

GARDEN GUIDE

Beech Wood

The wood was badly damaged by a great gale in December 1979 but the gaps encouraged the growth of a new glade full of interesting young trees and shrubs.

Thomas Hawkins Bay

In the centre of the bay is one of Trewithen's specialities *Rehderodendron macrocarpum*. Introduced from China in 1934, it has white flowers and is remarkable for the size of its fruits. Also of note are the *Rhododendron arboreum* plantings of 1908 which includes *Rhododendron arboreum cinnamomeum* with its tiers of stunning white flowers.

Williams Bay

The area closest to the house is dominated by the finest specimen in cultivation in the British Isles of *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *Mollicomata* introduced by George Forrest from China. At over 65 ft high, it is one of the glories of the garden when in flower in March. The area furthest from the house includes an outstanding Kashmir Cypress, *Cupressus cashmeriana*, and prominent amongst the rhododendrons is *Rhododendron 'Frill'*, a hybrid raised at Trewithen.

Camera Obscura (6)

This is a device that projects an image from outside onto a table inside a darkened room. Once inside the obscura you can adjust the view by slowly raising or lowering the table whilst revolving the mirror and prisms above with a handle.

South Lawn

George Johnstone inherited Trewithen in 1904 and the creation of the current garden is largely credited to him. The South Lawn, with its famous serpentine design, is regarded as his greatest gardening achievement. Stretching for over 120 yards, it is lined on both sides by a remarkable range of trees & shrubs, many of them rare.

Alison Johnstone Bay

This area was named by George Johnstone in honour of his wife. A wonderfully tactile specimen of *Stewartia sinensis* - which has a smooth, flaking bark, scented flowers and autumn foliage colours - is at the front of the bed. At the back is a very fine *Nothofagus menziesii* from New Zealand, together with exceptional specimens of two Asiatic maples, *Acer rubescens* and *A. campbellii* subsp. *flabellatum*. Close to its parents *R. cinnabarinum* and *R. yunnanense*, the *Rhododendron 'Alison Johnstone'* was bred by George Johnstone and awarded an RHS award of merit in 1945.

Heywood Bay

This area was blasted by hurricane force winds in 1990. The gaps caused by the wind damage have been filled with *Pinus radiata*, a pine from the Monterey Peninsula in California. Also in the bay is a *Magnolia campbellii* which Alison Johnstone bought and planted - believing it to be an 'Alba'. Imagine her surprise when, 25 years later, it flowered pink. She complained to Hillier Nursery which had sold it to her and - regardless of the fact that quarter of a century had elapsed - got her money back!

Skilton Bay

The glade has three species of *Schima*, another Asiatic genus rare in cultivation. It also has a collection of hydrangeas and a specimen of *Rhododendron 'Hotei'* which was planted by HRH Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, on her third visit to Trewithen in 1985. Also here is *Magnolia macrophylla* subsp. *ashei*, first introduced by George Johnstone from the USA, which has massive leaves and interesting flowers even on young plants.

Little Downs

This incorporates a wild flower meadow and a shade planting area.

Taylor Bay

One of Trewithen's loveliest glades includes champion trees *Eucryphia cordifolia* and *E. x intermedia*, lovely summer flowering plants which have masses of white flowers. Trewithen is justly famed for its international collection of magnolias and in March you can stand in the centre of the glade and see *Magnolia campbellii* in flower, *M. mollicomata* three varieties of *M. sargentiana robusta*. Another plant to look out for is the Trewithen hybrid *Camellia 'Glenn's Orbit'*, a seedling of *C. 'Donation'* which first flowered on the day that American astronaut Col. John Glenn completed his momentous orbit of the earth. A young plant was presented to the American ambassador in 1964 and subsequently sent to the White House garden in Washington.

East Terrace (A)

The terrace affords fine views of Undertown Park which boasts some magnificent 250 year old oaks and sycamores. Beside the path is a row of two very primitive genera, *Ginkgo biloba* the Maidenhair Tree and *The Dawn Redwood*, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*.

George Johnstone Walk (C)

Look out for *Michelia doltsopa*, a magnificent tree which has long-lasting sweetly scented flowers. It was introduced from the Himalayas by George Forrest in 1918. There is a hedge of the Chilean Lantern Tree *Crinodendron hookerianum*, a rare maple, *Acer laevigatum* from China and one of Trewithen's greatest treasures, *Aextoxicon punctatum*, which was introduced from Chile and discovered by Roy Lancaster at Trewithen in 1977 - before then it was not known to be in cultivation. There is also a very fine *Camellia 'Donation'* which was raised at Borde Hill in Sussex by Colonel Stephenson-Clarke. George Johnstone was given a plant and, because the original died before being propagated, all *Camellia x williamsii 'Donation'* in the world stem from the one here at Trewithen.

West Terrace (D)

Amongst the many interesting plants are the North American magnolias *M. cordata*, which have yellow flowers in summer and early autumn, and *M. soulangiana 'Burgundy'*. There is also a splendid seedling of the sky-reaching *Magnolia mollicomata 'Lanarth'* which has deep cyclamen pink flowers in March.

Camellia Walk (E)

Whilst her husband was in Palestine during the First World War, Alison Johnstone used to scatter packets of wild collected seed in this area which, at the time, was maintained by Trewithen's first head gardener, Jack Skilton. The packets arrived by post from intrepid plant hunters overseas whose missions continued regardless of the war.

Holman Path (F)

You will see the Rose Garden from here. At the end of the path you can take the long route around Eagle Ponds - a restoration project that is intended to recover the original water garden area planned by Thomas Hawkins in 1738.

Triangle (G)

This is in the middle of the West Terrace path where there is a viewing platform. Opposite the Triangle is a *M. 'Albatross'* which was raised by Michael Taylor in 1970. A natural hybrid of *M. cylindrica* and *M. x veitchii*, it was given the RHS's highest award, the First Class Certificate (FCC), in 1996.

The Magnolia Fountain (5)

Sculpted by Tom Leaper in 1998, the fountain is a unique work of art created in granite and bronze and patinated with copper nitrate. The design of the fountain echoes the natural verticals found in the splendid magnolia plants within the garden.

Ha Ha

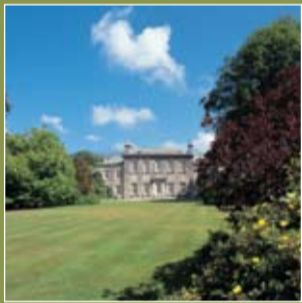
The Ha Ha is a sunken fence or trench that provides a largely unseen boundary to the garden.



The glorious gardens at Trewithen boast 20 Champion Trees. These are trees that have been officially measured by the Tree Register and declared Champions for either being the tallest of their type or for having the largest diameter. Major gardens and parks throughout Britain and Ireland are inspected to update Champion Tree records - Trewithen's trees have been measured twice in the last five years.

CHAMPION TREES

NAME	ORIGIN	CHAMPION BECAUSE...
1 Photinia prinophylla.	(E) West China	height and diameter
2 Amomyrtus luma.	(E) Chile	height and diameter
3 Acer cissifolium.	(D) Japan	diameter
4 Acer laxiflorum.	(D) West China	diameter
5 Rehodendron macrocarpum.	(D) West China	height and diameter
6 Magnolia campbellii subsp. mollicomata.	(D) Yunnan region of South East Tibet	diameter
7 Rhododendron arboreum subsp. cinnamomum.	(E) North East India	height
8 Magnolia kobus.	(D) Japan	diameter
9 Stewartia sinensis.	(D) Central China	height
10 Ilex cyrtura.	(E) South West China	height and diameter
11 Enkianthus chinensis.	(D) West China	height and diameter
12 Magnolia campbellii 'Charles Raffill'.	(D) Seedling from Kew Gardens	height
13 Acer laevigatum	(S) China	Only one of its stature
14 Magnolia campbellii subsp. mollicomata 'Lanarth'.	(D) Lanarth	Largest of its type
15 Magnolia sargentiana.	(D) West China	diameter
16 Magnolia sprengeri var. diva.	(D) Grown from a Wilson collected seed at Caerhays Castle garden	diameter
17 Eucryphia cordifolia.	(E) Chile	diameter
18 Schima wallichii var. khasiana.	(E) Assam in Burma	height and diameter
19 Schima wallichii subsp. moronhae var. superba	(E) Assam in Burma	diameter
20 Eucryphia moorei.	(E) South East Australia	diameter



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Trewithen House

The house was originally built by Philip Hawkins in 1715 - incorporating a smaller and much older dwelling that was first recorded in the Domesday Book. The house was then remodelled and enlarged for Philip's cousin and heir, Thomas Hawkins, by the famous London architect Sir Robert Taylor. Through marriage, Trewithen has remained in the consecutive ownership of one family for more than 280 years.

Guided tours of the house, which boasts a fine collection of furniture and paintings, take place at regular intervals from 1 April to 31 July, Monday and Tuesday 2pm-4pm.

The Tea Shop

No visit to Trewithen would be complete without trying one of its famous cream teas. Overlooking the Plant Centre, The Tea Shop enjoys a well-deserved reputation for good quality, locally sourced food and refreshment.

Nursery & Plant Centre

Trewithen enjoys an international reputation for the excellence of its plants which are also sold through its on-site nursery. Included in the vast range of varieties available are Camellia 'Trewithen Pink', Rhododendron 'Alison Johnstone' and the great favourite Ceanothus arboreus 'Trewithen Blue'.

Plant sales take place in the Plant Centre when the garden is open and at the nursery itself, just past the house, when the garden is closed. Staff are always on hand for advice and information.

Visitor advice

Please park in the car park and drive carefully within the grounds. When walking, wear sensible footwear and keep to the paths and designated areas. Keep young children under supervision - especially near water - and dogs must be kept on leads. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

OPENING TIMES

Gardens: 1 Mar-30 Sept. Mon-Sat (Sun Mar-May). 10am-4.30pm

Nurseries: All year. Mon-Sat. 10am-3pm

House: 1 Apr-31 July. Mon-Tues. 2pm-4pm

TREWITHEN GARDENS & NURSERIES

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TREWITHEN
Garden and Champion Trees Guide