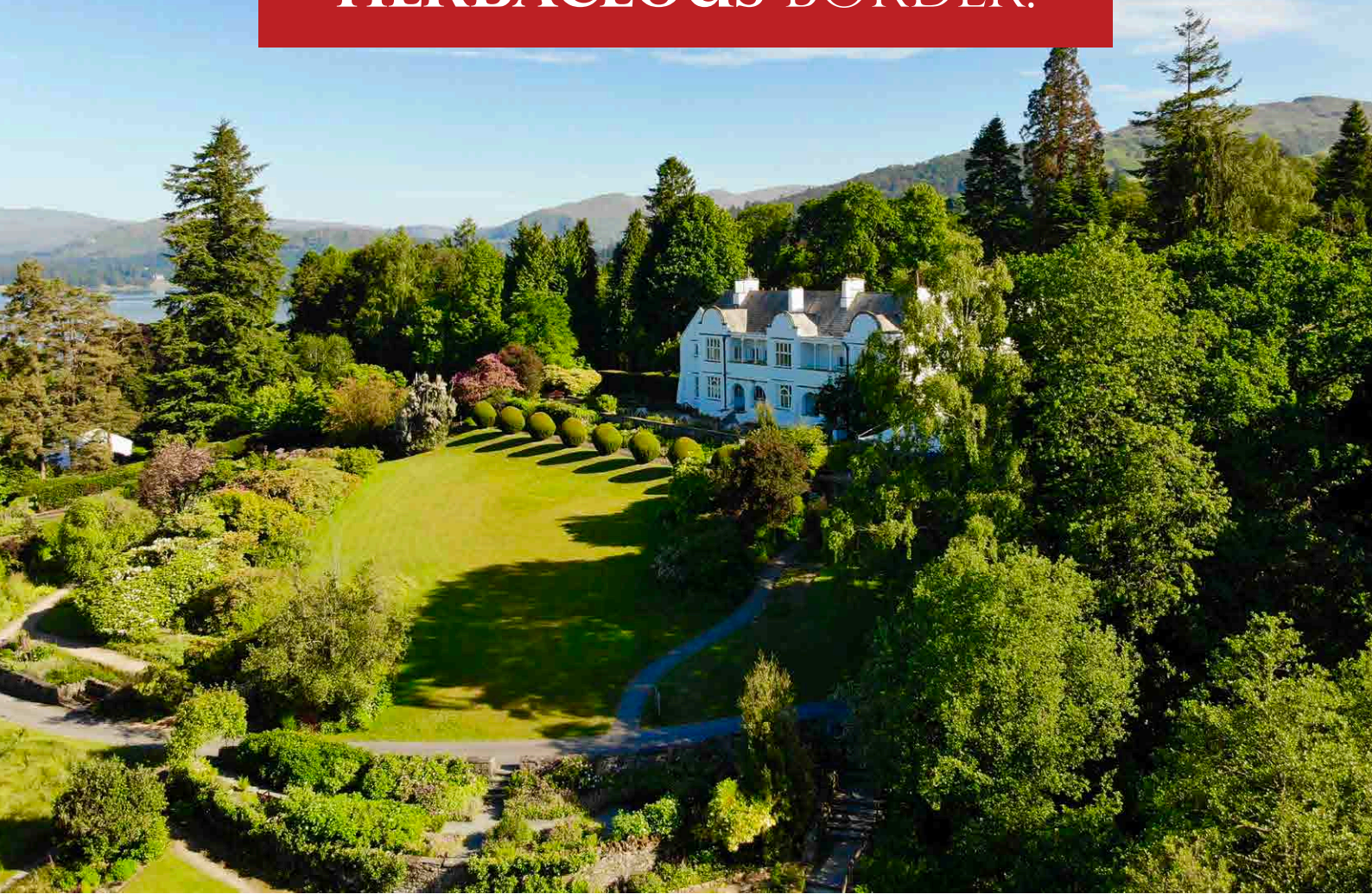


# BREAK FOR THE HERBACEOUS BORDER!



CUMBRIA'S **LIVING HERITAGE**

GREAT HOUSES, GARDENS & CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS IN & AROUND THE LAKE DISTRICT



# BREAK FOR THE **HERBACEOUS** BORDER!



Here at Cumbria's Living Heritage, we have a dozen incredible Cumbrian gardens, within our 13-strong membership in 2021, each being the outdoor space at a superb heritage attraction with a history stretching back centuries.

This is the year of the Great British Staycation, so we are going all out to encourage Britain's army of staycationers and day visitors to '*break for the herbaceous border*' and be enticed into our magnificent gardens.

Our herbaceous borders, or natural plantings, will wow with visual uplift and seduce you with rich floral fragrance. Summer is when they are at their best and enjoying what is absolutely their 'moment', so just follow our guidance and make the most of all they can offer to you.

Starting in Cumbria's north, you can enjoy three gorgeous gardens close to Penrith – Dalemain Mansion and Gardens, Askham Hall and Hutton-in-the-Forest.



DALEMAIN





At **Dalemain** ([www.dalemain.com](http://www.dalemain.com)), take advantage of Heritage Garden Tours (11am to 12.30pm), to learn more about the species in the herbaceous border and other features of this award-winning garden.

From the 200 old-fashioned roses adorning the Rose Avenue, to the Orange Border, planted to remind that Dalemain is home to the world's Marmalade Awards, not to mention the Children's Garden, where all plant names, such as Snapdragon and Bear's Breeches, intrigue younger visitors, there is much to thrill garden lovers and garden newbies alike.

Don't miss the Sleeping Giantess or refuse the children the chance to climb inside the Topiary Dragon's tummy and do see the Elizabethan Knot Garden and the new, striking black and white planting.

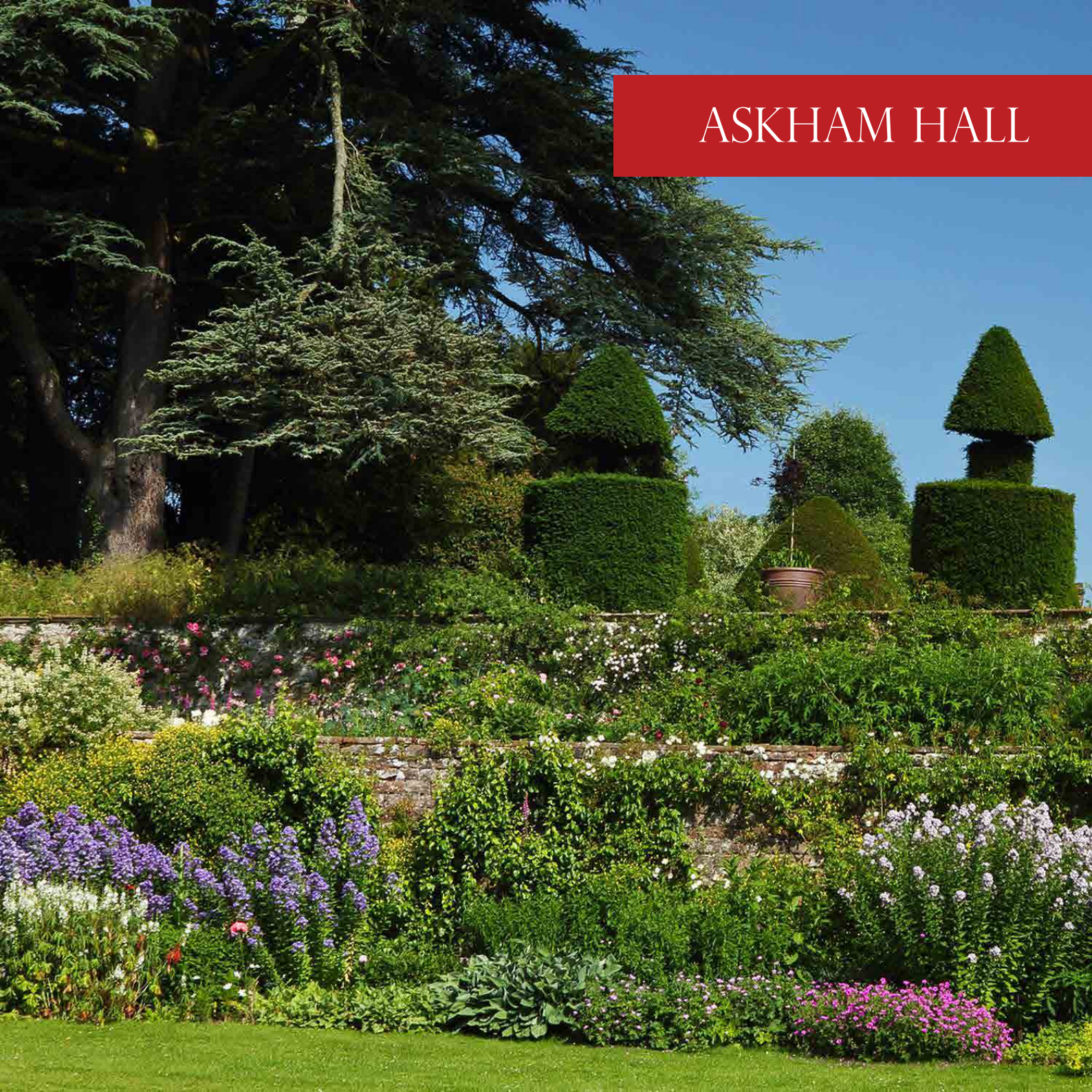
Tickets for gardens only admission (£9.50 for adults, with under 16s free) and tours (£3.50) can be booked online.

Dalemain is open from 10.30am to 4pm, Sunday to Friday (closed Saturdays).





# ASKHAM HALL







**Askham Hall** ([www.askhamhall.co.uk](http://www.askhamhall.co.uk)), built around a 14th century pele tower, although now an exquisite boutique hotel, Michelin-star restaurant and wedding venue, is also a welcome host to those dropping by for relaxed food and drink from its café and wood-fired pizza oven, and to explore its gardens.

These offer views of Lowther Castle and are home to a 230-foot, magnificent showpiece herbaceous border, full of unusual plants and talking points, from bistort to striking peonies. The 12-acre gardens also grow white violets, day-lily shoots and wild garlic used by the chefs and feature a variety of edibles growing in kitchen garden hotbeds.



A garden map directs you to not just plants, flowers and trees, but also animals, including shorthorn cattle, rare-breed pigs, Boer goats, ducks and chickens and you can also venture to a Truffle Orchard, a Mediterranean herb garden and the Land of Giants, where tall herbaceous plants abound.

Look out for the symbol of Askham - alliums - the 100-year-old Wellingtonia tree and the Jubilee Border, planted for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, 1977, when visiting from Sunday to Wednesday, 11am to 6.30pm.



# HUTTON-IN-THE-FOREST





### Hutton-in-the-Forest

([www.hutton-in-the-forest.co.uk](http://www.hutton-in-the-forest.co.uk)) is a wonderful garden to explore with your dog, being super canine-friendly and wanting four-legged friends (on leads) to have as much fun as human visitors.

You can take a Garden and Woodland walk every day except Saturdays, sniffing out the herbaceous borders, annuals and roses in the glorious Walled Garden, set against the backdrop of old apple and pear trees. However, there is much more besides, such as the wildflower meadow, the cascade and its three ponds, which once stocked fish for the lord and lady's table, Lady Vane's topiary, dating back to the 1890s, and the chance to keep an eye out for a variety of wildlife in the woods, including red squirrels, a variety of birds and possibly even roe deer.

Entrance to the garden costs £7 for adults, with under 16s free, and opening hours are 10am to 5pm (closed Saturdays).





A vibrant garden scene featuring a variety of plants. In the foreground, there are large white and pink peonies, smaller pink and white flowers, and tall white seed heads. To the left, a large bush of bright yellow flowers stands out. In the middle ground, a dense row of purple flowers stretches across the frame. The background is filled with tall, green trees and a well-maintained lawn. A red banner with the word "MIREHOUSE" is positioned in the upper right corner.

MIREHOUSE



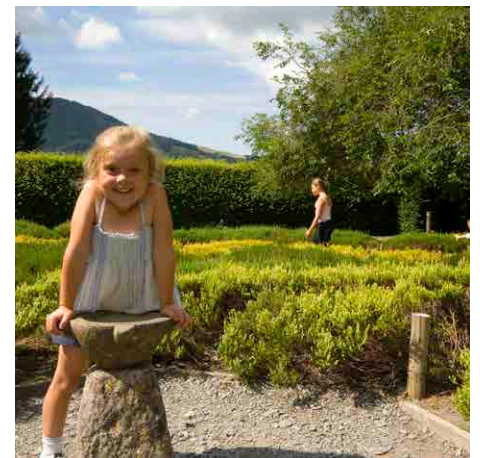
Head to **Mirehouse**, on Bassenthwaite lake's shores near Keswick, ([www.mirehouse.co.uk](http://www.mirehouse.co.uk)) where terraced gardens feature herbaceous planting, lawns, child-friendly grassy banks and a lovely colonnade, adorned with summer roses. Honeybees create a real buzz and Mirehouse's sheltered walled Bee Garden has shrubs on which they feast, whilst visitors enjoy the warmth and tranquillity, seek out bee boles, discover poet Tennyson's Potting Shed, where he once sheltered from the rain and the Virgil inscription, in front of the hives, "The first thing is to find a suitable site for your bees."



The Heather Path Maze is another bee haven, based on a medieval Christian Church design, to inspire quiet contemplation.

The Canada Garden houses a snuff garden and leads you to the Poetry Walk, celebrating Mirehouse's famous literary connections, not just with Tennyson but with many Lake Poets too. Add to the thrills a rhododendron tunnel, lakeshore walk and four woodland playgrounds, with various challenges and there's lots to see daily, between 10am and 4.30pm.

Tickets can be bought at Dodd Woods car park, costing £4.50 for adults or £2 for children (under 4s free). Dogs on a short lead can enter grounds but not play areas.





# MUNCASTER







On Cumbria's west coast, **Muncaster** ([www.muncaster.co.uk](http://www.muncaster.co.uk)) has 77 acres in which it is probably not herbaceous borders, but many other elements, that led Ruskin to describe it as the Gateway to Paradise.

The glorious grounds include Japanese gardens, with maples at their absolute best in summer, plus camellia and bamboo planting. In the Sino-Himalayan Gardens, many specimens are rarely seen in the UK and thrive thanks to acid soil, the Gulf Stream and climatic conditions very similar to those of the Himalayan foothills.

This area is acclaimed for springtime rhododendrons and, at one time, Muncaster had Europe's largest collection of species rhododendrons. The Old Rose Garden is now an arena for daily owl shows (11.30am), as Muncaster is also home to the Hawk and Owl Centre.

Birds of prey, have their own arena and leave visitors awe-struck at Sky Hunter shows staged later in the day (2pm) (doggies on leads welcome), before it's the turn of herons to wow, at the 4pm Heron Feed. Tickets for gardens, Hawk and Owl Centre, plus flying displays cost £11.70 and £5.85 for adults and children respectively bought online, or £13 and £6.50, on arrival.





In the South Lakes, there are seven Cumbria's Living Heritage members with gardens to captivate you, whether you are a keen garden enthusiast or just an inquisitive visitor, with these being: Levens Hall and Gardens; Holker Hall and Gardens; Rydal Mount; Wordsworth Grasmere; Brockhole; Brantwood and Blackwell – the Arts and Crafts House.

**CUMBRIA'S LIVING HERITAGE**

GREAT HOUSES, GARDENS & CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS IN & AROUND THE LAKE DISTRICT



A lush garden scene featuring a variety of flowers. In the foreground, there are tall, slender purple delphiniums and white foxgloves. To the right, a large cluster of white daisies is in bloom. The garden is set against a backdrop of dark green foliage and a stone wall. A red banner with white text is positioned at the top of the image.

# LEVENS HALL & GARDENS



**Levens Hall and Gardens** ([www.levenshall.co.uk](http://www.levenshall.co.uk)), although best known as home to the world's oldest topiary garden dating from 1694, also nurtures 30,000 bedding plants in its greenhouses each year, to make its herbaceous borders around the striking topiary and other garden locations truly eye-catching and some of England's best.

This delight accompanies that of exploring the abstract, geometrically shaped and themed topiary trees, pruned into their form by the patient clipping of box and yew, whether depicting Elizabeth I, a judge's wig, peacocks, top hat or something quirky, such as a toppling wedding cake. See one of the UK's most famous topiary trees, the Great Umbrella tree, before moving on to various themed gardens including the Fountain Garden, planted to celebrate the gardens' 300th year, and the Rose Garden, wildflower meadows and a wonderful Willow labyrinth.

Do look out for one of the UK's oldest ha-ha features when you visit from Sunday to Thursday (closed Fridays and Saturdays), to October 7, from 10.30am to 4pm. Entrance to the Gardens costs £10.50 for an adult, £4 for a child and £26 for a family.





# HOLKER HALL & GARDENS



**Holker Hall and Gardens** ([www.holker.co.uk](http://www.holker.co.uk)) has magnificent summer herbaceous borders to absorb visually and breathe in for the fragrance of summer blooms. The Summer Garden is a great place to appreciate this, but do let the eye wander to the little details, such as rings of box around clipped trees, urns planted-up sublimely and surrounded by cubes of box, and other architectural elements that combine with the natural glories.





Three walks – the Burlington, Lady Moyra and Cavendish – lead you around with purpose, ensuring you do not miss anything notable, such as the 17th century Italian marble statue of Neptune on the magnificent cascade. Look out for the Slate Sundial and the dramatic Labyrinth, channelling both Hindu temple inspiration and the cultural influence of Cumbrian stone circles. Another big personality is the 17th century Holker Great Lime, one of the UK's most notable trees and 72 feet high and 25 feet wide.

In spring, these gardens are known for their rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias, but the garden is also home to the National Collection of Styracaceae. Visit Gardens & Parkland for £9 for an adult (under 16s free), Wednesday to Sunday (closed Mondays and Tuesdays) and book a Tour and Tea with the Head Gardener on July 21 or September 22 (2pm: £25 including afternoon tea).



# RYDAL MOUNT







**Rydal Mount** and Wordsworth Grasmere both boast gardens which influenced their resident, poet William Wordsworth's, compositions and life. Rydal Mount ([www.rydalmount.co.uk](http://www.rydalmount.co.uk)) has fittingly romantic herbaceous borders, alongside small paths walked by England's most famous poet, planned himself when landscaping this garden and creating a series of terraces, with careful planting that never obscured the view. That was important from the only property to offer a view of Eng-

land's largest and smallest lakes – Windermere and Rydal Water. The borders and lawns set off the charming house to a tee and walking the terraces where Wordsworth would pace, reciting his poetry out loud, creates spine-tingling moments.

Explore the more wooded areas to try to track down Wordsworth's elusive cuckoo, the 9th century Norse Mound, the garden's rock pools and the poet's outdoor writing hut.

The lawns are a place to relax (dogs on leads welcome), imagining life in the time of the Wordsworth family and the poet's 37 years here, from 1813 (aged 43). Hydrangeas, Japanese maples, buddlejas, fuchsias, geraniums, day-lilies and flowering eucryphias can all be seen, if you visit the garden on a self-guided basis for £5 per person or for £15 for a family of two adults and two children, any weekday between 9.30am and 5pm.





# DOVE COTTAGE







### Wordsworth Grasmere

([www.wordsworth.org.uk](http://www.wordsworth.org.uk)) encompasses Dove Cottage, where Wordsworth lived between 1799 and 1808, during years of *"plain living and high thinking"*. The lack of herbaraceous borders in the fellside cottage garden communicates much about the Wordsworths' life in Grasmere.

Money was not in abundance and Dorothy Wordsworth would frequently add plants found on the fellside, whilst out walking with her brother, this including honeysuckle, planted under the yew tree, and marsh marigolds and gowan, referenced in Wordsworth's po-

etry. Wildflowers abounded, as they do today, whilst herbs and practical plants, such as peas, cabbages, scarlet beans and turnips kept all fed. Mosses, lichens and native ferns were much embraced by Dorothy (and many other Victorians) and introduced into their humble garden. The fairly compact and sloping, hillside garden with small orchard offers insight into all and the Wordsworths' friendships – just seek out the Rock of Names to see the initials of Wordsworths, Hutchinsons and Coleridges, carved into a rock originally located at the friends' fells meeting place.

The garden also gives you the thrill of visiting the arbour and terrace, where the Wordsworths would have whiled away their hours. Visit Dove Cottage, the garden-orchard and Wordsworth Museum Tuesday to Saturday (closed Sundays/Mondays), between 10am and 5pm, for £12 for an adult and £6 for children aged 5-16. Under-5s enter for free. Exclude cottage tour and pay £8.50/£4 for the gardens experience.





# BROCKHOLE







set off the views of the Langdale Pikes sublimely.

The glorious herbaceous borders at Brockhole grow alongside shrub roses, wildflower meadows and numerous interesting and unusual plants from all over the world. All flourish thanks to the temperate climate in the gardens where, plants and flowers were watered by Victorian sprinkler system.

Some original Mawson conifers and broadleaves still dot the landscape and his kitchen garden has been recreated. Explore the grounds on a variety of themed trails, from Woodland Faerie house to Giant Minibeasts and Beatrix Potter, or en route to a tree tops adventure, boat or kayak hire, or an activity such as archery, Crazy Karts or laser clay, not to mention paddling in the lake or picnicking.



**Brockhole** ([www.brockhole.co.uk](http://www.brockhole.co.uk)), located between Ambleside and Windermere, was originally the private residence of the Gaddums, relatives of Beatrix Potter and wealthy enough to have the acclaimed Thomas Mawson design their gardens. A series of terraces (ideal for promenading) led family and guests to lake Windermere and

Discover the wooded areas, arrive by Windermere Lake Cruise boat after a cruise on the lake, go orienteering or walk your pooch. The gardens and grounds are open from 10am to 5pm and charges are for activities rather than admission.



BLACKWELL



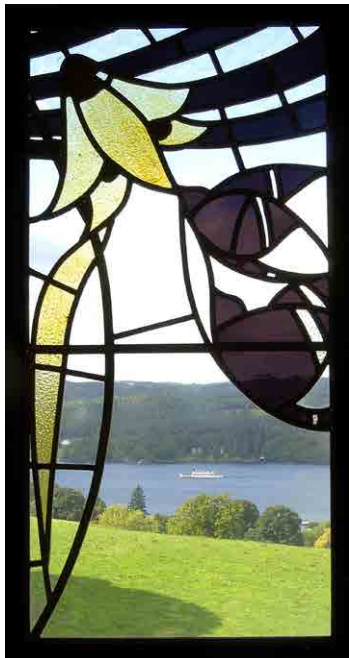




**Blackwell - the Arts & Crafts House** (<https://lakelandarts.org.uk/blackwell/>), with stunning views over Windermere and to the Coniston Fells, is another member of Cumbria's Living Heritage whose gardens were designed by Thomas Mawson. Here the herbaceous borders and flower beds are set against a terrace of York stone paving, where tables and seating allow you to appreciate the fragrance of flowers, designs of which might also be found in the exquisite interior of Blackwell.

Exploring this garden is all about enjoying its pleasures in harmony with the view of the landscape beyond – an experience second to none, whether you are sipping chilled wine or cappuccino.

Blackwell's lawned garden areas and pathways, shop and café (all affording the view) can be enjoyed without paying for entrance to the house, with opening hours being 10am to 5pm daily. Entrance to the house, to marvel at the amazing craftsmanship and nature motifs within, costs £9 (adult ) and £4.50 (child)





# BRANTWOOD



**Brantwood** ([www.brantwood.org.uk](http://www.brantwood.org.uk)), the stunning lakeside home and gardens, formerly owned by philosopher, writer and early environmentalist, John Ruskin, sits on Coniston's shores, enjoying magnificent views.

Herbaceous borders in the Lower Gardens, along path linking house and lake, and along the Trellis Walk, which traces the significance of plants in British culture from medieval times to the Victorians and beyond, sit within gardens with eight distinct themes and moods.





This includes the Fern Garden, with over 250 different types of fern, The Zig Zaggy, representing Dante's Purgatorial Mount, and the Hortus Inclusus, where over 200 British herbs form a medieval manuscript design. A High Walk exudes colour and scent and hovers above the Maple Walk. The Harbour Walk leads you past beds full of azaleas and alongside the orchard. A wild Moorland Garden is a blank canvas, whilst in The Professor's Garden, you can enjoy Ruskin's favourite spot and a place dedicated to plants beneficial for body and soul.

Explore the Bee Penthouse here and head just above it to find the slate throne that is Ruskin's Seat, where you and your pooch can pose for pictures, given Brantwood's dog-friendly stance, if doggies stay on their lead. Higher gardens require sturdier shoes and some walking, whilst the lower gardens are ideal if you are only able to enjoy gentle exercise.

Brantwood opens every day, from March to November, from 10.30am to 5pm, closing at 4pm for the rest of the year. Gardens admission costs £6.20 for adults and is free for under-16s.



# CUMBRIA'S LIVING HERITAGE

GREAT HOUSES, GARDENS & CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS IN & AROUND THE LAKE DISTRICT



With all of these awe-inspiring gardens at your disposal, why not make a break for our amazing herbaceous border in Cumbria this summer? Your staycation could be sweetly scented and a fragrant and floral foray into the world of gardens and gardening. Become inspired or simply relish the aesthetics and never pick up a trowel yourself. Either way, you will have memories for a lifetime.

Visit [www.cumbrialivingheritage.co.uk](http://www.cumbrialivingheritage.co.uk) for more ideas of what to see and do, at some of our most historic properties and discover just what an enriching experience an exploration of living history can be.