

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

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

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 5pm
 Bank Holidays, April to August, 10.30am to 1pm
 01799 524002 tourism@saffronwalden.gov.uk
www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk

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For Visitors. For Residents. For You.

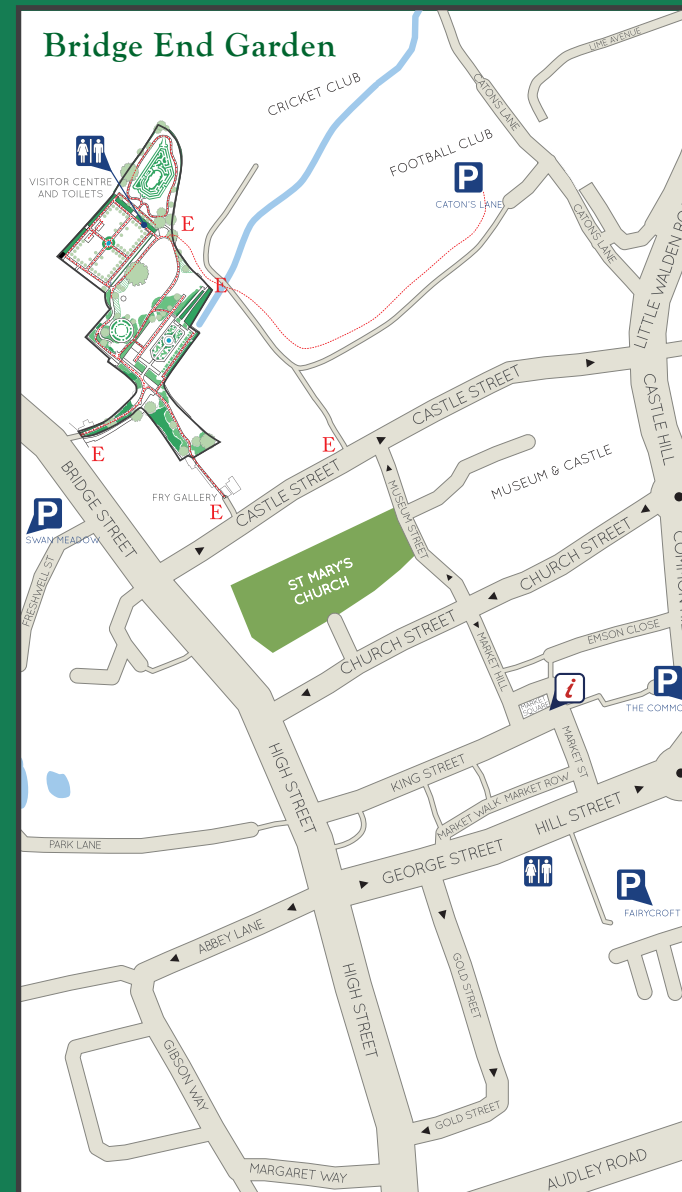


The Friends of
**BRIDGE END
 GARDENS**



Design & Print by Fraser Parry - www.fraserparryphotography.co.uk
 Photo Credits - Mat Lester, Inger O'Meara, Mark Ropkins, John Bagley, Simon Ross, Nathan Doe & Saffron Walden Camera Club.
 Illustration by Harry Frostick

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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.

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Bridge End Garden Saffron Walden



**A Victorian
Garden reborn...**



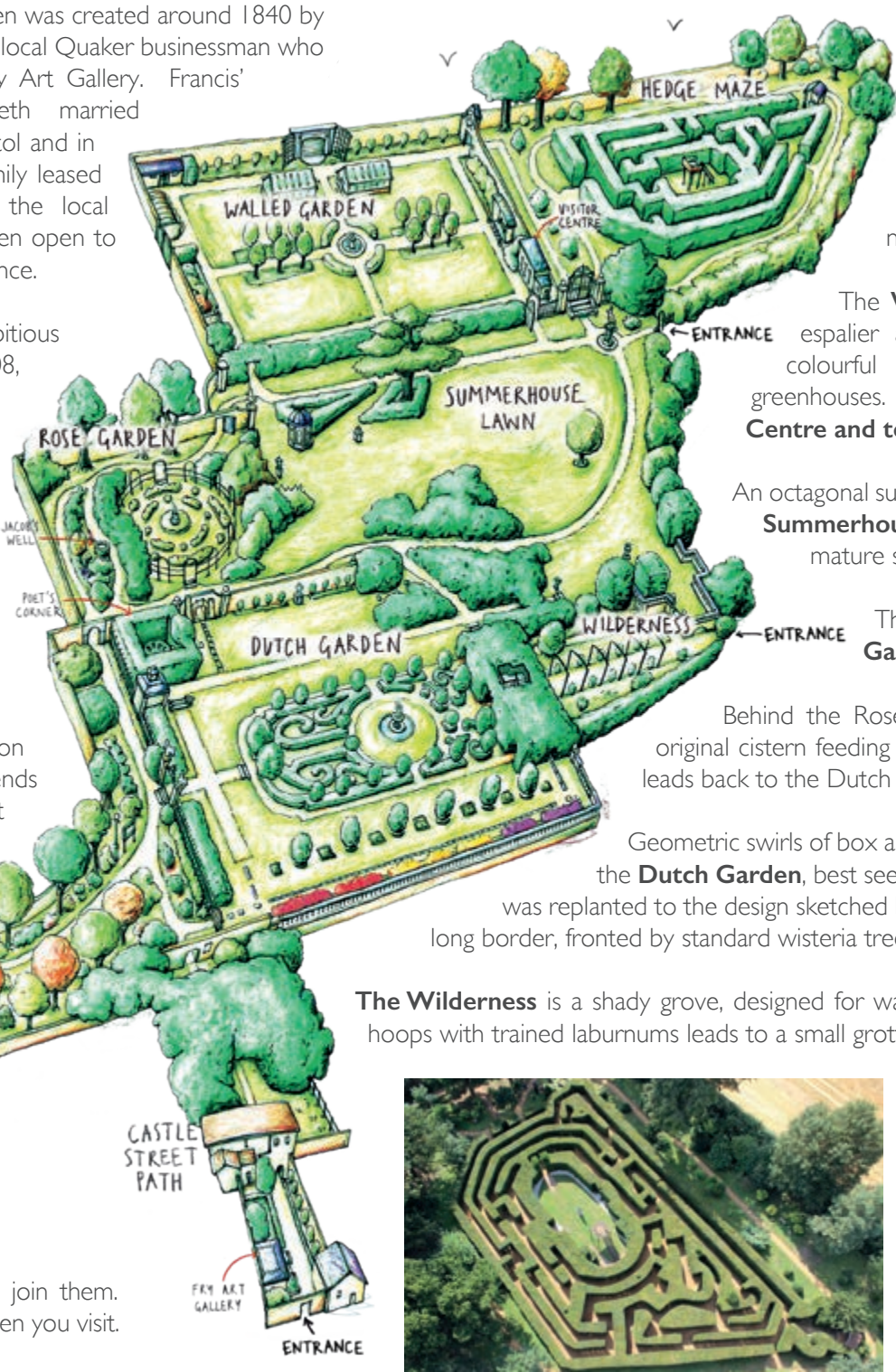
Bridge End Garden was created around 1840 by Francis Gibson, a local Quaker businessman who also built the Fry Art Gallery. Francis' daughter Elizabeth married Lewis Fry of Bristol and in 1918 the Fry family leased the Garden to the local council. It has been open to the public ever since.

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.



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. Within this Walled Garden is **The Visitor Centre and toilets** opened in 2015.

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

The oldest part of the Gardens is the formal **Rose Garden** which is planted with Victorian varieties.

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.



Help the Gardening grow...

Please join our Volunteers to keep the Garden in trim. We meet every Thursday at 10am throughout the year.

Become a Friend: your £10 annual subscription will help to buy plants and educational resources.

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

Donate: online at www.virginmoneygiving.com or use the form below.



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.co.uk



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 £10. I enclose the sum of £.....

Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Bridge End Gardens

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss)
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