on campus: www.reading.ac.uk

Sat nav

Please note: If you are using a 'satnav' or 'GPS' system, use RG6 6UR to navigate to Whiteknights campus.

The Harris Garden is the private property of The University of Reading. Permissive access is granted to the Harris Garden and The University reserves the right to prohibit pedestrian access. Visitors must adhere to University rules and regulations which are in operation throughout the University's privately owned land.

In general

- Please keep to the paths or mown areas
- Do not leave any litter
- No fires or BBQ
- Do not disturb wildlife or pick flowers
- The lake is not suitable for water sports and activities
- No cycling
- No dogs allowed
- Please ensure children are supervised around the ponds and streams
- Access may be restricted or permission withdrawn at anytime.

www.reading.ac.uk/grounds

www.friendsoftheharrisgarden.org.uk

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Harris Garden

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The Harris Garden

A guide for visitors



Enjoying the Harris Garden



The Gateway Garden is to the right as you enter the Harris Garden, and has been planted with large drifts of Epimedium, Winter Aconite and Bluebells along with a number of tender shrubs which benefit from the shelter of the established trees.

The Winter Border contains a range of plants providing stem colour, form and flowers between November and March.

The Crab Apple Orchard contains a collection of ornamental crab-apples (Malus). In addition to their spring flowers many of the trees have good autumn foliage and attractive fruit. A carpet of bulbs and wild flowers beneath the trees provide additional interest.



The Pond and stream has an impressive *Alnus subcordata* (Champion tree) and several dramatic *Gunnera manicata* along with plantings of Primula, Iris, Hosta and other associated plants.

The Autumn Border has trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants chosen for their autumn foliage or flowers.

The All Seasons Border is being developed to provide all year interest.

The Cherry Bowl is a collection of Japanese flowering cherries arranged around a circular clearing and under-planted with bulbs to coincide with the cherry blossom.

The Meadow gives the garden a sense of space and has been sown with mainly native meadow species. It is divided by mown paths and has been planted with 50,000 bulbs including Camassia and Narcissus. Adjacent is a recently planted avenue of lime trees.



The Conifer Circle contains nearly 30 cultivars of Lawson's Cypress

The Formal Borders These are a mix of herbaceous borders divided by hedges which have been sculpted into a wave pattern. The beds are planted around a range of themes such as red, white and gold colours, late-flowering perennials or prairie plants.

The Woodland Garden Among the drifts of Bluebell, Wood Anemone, Celandine and other native woodland plants there are also varieties of Maples, Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Camellias. The small valley beside the road has been planted as a 'Jungle Garden' using bamboos, palms and other bold but mainly hardy plants to create an exotic atmosphere.

The Gravel Garden has plants which thrive in drier conditions such as Ginger, Phormium and Cordyline, sheltered by a large Eucalyptus.

The Mixed Border contains a profusion of Roses, Dahlia, Phlox and Helenium to provide a vibrant and colourful display.

**Map by kind permission of Jenny Halstead author of 'An Artist's Year in the Harris Garden' published by Two Rivers Press 2013*

