

The Dorothy Clive Garden Heritage Walk

- Symbols**
-  Heritage trail route
 -   Toilets
 -  Steps
 -  Parking
 -  Disabled parking
 -  Tearoom



Heritage Walk

This self-guided heritage tour shines a spotlight on the heritage of the Dorothy Clive Garden, particularly the early stages of the garden's development. The lower part of the garden is not explored, but further information can be found about that area in the audio heritage guide which is available from the gift shop. As you follow the trail be sure to notice the information boards, these provide further information on the history of the garden.

The Dorothy Clive Garden was created in 1939, by Colonel Harry Clive, for his adored wife, Dorothy. At the time Dorothy was stricken with Parkinson's Disease, and found walking progressively difficult. Dorothy sadly passed away in 1942, but the Colonel continued to develop the garden, and open it to members of the public. In 1958 the Colonel established the Willoughbridge Garden Trust in order to safeguard the Estate. The Colonel passed away in 1963.



1

The Quarry Garden – Over a hundred years ago this area was a gravel pit quarry, until the sandstone rock evidently made getting the gravel unprofitable, leaving long mounds of gravel screenings, ending up in three directions with a sheer rock face. This area is the beginnings of the Dorothy Clive Garden, it was into this space that the Colonel came and marked out the first paths for his man, John Moore, to lay for Dorothy to walk on.

The quarry garden boasts an impressive collection of Azaleas and Rhododendrons, including the Azaleodendron, which is a cross between a rhododendron and an azalea, known as Galloper Light, it has yellowish-pink flowers. It also features Azaleas that Frank Knight, former Director of the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley and a friend of Col. Clive helped to select and plant.



2

The York Stones – Encircling the Quarry Garden is a holly hedge which was the original boundary of the garden, this has since been broken up to allow access in and out of the Quarry Garden. Within this boundary hedge you will notice the two York Stones set into the pathway. These are reminders of when the ashes of Dorothy Clive were "scattered among the stately Fortune daffodils up the rising slopes of azalea and rhododendron" after her death aged 59 in April 1942.

We believe that Colonel Clive's ashes were also scattered at this point after his death in 1963.



3

The Belvedere – The Belvedere was gifted in 1997 by the Friends of the Dorothy Clive Garden who were established in 1972, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Society. It is well used for quiet contemplation, a shelter from the rain and a stage for children's imaginative play. Throughout recent years it has also been used as a Wedding Ceremony setting and for Theatre performances. To the right of the Belvedere are views over the Staffordshire countryside.



4

The Viewpoint – From here you have a clear view of Elds Gorse, this was the home that Dorothy and Colonel Clive moved to at the end of the First World War. Prior to the War, the couple had lived in Elds Rise, this house can be seen across the field from the north-western extremity of the garden. Below is the Winter Garden created by Curator Marcus Chilton-Jones in 2014, this section of the garden looks at its best from December to March.



5

The Waterfall – The Waterfall was created as a main feature in the garden in 1989 by former Head Gardener George Lovatt. There are 2 cascades, the upper one separated from the lower by a small bridge and above this is a bronze stag on a solid concrete plinth costing £20,000 and commemorating the Golden Anniversary since the garden was formed by Col. Clive in 1939.

The water is pumped from the lower pool by a powerful pump to the foot of the bronze stag. Near to the top of the waterfall you will see the fastigiated *Quercus Robur*, or oak as it is more commonly known, planted in 1990 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee by Harry Clive esq. son of Harry and Dorothy.



6

The Bungalows – Colonel Clive moved from his home Elds Gorse to these colt timber Buildings in 1958. This is when the Willoughbridge Garden Trust was formed to maintain and develop the garden. There were originally two separate buildings, one for Col. Clive and the other for his Head Gardener John Moore. Over time these have been extended and joined, and they now form the Garden's offices, tea room and gift shop.

The plants in the flower beds in front of the offices include the Exbury Azaleas. During WW2, Azaleas were brought to the garden from the Rothschild owned Exbury estate in Hampshire, for protection, over concerns that the gardens might be bombed. Amongst the Azaleas that came from Exbury were a number of un-named hybrids. Two of the best were chosen and named 'Dorothy Clive' (pink and yellow) and 'The Colonel' (Red). Azalea Dorothy Clive can be seen on Magnolia Walk whilst Azalea 'The Colonel' is in the Quarry. A programme is underway to propagate both of these plants to increase the number in the garden and to be able to sell them in the Giftroom.