



INFORMATION NOTES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's a Physic Garden? (You may also be asked what a 'Psychic' garden is!)

- A garden containing plants which were (and sometimes still are) used for medicinal purposes.

Will all the plants in the garden be medicinal plants?

- No. The medicinal plants will be in the twelve beds in the centre of the garden which surround the fountain. Other main features are:
 - one large bed containing plants used to dye fabrics
 - an area containing fragrant plants
 - a line of pleached apple trees (where the trees are trained to form a sort of 'hedge in the sky')
 - an area of lawn
 - a pergola

Anything else that's special about the plants?

- The garden will contain only plants that were in Britain before 1800 so, together with the way in which the garden has been designed, visitors should get the feel of what such a garden might have looked like in the 18th century.

What's the idea behind the design?

- It has been designed to reflect features that would have been found in an 18th century garden, for example, by the inclusion of the summerhouses and the replica of Alexander Pope's urn in the pergola.
- It has also been planned as a place in which to sit and relax amongst fragrant and attractive plants.

Whose idea was this garden?

- The South & Mid Glamorgan branch of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust started discussing the idea of doing something about the run-down area at the back of Old Hall in 2003. In 2004 the project was passed over to a newly created organisation: Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust.

How long has it taken?

- Work started to clear the garden in January 2005; the first plants went into the ground in September 2006.

How big is it?

- Approximately ½ acre. (0.2 hectare).

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Who is planting it?

- Volunteers have been working in the garden since May 2006; most of the structural planting has already taken place although it will be some time before everything has been planted.

When is the garden open hours and will there be a charge?

- The garden will be open on 364 days each year: there is no charge for entry.

What does the inscription on the sundial mean?

- The Latin inscription *Vis medicatrix Naturae* means 'The healing power of nature'.

How many plants will the garden contain?

- Hard to say! About 5,500 plants arrived in the autumn of 2006, representing about 230 plant varieties. Many other plants will be coming from specialist nurseries and some will be raised from seed.

Who designed the garden?

- The structure of the garden was designed by Anthony Jellard Associates. The choice of plants was made by the Planting Committee of the Physic Garden.

Is the garden going to be organic?

- Whilst we shall not be claiming to be an organic garden, every effort is being made to ensure that sustainable systems are followed, keeping intervention measures to a minimum. Our aim is to use the very minimum of chemicals in the garden and only when the health of a plant is endangered and no alternative treatment is possible.

How much did this garden cost?

- So far about £340,000 has been raised to fund the garden.

Where did the money come from?

- Major public funding organisations: eg *Article 33* (Europe); *Rural Community Action* (Welsh Assembly Government); *Heritage Lottery Fund* (National Lottery). Trusts and charities. Many private individuals have sponsored specific items in the garden.

How can I help to support the garden?

- By becoming a Member of Cowbridge Physic Garden.

This information sheet was produced in March 2007 by Jean Reader, a volunteer at Cowbridge Physic Garden.