



BRIDGWATER
COLLEGE

Discover...

Horticulture and Floristry with the Royal Horticultural
Society and the Walled Gardens of Cannington

Discover...

The history behind the Walled Gardens of Cannington

Cannington Priory (later Cannington Court) was first established in about 1138 by the De Courcy family - lords of nearby Stogursey in Somerset. The manor and church was given by Robert De Courcy as the main endowment for a house of Benedictine nuns. The buildings and gardens have a very long history and have always played an important part in the life of the local community.

In the 14th Century there is some evidence of the start of corruption in the Priory. An inquiry in 1328 looked into the illicit wanderings of monks and nuns! It is said that there is a network of tunnels leading from Cannington Court to various spots in the village, which enabled the monks and nuns to meet in secret. The iron bound gates to be found at the entrance to Cannington Court are said to have been erected to keep the nuns in!

In 1536 the Nunnery was dissolved and the Court was held by Edward Rogers, a Member of Parliament for Somerset. In 1672, Charles II granted Cannington to Lord Clifford of Chudleigh. By the time the fourth Lord Clifford held the estate it was allowed to fall into disrepair, but was later restored by the fifth Lord Clifford.

In 1807, the Court became home once again to a community of Benedictine nuns, this time not the daughters of wealthy Somerset families, but nuns expelled from France.

In 1919 the tenth Lord Clifford granted the lease of Cannington Court to Somerset County Council. The house and buildings were adapted for The Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture, known as The Somerset Farm Institute. The successor to the institute was Cannington College, which became nationally known for its provision of Land-based education.

In 2004, Cannington College merged with Bridgwater College. Since the merger there has been significant investment in facilities and equipment, including the redevelopment of the Walled Gardens, which became open to the general public.

In 2009, the Walled Gardens were officially opened by HRH the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward and also achieved the accreditation of Quality Assured Visitor Attraction from VisitEngland.

As well as ensuring the continuation of a garden on this historic site, the Walled Gardens of Cannington provide a dynamic learning environment for students, as well as an area of real beauty and interest for visitors. We have every confidence that they will continue to evolve and will prove to be a place that visitors will look forward to returning to time and time again.



The Cannington Centre was known for many years as Cannington College, which was established in 1921 and had a long-standing reputation as a one of the key providers in the land-based education sector.

In September 2004, Cannington College merged with the local tertiary education provider, Bridgwater College, a move which secured a substantial investment package to significantly improve the provision at each of the land-based centres in Cannington, Paignton and Yeovil.

The Centres provide students studying land-based provision with valuable hands-on experience, and many elements are run on a commercial basis.

RODWAY FARM

The College Farm is set over 180 hectares, providing arable, pasture and conservation areas, while being home to a number of specialist livestock enterprises.

Over £1 million has recently been invested on developing the Farm, as it seeks to reposition itself not only as one of the leading dairy farms in the region, but also as one of the leading providers of agricultural training and education.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT CENTRE

This £2 million facility provides a state-of-the-art setting for studying animal welfare. It has large theory and practical rooms, broken down into specialist animal areas - including a nocturnal room, and houses an extensive animal collection.

CANNINGTON EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

An approved British Horse Society (BHS) riding school, all instructors are BHS qualified and offer quality instruction in dressage and show jumping. Private and group lessons are available for riders of all abilities (aged 10 years +). There are also events and holiday activities and the facilities are available to hire at very competitive rates.

www.canningtonequestriancentre.co.uk

THE WALLED GARDENS OF CANNINGTON

The Walled Gardens lie within the grounds of a medieval priory and were officially opened by HRH the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward in 2009. They have been accredited as a 'quality assured visitor attraction' by VisitEngland and are also a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) recommended garden, with tea rooms, plant sales, gift shop and events throughout the year.

www.canningtonwalledgardens.co.uk

CANNINGTON ACTIVITY CENTRE

This is a state-of-the-art high and low ropes course, offering a wide range of activities for children and adults in a safe environment under the supervision of qualified instructors. The Centre is ideal for staff development, recruitment, children's activities, school/groups visits and much more!

www.canningtonactivitycentre.co.uk

CANNINGTON GOLF CENTRE

The nine hole, 18-tee golf course was designed by renowned course architect Martin Hawtree who recently designed the brand new Donald Trump Golf Resort in Scotland.

As well as the course there's also a fully automated, floodlit driving range, pro shop and clubhouse.

www.canningtongolfcentre.co.uk

Discover...

The development of the Walled Gardens of Cannington

Over recent years there has been significant investment in the College's facilities and equipment, including the redevelopment of The Walled Gardens. As well as providing a rewarding real-working environment for students, the gardens are a wonderful place to visit at all times of the year, seeing how they change through the seasons.

Work on the Walled Gardens began in 2006, with the whole area being redesigned, landscaped and planted. The Gardens went from the muddy mess you can see in the photos, to the wonderful splendour that you can see today.

They have been accredited as a 'quality assured visitor attraction' by VisitEngland and are also a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) recommended garden.

The Gardens provide a superb facility for students at the College's Cannington Centre, where they gain essential hands-on experience working with a range of plant groups. With the tea rooms, plant sales and gift shop, The Walled Gardens of Cannington are also a lovely place to visit for all age groups, and with a number of events throughout the year, look out for the next one for your diary!
www.canningtonwalledgardens.co.uk

WORK STARTS



PLANTING



DEVELOPMENT



EVENTS



ATTRACTIONS



FULL BLOOM



Discover...

What lies behind the walls of the Gardens

To some it's a mystery what sits behind the lovely stone walls of Cannington Court. Become enlightened to the beautiful Walled Gardens of Cannington which lie behind.

In 2009, The Countryside Heritage and Tourism Service of South Somerset District Council designated the Walled Gardens as one of the Classic Gardens of Somerset, which allows it to sit alongside Barrington Court and Hestercombe Gardens as a wonderful garden attraction in the county. To be listed as a Classic Garden the gardens must adhere to a strict criteria which includes: a special botanical interest in its plant diversity, its originality, a special architectural interest in its structure and layout; and a special educational interest in terms of the information made available to the public.

The extensive garden redevelopment and on-going work has allowed Bridgwater College to provide a great resource for the community, staff and students. Boasting an array of unique gardens encourages visitors, which creates a positive effect to the local economy, whilst introducing people to the world of horticulture.

To provide you with an idea of what you can expect behind the walls, read on...

THE BLUE GARDEN

The Blue Garden is essentially a 'mixed border', consisting of a variety of different plant types such as trees, shrubs, perennials, roses, bulbs and annuals. The garden has been designed for year round interest; the first flowers to emerge are the Winter Anemones in February through to the Salvias, when the first frosts arrive.

True blue is a relatively rare colour among flowers. The hue is the 'pure' colour; a tint is a paler version of the hue and a shade is a darker version of the hue. In a monochromatic scheme the various tints and shades of a single hue are used.

THE HERBACEOUS BORDER

Previously this border contained trees and shrubs as well as herbaceous plants, but was still affectionately known as the herbaceous border. Prior to that the wall was covered with trained fruit trees forming part of a large walled productive garden. The border you see today was planted in April 2006.

A 'hot' colour scheme was adopted i.e. reds, oranges, yellows and pinks, which fit perfectly with the sunny, south facing aspect of the border. The design itself is repeated three times along the length of the border bringing a structured element with cohesion and uniformity.



THE PRODUCTIVE GARDEN

The tradition of building walled productive gardens with raised square beds stretches back at least 2500 years to the ancient Egyptians. Many cultures throughout history have built gardens of this type. This entire garden once grew all the food required for the resident monks and nuns.

The walls around this garden are useful for more than just security. One of the most important effects is to create a warmer microclimate inside the garden. This occurs by sheltering the garden from the wind and by absorbing the sun's heat in the daytime to release it at night.

THE SUB-TROPICAL WALK

Our sub-tropical walk is one of the few remaining elements of the old garden containing plants more commonly found in the warm temperate regions i.e. immediately to the North of the Tropic of Cancer and to the South of the Tropic of Capricorn.

The Walk was originally located between two arms of a previous 'H' shaped glasshouse and was called The Spanish Garden. The Trachycarpus (Fortune Palm), Cordylines (Cabbage Palm), Myrtus (Myrtles) and Accas (Pineapple Guava) were all features of that garden. It was decided early on to retain this feature and as such the walled garden design evolved around it, creating some quirky angles within the path layout.

AUSTRALASIAN GARDEN

There are more than 25,000 species of plants growing in Australia and New Zealand and many are hardy plants that are able to cope with the UK climate. Australia has a fascinating climate and

structure, from rich to poor desert soils, while New Zealand has many fine mountain ranges with very unusual flora that are able to cope with the extremes of temperature and climate.

As a general rule most Australasian plants do not like Chalk (Calcifuges) and should be treated as Ericaceous plants.

THE DRY GARDEN

Dry gardens (also known as gravel gardens) were relatively unheard of, but recently, due to the significant presence of global warming, they have become more and more popular. Our garden design contains many different plant types, from trees to bulbs, roses to herbaceous plants and shrubs to annuals. The garden has a very 'relaxed' feel; plants are encouraged to sprawl and merge into one another while annuals self-seed freely. Scent is also important in this garden, with many common kitchen herbs featured including Lavender and Rosemary.

The plants in a dry garden can all be classed as Xerophytes i.e. they have made some type of adaptation to cope with low rainfall and copious amounts of sun; therefore the most important requirement for these plants is a very free draining sub-strate; this can be achieved by incorporating plenty of drainage material such as grit.

Discover...

What's On at The Walled Gardens of Cannington

The Walled Gardens of Cannington holds events throughout the year, and provides a beautiful setting for the weekend fairs, outdoor performances and exhibitions we host.

The events allow you to visit the gardens as they change throughout the seasons, and prove to be very popular.

Look at the list of events below and make sure you get them in the diary so you don't miss out! For full details visit the website

www.canningtonwalledgardens.co.uk

EASTER WEEKEND

Friday 29 March – Monday 1 April

Fun for all the family, let the children hunt for Easter eggs, and enjoy the spring splendours of the Gardens as you follow their trail.

£2.50 per child, to include drink, biscuit and chocolate egg (free entry to the gardens for two adults, per child).

SPRING FAIR

Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 May

The Walled Gardens will be filled with music, entertainment, stalls and visitors during the Spring Fair, as everyone enjoys the surroundings of the beautiful gardens as they begin their journey into the summer months. For a lovely day out for all the family, come along!

WILDLIFE WEEKEND

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 June

Take a walk on the wild side this weekend, and enjoy the company of some local wildlife, as well as the opportunity to find out more about the natural world around us.

OPEN AIR THEATRE – A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Friday 21 & Saturday 22 June

Lose yourself in the world of Shakespeare, with this wonderful performance by Bridgwater College's Drama Academy.

OPEN AIR THEATRE – ROMEO & JULIET

Friday 2 August

Performed by touring group Folksy Theatre, this is not to be missed!

SUMMER FOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday 24 August

We defy you to not be tempted by the wonderful aromas and flavours of the food and drink wafting around the Gardens this weekend. Come and try and buy some of the best tastes from the region.

CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION – 'ABUNDANCE'

Saturday 21 September – Sunday 6 October

Part of the 'Abundance' Garden Trail of Somerset Art Weeks Festival, the Walled Gardens will feature contemporary arts celebrating the wealth of cultivated gardens in Somerset.

HALLOWEEN

Wednesday 30 & Thursday 31 October

Follow the trail through the gardens, find a little something – maybe a pumpkin!

Carve out a mouth, some eyes and a nose, make it spooky or smiley – anything goes!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR & CAROL CONCERT

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 December

If you're not yet feeling festive, then you will be this weekend! Come to buy from the wonderful array of gifts and crafts, and sing to your heart's content at the Gardens' carol concert – after all, 'tis the season to be jolly!



CANNINGTON HORTICULTURAL GROUP

Get hands-on in the Walled Gardens, with our practical gardening group!

The Cannington Horticultural Group was formed two years ago to give the local community an opportunity to experience the horticultural pleasures of the Walled Gardens of Cannington and to take advantage of the garden experts' knowledge.

The group meets on the second Saturday of each month to share ideas and to gain practical knowledge in a variety of gardening skills. No commitment or expertise is required - just turn up on the day and join in!

You will have the chance to learn and develop skills in the Walled Gardens and associated glasshouses, in a range of seasonal tasks including:

- propagation work
- willow weaving
- herbaceous border maintenance
- glasshouse techniques
- tree maintenance
- composting
- plant protection
- lawn maintenance
- general gardening skills.

It doesn't matter if you are a novice, keen amateur or accomplished gardener, there will always be something new to learn.

The group will meet on the following Saturdays:
13 April, 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 10am – 1pm. Each session costs just £10 per person.

VOLUNTEER GARDENER

The Walled Gardens of Cannington have undergone a massive redevelopment in the last few years and we look to volunteers to help us maintain the gardens to a high standard, and support us with their expansion.

The volunteer sessions take place every Wednesday, 1.30pm – 4pm, and we meet in the Gardens' glasshouse.

Jayne Alcock (Grounds and Gardens Supervisor at the College) leads the session, providing you with guidance and support with the work that is needed. Your role as a garden volunteer will include border work, edging, weeding, hoeing, leaf raking and nursery work amongst other tasks.

After completing twenty hours of voluntary work in the Walled Gardens, you will receive a Walled Gardens' Season Ticket and 10% discount in the Gardens' Tea Rooms and Garden Shop as a thank you for your time and commitment.

We would love to see you!

To find out more contact Jayne Alcock on 01278 655068 or alcockj@bridgwater.ac.uk

Floristry and Horticulture courses for you to study; March to September 2013

FLORISTRY INTRODUCTION

This course offers an opportunity to design and create a range of floral displays for different purposes such as hand tied bouquets, floral arrangements and accessories.

Start date: Wednesday 6 March 2013

Duration: Every Wednesday for 4 weeks, 12.30pm to 5pm

Fee: £120

Start date: Wednesday 11 September 2013

Duration: Every Wednesday for 6 weeks, 1pm to 4pm

Fee: £120

Start date: Wednesday 11 September 2013

Duration: Every Wednesday for 6 weeks, 5pm to 8pm

Fee: £120

INTERMEDIATE FLORISTRY

Expand your existing floristry skills and explore new techniques and design influences. To enrol on this course you will need to have previous experience in floristry/floral design and the desire to expand your current skill levels.

Start date: Wednesday 5 June 2013

Duration: Every Wednesday for 6 weeks, 12.30pm to 5pm

Fee: £120

WEDDING FLORISTRY

Design and create a range of traditional and contemporary wedding designs using an array of materials. To enrol on this course you do not need any previous experience, but you are required to have an interest in flowers, foliage, related materials and arts and crafts.

Start date: Wednesday 1 May 2013

Duration: Every Wednesday for 4 weeks, 1pm to 4pm

Fee: £120

EUROPEAN INFLUENCES IN FLORISTRY

An opportunity to discover some European design concepts using a range of advanced techniques. This course is suitable for those with previous floristry/floral design experience wishing to expand their current skill levels.

Start date: Monday 9 September 2013

Duration: Every Monday for 4 weeks, 5pm to 8pm

Fee: £120

INTRODUCTION TO GARDEN DESIGN

Get hints and tips on how to design your own garden; this course covers the basic principles and practices of garden design, exploring the theories and techniques used in the design process. Seven units will be covered including evolution of garden design, site analysis, principles of garden design, hard and soft landscaping, planting design theory, surveying techniques and introduction to drafting. You do not need any previous experience to enrol on this course, just the love of gardens.

Start date: Wednesday 17 April 2013

Duration: Every Wednesday for 10 weeks, 7pm to 9pm

Fee: £210

GARDEN DESIGN – SURVEYING AND DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

This course includes working on a live site where you will complete practical tasks such as conducting a site analysis and surveying using the methods of baseline and offset triangulation and optical levels. You will also transpose survey data and develop a scale plan using drawing instruments to create a functional design. This course offers an ideal progression route for those who have already completed the Introduction to Garden Design course.

Start date: Monday 15 April

Duration: Every Monday for 10 weeks, 6pm to 8pm

Fee: £210

PLANTS AND PLANTMANSHIP ▲

This course will help you understand plants and help you to discover how to use them successfully both for design and function. To enrol on this course you will need a keen interest in the subject.

Start date: Thursday 18 April 2013

Duration: Every Thursday for 20 weeks, 9.30am to 12pm

Fee: £250

A SHORT HISTORY OF GARDEN DESIGN ▲

This course will provide you with an understanding of the theory and philosophy of design and will trace the developments of garden design from the ancient to the modern world today. To enrol on this course you will need a keen interest in the subject.

Start date: Thursday 18 April 2013

Duration: Every Thursday for 20 weeks, 1pm to 3.30pm

Fee: £250

LANDSCAPE DESIGN WITH AUTOCAD BEGINNERS GUIDE

This course covers an introduction to AutoCAD and basic techniques of drawing and manipulating 2D objects. It includes an overview of the user interface and CAD practice, page setup, drawing to scale, modifying objects, organising layers and annotation. To enrol on this course you must have successfully completed the Introduction to Garden Design course and have basic technical drawing skills and computer literacy.

Start date: Wednesday 25 September 2013

Duration: Every Wednesday for 10 weeks, 7pm to 9pm

Fee: £210

▲ Purchase both of these courses and pay a total of £450.

For further information about any of our courses
call Course Enquiries on 01278 441234 or visit
www.bridgwater.ac.uk

Discover...

Horticulture, floristry and the Walled Gardens in the news; September 2012 to March 2013

SIMON JOINS OUR LAND-BASED TEAM



Bridgwater College is delighted to welcome Simon Grundy to the land-based team, where he will be leading the delivery and development of the curriculum for Land and Environmental Management.

Simon joins the College from Writtle College in Essex, where he was Section Leader for Horticulture, Floristry and Design. He began his career as an apprentice at a local landscape company and it was during his apprenticeship studies that he was inspired to further his learning. Simon now hopes to develop stronger links with the land-based industries in the area.

On his move to Somerset and his new role Simon said, "It's been a big decision and one which I am glad to have made. I have been given a great department to manage, I work with dedicated, professional and supportive staff, and in challenging times for both land-based education and the industry, I am looking forward to providing opportunities in training for both the experienced and the keen amateur alike. It's a great industry, one full of opportunities locally, nationally and globally."

STUDENTS TAKE PART IN NATIONAL TREE WEEK



Students studying Countryside, Horticulture and Arboriculture took part in National Tree Week by planting over 100 trees to celebrate the start of the winter planting season. The mass planting was spread throughout the Cannington Centre, with Cannington Golf Course seeing the introduction of native species such as Silver Birch, Alder and Hawthorn, and The Walled Gardens of Cannington and Arboretum receiving a Tulip tree, Blue Atlas Cedar and a Weeping Pear.

National Tree Week began in 1975 and is the UK's largest tree celebration. The event initially began to help replant trees after losses from Dutch elm disease, and this year's event is particularly important as the tree-rotting disease, Ash dieback is now present in the UK.

Mike Cullen, Programme Manager said, "This project was very exciting and will add further to the wonderful variety of plants and trees that students and visitors to the garden can view and learn from."

COFFEE MORNING COMES TO COLLEGE



Bridgwater College's Coffee Shop and the Tea Rooms at the Walled Gardens of Cannington hosted coffee mornings to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of the charity's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' fundraiser.

The Walled Gardens event was organised by two members of staff at the Tea Rooms, mother and daughter Tracey and Rhian Powell, and included a cake sale and a raffle which raised £235.54 for the charity. Cakes were donated by College staff as well as Judith's Bakery, Linda's Cupcakes, N'ice Buns and Cannington Bakery.

Organiser Tracey Powell said, "We had a steady flow of visitors who were all very impressed with the amazing designs of the cakes! I would like to thank everyone for supporting our event."

The College's Coffee Shop team also raised £85 on the day and The World's Biggest Coffee Morning raised over £1 million nationwide.

PUMPKIN FUN AT THE WALLED GARDENS



Bridgwater College's Walled Gardens hosted a hugely successful half term pumpkin trail and pumpkin carving to celebrate Halloween.

The three-day event saw hundreds of children running around The Walled Gardens of Cannington looking for the hidden pumpkins, closely followed by their parents! In excess of 300 people attended the activity, which included entry into the Gardens, a drink, biscuit and pumpkin.

Residents and holidaymakers came from all over Somerset and for many it was their first visit to the Walled Gardens. Rachel, mum to Thomas, aged two, on holiday from Chester said, "We had a lovely time, Thomas loved running round the gardens trying to find the pumpkins and the cosy tea rooms were a great way of finishing our two hours at the Gardens!"

FLORISTRY STUDENTS EXCEL IN EXAMS



Floristry students from Bridgwater College received outstanding final marks in their Level 2 exams.

The results included 18 Distinctions and 1 Pass, with nearly a third of students deciding to progress on to the Level 3 course. One student, Kelly Napier from Stoke-sub-Hamdon, has been nominated for the City and Guilds Medal of Excellence for an exceptional portfolio of work.

Other students who progressed on to the Level 3 course are considering the new Level 4 course which will be offered from September 2013. These include career changer Yvonne Harris from Taunton, who used to work in a corporate environment and is now retraining in floristry, and Karen Byrne from Stogursey who explained, "I have always loved flowers and wanted to learn more. I decided to continue studying as the Level 2 course inspired me so much and I now have the possibility of turning my hobby into a career."

Development work at the Cannington Centre over the summer means that several new rooms have been opened, with the Floristry section gaining a new practical and tutorial room.

MADDY WINS BRONZE AT WORLDSKILLS UK



Maddy Ralls, aged 28 from Taunton was awarded a bronze medal in the Intermediate final of the WorldSkills UK competition held in Birmingham. Students from across the country took part and were tasked with creating five new floral items using a selection of flowers. Maddy created a bridal headdress, a large display for an event, a door wreath, a candelabra display and a decorated champagne bottle.

Claiming the bronze medal meant Maddy is now one of twelve finalists to be selected to receive further training from designers. One individual will then be chosen to represent the UK at the WorldSkills finals in Leipzig later in the year.

Jacqui Weaver, Programme Manager for Floristry, said, "I was proud to see Maddy's name, along with the name of the College, flash up on the arena screens. It is to Maddy's credit that she kept a cool head throughout this hugely demanding competition and produced some excellent work under a lot of pressure."

STUDENTS WIN GOLD AT NATIONAL SHOW



A group of students were awarded a gold medal at the National Gardening Show at the Bath and West Showground for their show garden 'Traditional Modernism'.

The students previously won silver medals for their garden at the Taunton Flower Show and the Ideal Home Show in Earl's Court earlier in the year. The student responsible for designing the winning garden was 32 year old James Taylor from Highbridge, who brought together modern design with traditional buildings practices including dry stone walling, natural stone paving and rustic timber to create the winning piece.

James said, "It has been great to be involved in this project from start to finish, seeing my design evolve into a real garden has been a great experience and the learning curve on this project huge. I definitely took on board all the feedback from the previous competitions and this clearly paid off, at last!"

James' tutor, Iain Truman, who is Programme Manager for Horticulture and Landscape Design said, "I am immensely proud of the students' efforts this season; they were working on their own for much of the build, and the quality of the resulting garden was very high."

The Walled Gardens of Cannington

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