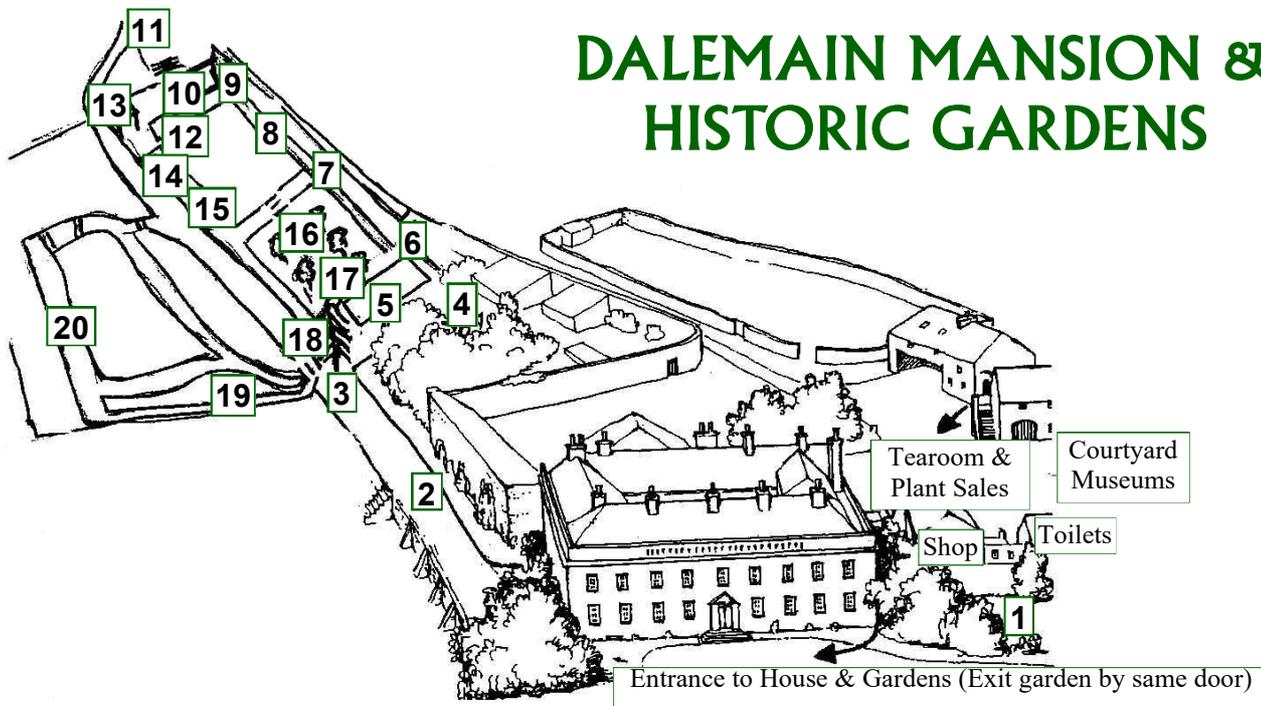


DALEMAIN MANSION & HISTORIC GARDENS



Welcome to Dalemain

Please take care to keep your distance from other visitors and garden staff. Follow the route set out in this guide by the numbers on the map.

Please leave all doors open around the garden.

During the last year as a result of the lockdowns, the garden has become, increasingly a place for wildlife to flourish with song birds, partridges, ring necked doves, pheasant chicks and ducklings calling it home. This changed atmosphere has added to the sense of peace and quietness. It is a great pleasure open the gates once more and welcome everyone back and we hope that this tranquillity and closeness to nature will give much needed harmony and comfort.

Dalemain is of course situated in a very big landscape of rolling parkland, lakes and rugged Cumbrian hills and it is hardly surprising that when the first Edward Hasell set eyes on the Pele tower and mediaeval manor house on a rise in a beautiful valley, he fell in love with it. The terrace walk, created in the mid 1700's, long before 'hahas' were fashionable, gives the house a relationship to this bigger picture and yet tucked in behind the house there is a beautiful Elizabethan cobbled courtyard and stone barns, a knot garden for herbs and a grassy walk to the 'Grot' where the gentle sound of Dacre beck and the deer park behind still soothes the nerves of many visitors. By the end of the 1700's the house was beginning to change to what we see today with its fine Georgian proportions, complete in its rose-coloured splendour with a simple packhorse track wending its way past. Dalemain had much to boast of with a large Dovecote in faced stone to impress the visitor who approaches and it is with this backdrop that the garden began to be created. Throughout the garden, the visitor is invited to relish the extraordinary and varied collection of plants and the way in which they have been planted in interesting and sympathetic combinations of colour and leaf form. We attempt to concentrate a particular species in one area of the garden so that it is not repeated too often and this highlights the different kinds of microclimate, soil and water retention to be found in the garden.

NO. 1 - AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE

As you enter the garden you will see an area hitherto untended. In the spring it is carpeted with an amazing display of Snowdrops and Aconites, followed by cow parsley and finally with Autumn crocus. On the front lawn is an ancient Tulip tree (*liriodendron tulipifera*) planted when the front of the house was completed, which still flowers in July. Growing against the house there are Old fashioned China Roses which will flower well into November. As you walk along the front of the house your eye is drawn to the fells and the 18th-century parkland and at the corner you realise the full majesty of the terrace walk.

NO. 2 & NO. 3 - TERRACE WALK

It was the terrace that inspired Dorothea King, wife of Edward Hasell to create a very fashionable herbaceous border in 1826 and she planted the magnificent Silver Fir (*abies cephalonica*) as a full stop to her border. The tree is the biggest of its type, as certified by the Tree Register of the British Isles in 1991. This border has evolved over the years and we make changes every season, designed to bring interest and colour at most times of the year with many drought

tolerant plants including Euphorbias, Sedums, Monarda, Salvias and a wide range of Agapanthus. Even this late in the year it is full of colour and the bees and butterflies are constantly at work.

NO. 4 - SPIRAL GARDEN AND ELIZABETHAN PARTERRE

The spiral garden is a place of meditation. Planted in early spring with crocus followed by Leucojum and snakes head fritillaries it is finally marked out by scallop shells to further signify that it is a garden of peace and reflection relating to the pilgrimages that people make to Santiago de Compostela. From here you enter the Elizabethan Parterre. The yew hedge is very ancient and during the summer is covered in brilliant red flowers known as Scotch Flame flowers (*tropaeolum speciosum*.)

NO. 5 - CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Most of the plants have animals in their common names, Bear's Breeches (*acanthus*), and Foxglove (*digitalis*) with signs on animal shapes! It is fun to see how the planting works where the Cat Mint is not too close to the Dogwood and the Foxgloves away from the Mouse plant! The Zebra is standing in the middle of zebra grass!

NO. 6. 7. 8 & 9 - ROSE WALK

The Rose Walk includes many wonderful 'old fashioned shrub roses' and it is scented from June until August with earlier and later varieties. We have added sitting places for people along this border running up beside the magnificent garden wall which is made with faced stone. As you explore this walk you will see that there are pretty variegated Brunneras and a wide variety of interesting plants to extend the season. The Damasks, in particular, do very well here.

NO. 10 - SUMMER HOUSE

The top of the garden gives you an opportunity to see the eccentricity of the wall at this point that goes off sideways in both directions with the summerhouse standing upright in the middle.

NO. 11 - LOB'S WOOD please leave the door open

Through the door in the wall, you are able to get to Lob's Wood and can walk through the trees revealing stunning views down to Dacre Beck and across the fields to Little Mell Fell in the distance. Lob was a puckish character from J. M. Barrie's play 'Dear Brutus'. Every Midsummer's Eve, Lob gave visitors to his wonderful garden, a chance to change their life. In the Spring the wood is planted with Hellebores, Foxgloves, Primroses and Violets, for spring colour. In a new creation, we have placed huge old stumps sourced from all over the estate which was first initiated in partnership with Newton Rigg the local Horticultural College.

NO. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16 & 17 - TOP GARDEN

Walking down you will discover work in progress. A revamp of the top lawn has become four terraces each with their own character. The top terrace is planted with white and black flowers. The second and third terrace will be developed over the summer. In the centre is a Quince planted when His Royal Highness Prince Charles visited Dalemmain for the Marmalade Festival. The bottom terrace is another place to enjoy sitting surrounded by Olive trees and brilliant sunny coloured border. Follow the path down the side of the garden under the magnificent Beech trees and see the varying leaf forms and plants that thrive in shade giving a rich depth of planting. This is where our hedgehogs live during the winter months. On the centre of the lower lawn, we have planted a Holly walk (*ilex pyramidalis*) leading to the Cross Border or Golden Jubilee walk. This is one of my favourite borders; never too hot or too cold, too dry or too wet with sun and shade and I love the colour combinations. The paths give the beds real definition & structure in winter although by mid-summer they are lost in a glorious explosion of herbaceous plants. Follow the zig zag and turn right to the end to take the steps to the low garden.

NO. 18. 19 & 20 - THE LOW GARDEN

Take any of the paths. There is a choice of three different routes. On the left going down the fence beside the field, straight ahead gets you to the main part of the wild garden and the path to the right follows the garden wall. This is semi-wild with shrubs and ancient trees and it is full of surprises with little paths here and there taking you on an exploration. It is in some ways a garden of enchantment with a sleeping dragon and a 'Giant' lulled by the sound of Dacre Beck lying in grove of silver birch. Stop for a moment and listen to the songbirds or sit by the river and look outwards to the gentle grass parkland and grazing sheep and hills beyond. It is a garden of wildflowers and garden plants deemed too rough for the upper garden and it is a place where children can run around and explore - although they should take care with the pond in the middle. The Wendy House is at the far end and was a place where my mother-in-law played and indeed our own children. We have cleared the trees behind it on the bank and replanted with yew which comes from cuttings from friends' gardens. Eventually, the little house will be surrounded by a yew forest but will sit in the sunlight at the end of the tunnel.

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