

**Bridge End Garden** is open, free to the public, all year except Christmas Day. Opening times of various sections of the Garden are seasonal. For specific details please contact the Tourist Information Centre.

For enquiries relating to the Garden's care, use and hire, please email Saffron Walden Town Council: [bookings@saffronwalden.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@saffronwalden.gov.uk)

Most of the Garden, including the Visitor Centre and toilets, is wheelchair accessible.

For further details see [www.bridgeendgarden.org](http://www.bridgeendgarden.org)

For further information about places to visit, where to stay, local events and activities, contact:

**Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre**  
1 Market Place, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1HR

**Tourist Information Centre opening hours:**

Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 4pm

Bank Holidays, April to August, 10.30am to 1pm

01799 524002 [tourism@saffronwalden.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@saffronwalden.gov.uk)

[www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk](http://www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk)

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**For visitors. For residents. For you.**



The Friends of  
**BRIDGE END  
GARDENS**



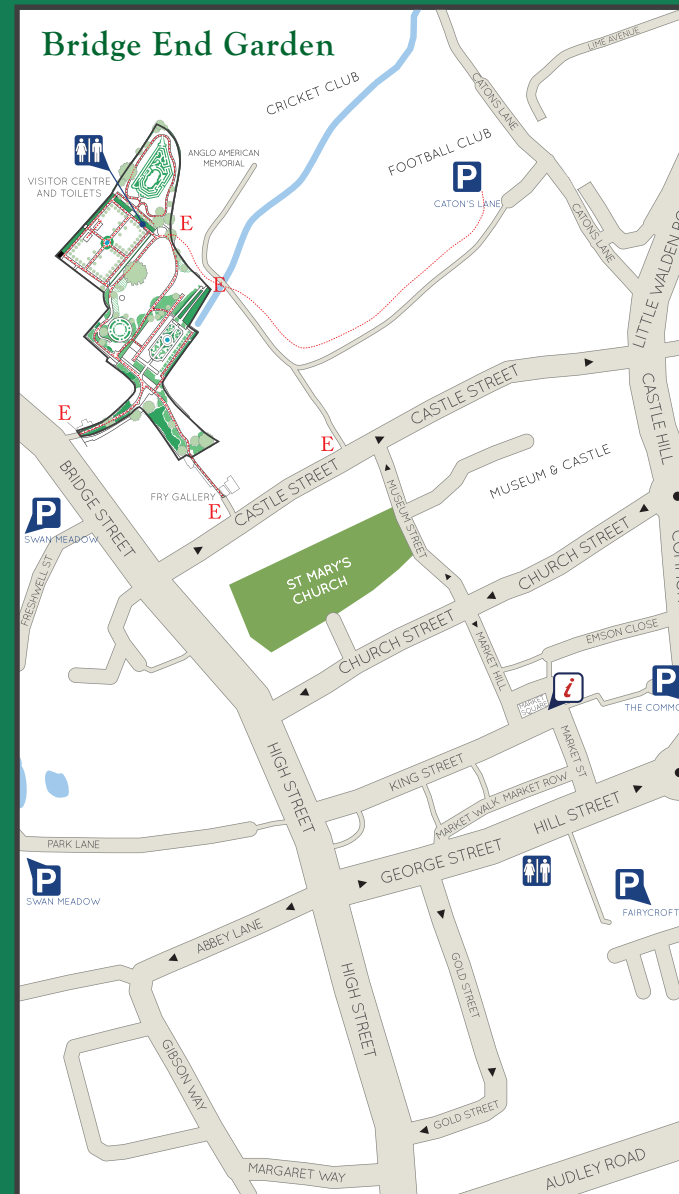
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## Bridge End Garden



The nearest public car parks are **Swan Meadow** (CB10 1DH), **The Common** (CB10 1JH), **Caton's Lane** (CB10 2DU) and **Fairycroft** (CB10 1FJ). All are approximately 10 minutes' walk from the Garden.

Design & Print by Fraser Parry  
Illustration by Harry Frostick  
[www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk](http://www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk)

## Bridge End Garden Saffron Walden



**A Victorian  
garden reborn...**





Bridge End Garden was created around 1840 by Francis Gibson, a local Quaker businessman who also built the Fry Art Gallery. Francis' daughter Elizabeth married Lewis Fry of Bristol and in 1918 the Fry family leased the Garden to the local council. It has been open to the public ever since.

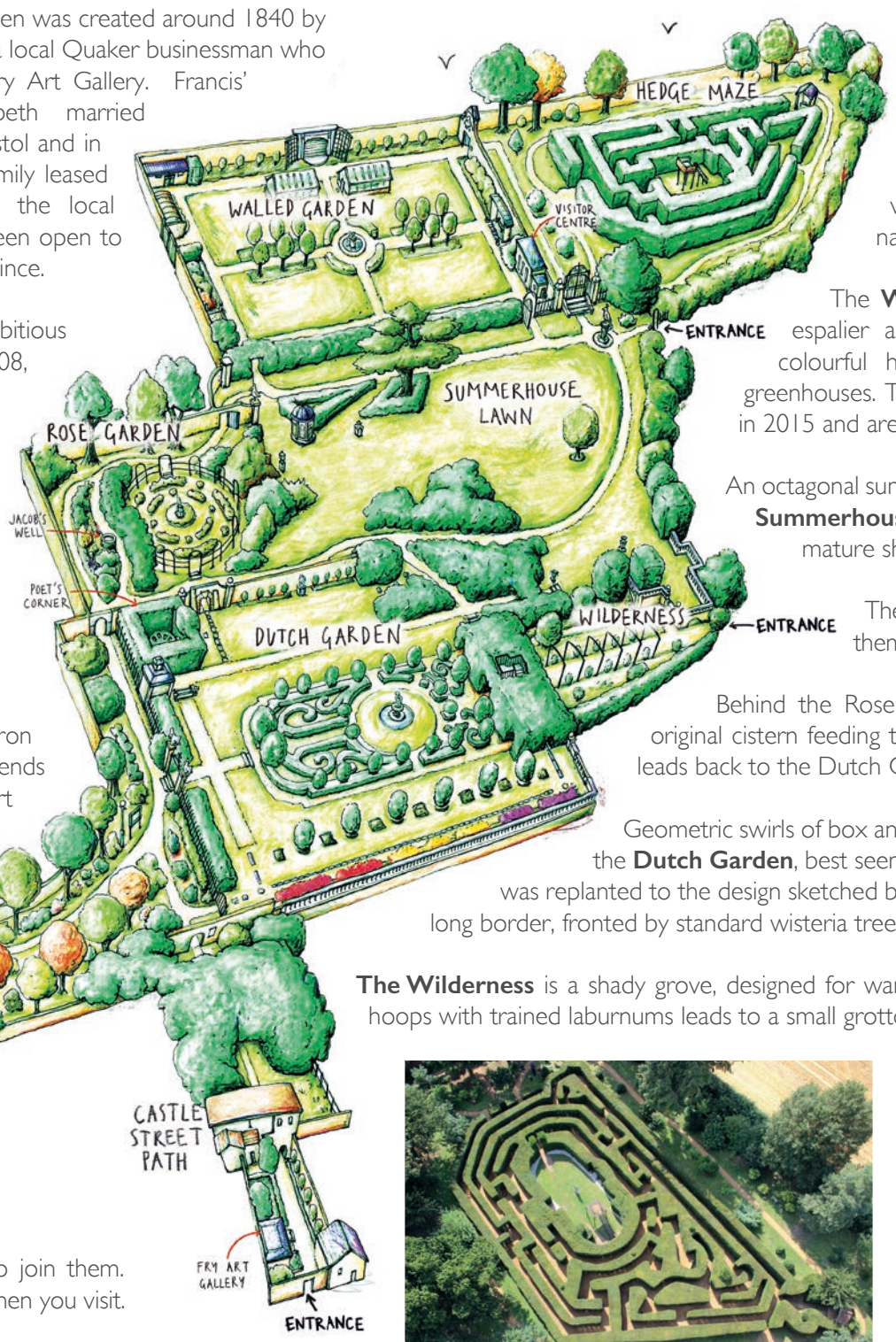
Over time, the Garden fell into neglect. An ambitious restoration project took place between 2003 and 2008, it is now Grade II\* Registered. You can learn more about the history and restoration in the Visitor Centre, located in the Walled Garden.

Bridge End Garden is a popular spot for visitors and locals alike. It is the perfect place for a summer picnic or to provide a quiet escape from modern life. Theatre and live music regularly feature within the Garden, with local school exhibitions and exclusive wedding marquee events.

Since 2010, the Garden has been managed by Saffron Walden Town Council, with support from The Friends of Bridge End Gardens, a charity formed to support the restoration, management and future development of the Garden.

The Friends welcome newcomers and volunteers to join them. Look out for our noticeboard near the Eagle Gates when you visit.

© Garden illustration, 2021



Francis Gibson designed the Garden as a series of interlocking 'rooms', each with its own unique character.

The **Hedge Maze** was replanted in 1984 with over a thousand young yews. In its centre is a viewing platform. The Maze is surrounded by native and ornamental trees.

The **Walled Garden** contains Victorian varieties of espalier and cordon-trained fruit trees together with colourful herbaceous borders and two reconstructed greenhouses. The **Visitor Centre and toilets** were opened in 2015 and are located here.

An octagonal summerhouse nestles beneath an old cedar on the **Summerhouse Lawn**, which is surrounded by leafy beds of mature shrubs and trees.

The formal **Rose Garden** is planted with Victorian themed varieties and is the oldest part of the Garden.

Behind the Rose Garden is **Jacob's Well**, thought to be the original cistern feeding the fountain in the Dutch Garden. An archway leads back to the Dutch Garden and the secluded **Poet's Corner**.

Geometric swirls of box and closely clipped yew form a sunken parterre in the **Dutch Garden**, best seen from the viewing platform or the long walks. It was replanted to the design sketched by Gertrude Jekyll when she visited in 1912. The long border, fronted by standard wisteria trees, is a vibrant backdrop in summer.

The **Wilderness** is a shady grove, designed for wandering and reflection. The central archway of hoops with trained laburnums leads to a small grotto.



### Support the Garden...

**Become a Friend:** your £15 annual subscription will help to buy plants and educational resources.

**Gardening:** our volunteers help to keep the garden in trim. Please join us at 10am any Thursday morning.

**Archiving:** join our team of volunteers who are documenting the history of the garden.

**Donate:** scan the QR code or visit the Friends' website  
Payment by cheque or card at the Tourist Information Centre.



For further information please contact The Honorary Secretary, The Friends of Bridge End Gardens, c/o Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre or email: [friends@bridgeendgarden.org](mailto:friends@bridgeendgarden.org)

[www.bridgeendgarden.org](http://www.bridgeendgarden.org)



I wish to join/donate to The Friends of Bridge End Gardens.  
Annual membership (April to March) for individuals or families  
is a single payment of £15. I enclose the sum of £.....

Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Bridge End Gardens

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....  
Address.....  
.....  
..... Postcode .....  
Email .....

Thank you for your support.  
We will write to confirm receipt and invite you to treat your subscription/donation as Gift Aid.

Please send completed form with your remittance to the Membership Secretary, The Friends of Bridge End Gardens, c/o Tourist Information Centre, 1 Market Place, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1HR