

Guided Stroll through Lister Park Bradford Tuesday 26th July 2022

The original date for this event was Wednesday 27th July. The “blurb” suggested go by train to Frizinghall and walk the 10 minutes to the park entrance. But then a one day strike was called.

Changes made, some cancelled their booking with others on the waiting list taking their place.

20 members joined u3a member Veronica Youngson for a fascinating 2 hour exploration of this gem of a park.



Lister Park is situated about a mile outside the city centre on the main Bradford to Shipley road.

It is one of the city's largest parks and was purchased by the City of Bradford for half its commercial value from Samuel Cunliffe Lister, who built Lister's Mill.

The park has been successfully renovated in recent years. The lake has been re-opened for boats and a Mughal Water Garden constructed.

Lister Park contains the Cartwright Hall art gallery, where permanent and temporary exhibitions of modern and traditional art can be seen.

It was voted Britain's Best Park for 2006, and nominated for the Best Park In Europe 2006.



Statue of Sir Titus Salt, the founder of Saltaire and its mills, was re-erected in the park in 1896, having previously stood outside Bradford Town Hall.



The botanical garden was designed by Samuel Margerison of Calverley, a successful timber merchant and an authority on forestry. It opened in 1903 with its aim to show every family of plants in British flora as well as plants from other countries.

The garden was designed to illustrate the geology of West Yorkshire with a geological trail of different types of rock starting with the earliest of rocks at the East side of the garden.



City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Lister Park Botanical Gardens
www.bradford.gov.uk

Mr Samuel Margerison of Leeds designed the botanical garden in 1903. He planned to represent every family of plants in British flora. He also added a geological trail, with different types of rock from throughout the Yorkshire region and a replica of Thornton Force, (a waterfall at Ingletton, North Yorkshire) which is fed by a culvert from the stream that runs alongside the garden. The garden was then replanted in 1952 on a 'Themed Basis' with plants used in the textile industry in addition to plants used for medicinal purposes.

Extensive landscaping works were undertaken between 2001 and 2002, as part of the park's restoration to bring the garden to today's award winning standard.

Tulip Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)
 Used by the North American Indians for building cradles the 'Tulip Tree' was introduced into Britain in 1686. Leaves have four lobes, a flattened top and tulip like flowers giving the tree its modern name.

+ Laburnocytisus adarii
 A deciduous tree with 3 palmate, dark green oval leaves. The pea like flowers are born in late spring with separate colours of yellow and purple with a tinge of purplish with a yellow flush.

Californian Lilac (Ceanothus species)
 These shrubs are mainly evergreen and are particularly known for their blue flowers born in profusion in early summer.

Holm Oak (Quercus ilex)
 A native of the Mediterranean islands the 'Holm Oak' was introduced to Britain more than 400 years ago. Its evergreen leaves are adapted to withstand drying out in hot dry summers.

Ornamental Rhubarb (Rheum palmatum)
 Large coarsely toothed dark green leaves up to 90cm in size with a purplish hairy underside. In early summer numerous bright red star shaped flowers are born on long stalks.

Japanese Maple (Acer palmatum)
 This deciduous tree carries pointed lobed leaves that are purple in colour. A popular tree that is grown in almost every Japanese garden.

Hydrangea Bed
 This bed shows the range of shrubs from the large 'Hydrangea Virgata' & 'Hydrangea Sargentana' types, to the more tender 'Hydrangea' (Mop heads & lacecaps). The bulk of the hydrangea bed is summer flowering, displaying blue, purple, blue and white flowers.

Japanese Bamboo (Pseudotsuga japonica)
 An evergreen bamboo with tall woody canes also green when young, maturing to pale beige with long dark green oblong leaves.

Indian Bean Tree (Catalpa bignonioides)
 This is the last tree in the garden to produce its leaves which when they arrive in June are large, up to 25cm and light green. The tree also bears numerous small white flowers in July.

Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus)
 The name 'Hornbeam' refers to the tree's tough wood, 'horn' meaning hard and 'beam' meaning a tree in Old English.

Dove Tree or Handkerchief Tree (Davidia involuta)
 A tree imported by seed from China over 300 years ago. The 'Handkerchief Tree' produces a spectacular display of large white flowers.

Dawn Redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides)
 Until 1941 the 'Dawn Redwood' was only known from its fossilized remains dating from the Pliocene era (about 2 million years ago). Then botanists in China found more than 100 large specimens in Hsueh-shan. As they were found to reproduce easily from cuttings Dawn Redwoods are now widely planted throughout Britain.

1 Western Entrance
 The rocky area at this entrance contains colourful planting including 'healths', dwarf rhododendrons & azaleas.

2 'Canyon' Area
 The area is planted with 'naturalizing' life and non-invasive marginal and shallow water plants.

3 Seating Area
 A restful area with many plants of different forms textures and colours.

4 Perennial Beds
 Planting is designed to show colour combinations and plant associations throughout the seasons according to the cultural visitor and another gardener. Some species have also been incorporated into the planting scheme to reflect the original theme of the botanical garden these being medicinal, artistic, and economic plants. This was done to enhance the historical, historical and educational interest.

5 Streamside Area
 The stream contains many pools and small waterfalls. The streamside planting is naturalistic with local plants established around the bridges using colour, specimen trees and shrubs along with low growing species.

Geological Trail

6 Interpretive/ Seating Areas

6a Metamorphic (G1)
 The central garden contains a piece of metamorphic rock (gneiss) surrounded by planting appropriate to areas of shade. Different strips of metamorphic rock are set in the ground and radiate out from the central feature.

6b Gneiss (G2)
 The central garden contains a piece of gneiss rock (Granite) and is surrounded with planting appropriate to a granite landscape. Different strips of gneiss rock are set in the ground and radiate out from the central feature.

7 Sedimentary Rock Gardens

7a Sandstone (F1)
 The dry sandstone wall is planted with calciphiles and drystone wall associated plants. The stone in the garden has been sand to resemble a natural outcrop along with a sandstone scree slope complete with Alpine style scree planting.

7b Limestone (F2)
 These rocks are arranged to resemble a natural outcrop and is planted with limestone rock garden plants. The limestone pavement is planted with plant species that typically grow in this type of habitat.

8 Waterfall
 The grass area to the side of the waterfall contains many different naturalized bulbs that produce flowers throughout the different seasons.

9 Fossil Tree and Teaching Area
 Surrounding the fossil tree is a geological time clock with fossil imprints indicating the origins of life. The seating area for teaching purposes is also located here.

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Interpretive boards with further information are located next to these features.







Cartwright Hall was built on the former site of Manningham Hall using a gift of £40,000 donated by Samuel Lister and it is named after Edmund Cartwright.

The gallery opened in 1904 and designed by the same architects as Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery.



Mughal Gardens

These gardens have been modelled on the fabled Mughal gardens of Northern India and Pakistan. Most of the Mughal Emperors, (Mughal rule over the Indian sub-continent extended mainly from the 16th to 19th centuries) were not only great patrons of art and architecture but also lovers of nature, particularly all forms of flora.

Mughal Emperors commissioned a number of beautiful gardens including the Shalimar gardens in Srinagar, Kashmir and the gardens of the legendary Taj Mahal in Agra.

Formal Mughal gardens are a geometric ordering of nature. The avenue of trees, pathways, flowering plants, tumbling water cascades and graceful fountains are a wonderful example of fusion between Muslim and Hindu styles. The very picture of tranquillity, Mughal gardens usually provided a majestic setting for a mausoleum or a palace.

The Mughal gardens of Lister Park too follow this tradition, since they link in a number of ways with Cartwright Hall Art Gallery. The gardens use the same mellow Ashlar sandstone as Cartwright Hall. The object in the permanent collections of Cartwright Hall also encompass different cultures, including many fine works of art that come from the Indian sub-continent.



Views of the Mughal Gardens



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Despite changing the date to avoid a train strike, the railway service was disrupted on the day of the visit.

Some members travelled from Ilkley by bus via Keighley.

Others arrived up to 20 minutes late on a much delayed service from Ilkley

The return journey was by bus replacement service pictured here on its arrival in Ilkley

