

On your stroll through the garden you may spot the Summerhouse on the curtilage lawn by the Court. It was designed by Rex Whistler in the 1930s. It is now much favoured as a wedding venue.



The Summerhouse



Ancient archway

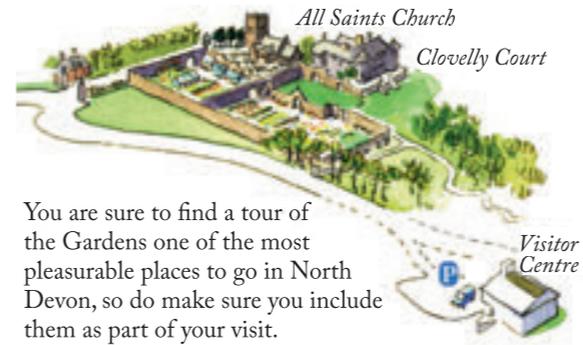
The recently restored blue gate towards the end of the garden leads out on to Clovelly Court Great Terrace, where on a clear day you can enjoy a view of Lundy (Norse for island of puffins) and a sweeping vista of Bideford Bay. It is a very popular location for marquee wedding receptions. Clovelly Court is the Manor House of the village and home of the Rous family.



The restored blue gate



Clovelly Court



You are sure to find a tour of the Gardens one of the most pleasurable places to go in North Devon, so do make sure you include them as part of your visit.

Location

EX39 5SZ. Adjacent to All Saints Church, Clovelly. Clovelly is just off the A39, 10 miles west of Bideford. Exit the M5 at Junction 27. At Clovelly Cross on the A39, take the B3237 to Clovelly and park outside the entrance gates to Clovelly Court, then follow the signs.

Facilities

- ◆ Parking
- ◆ Group bookings welcome
- ◆ Disabled access with WCs too
- ◆ Picnics allowed
- ◆ Plants for sale.
- ◆ Dogs allowed in the village, but not in the gardens.
- ◆ A full range of facilities at Clovelly Visitor Centre, only 5 minutes away.
- ◆ Opening times 1st April to 30th September, 10 am to 4 pm.

Admission

Adults £3. Children (under 16 years) free. RHS members free (1 member only) in March and October. Please note that admission charges to Clovelly Village include the gardens too.

A fare paying Land Rover service operates from Easter until end October to take you up from Clovelly harbour to the Visitor Centre car park, and at special request to Clovelly Court Gardens.

Further information

Call 01237 431781, email visitorcentre@clovelly.co.uk, or visit www.clovelly.co.uk

If you are looking for accommodation, visit www.stayatclovelly.co.uk



CLOVELLY

North Devon

CLOVELLY COURT GARDENS



www.clovelly.co.uk



Summer borders

Clovelly Court Gardens are a classic example of a lovingly restored Victorian walled kitchen garden, including magnificent lean-to glasshouses with their original manual levers. Years ago the walled garden was built to give protection from the sometimes salt-laden coastal winds and provide produce for the owners of the Manor house and its staff.

Tender and exotic plants thrive in this sunny corner of North Devon. It benefits from its enviable sheltered position in the Bristol Channel and the effects of the warm Gulf Stream flowing past Clovelly. Protected from the winds and bounded by an avenue of lofty lime trees, they are usually a month ahead of the season – but you'll find that there's always something to see and enjoy at any time of the year.



Glasshouses and (above to the left) All Saints Church



Spring blossoms

Peaches and apricots flower in February/March so have to be pollinated by hand since there are few bees around at that time. If you notice white sachets hanging from the trees, they contain predatory bugs that feed on the damaging red spider mite.



February peach blossoms

Vegetable and fruit production take precedence over ornamental plants, but there are some remaining treasures such as the Judas tree you have to duck under as you enter the garden, said to be the oldest *Cercis siliquastrum* in North Devon. Unusually the purple flowers robe the branches in either late April or May, before most of the leaves appear.



Judas tree

These kitchen gardens, carefully tended by one full-time and two part-time gardeners, are bordered by herbaceous beds, which in summer are a blaze of colour.



Herbaceous borders

In the run of restored glasshouses, apricots, peaches, nectarines, melons, vines (including an over ninety year old muscat grape), citrus fruit and figs ripen in the warmth along with cucumbers, peppers, chillies, aubergines, tomatoes – and a tropical Abutilon.



Abutilon



Citrus fruit

Outside espalier, fan and cordon fruit trees line the walls enclosing the garden. There are apples, pears, quinces, medlars, soft fruit, and two mulberry trees – and even Chinese gooseberries. They make the best use of the c.18th-century walls, which were all renovated between 1997 and 2000 after the collapse of one section. Juice from home-grown apples is available for purchase at the Visitor Centre.



Espalier of apples

All of the garden produce is grown to organic principles and in rotation, ensuring sweet tasting and wholesome produce for sale, and are also supplied to the Clovelly hotels. You can buy bedding plants, herbs, freshly dug vegetables, and harvested fruit in season, together with cut flowers and pot plants from the nursery.



'Donkey' onions



Growing cut flowers and produce