

Llanover Garden

Monmouthshire, South Wales, UK

Information for Gardening Groups 2018



Contact

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Garden description

This 15-acre Grade II listed garden, set within a beautiful park, features a walled Round Garden, two Arboreta and extensive lawns. The Rhyd-y-Meirch (*Ford of the Stallions*) stream flows the entire length of the garden, tumbling into ponds, over cascades, alongside herbaceous borders and beneath flagstone bridges. More than 60 magnolias grace the estate.

Llanover Garden was established in the late 18th century by Benjamin Waddington, the great-great-great-grandfather of the present owner, Elizabeth Murray. Visitors can still admire the magnificent London Plane trees planted over 200 years ago, together with the unusual trees and shrubs planted between 1960 and 1999 by Elizabeth's father Robin Herbert CBE VMH, a former President of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).



Although historic, new plantings and ideas are continually being considered at Llanover Garden. In 2006 Llanover Garden School was established, offering a programme of day courses where gardening experts share their knowledge. Over the past ten years, the deep borders in the Round Garden have been replanted to the design brief "Maximum effect for Minimum effort", a former pond has been recreated as the Bog Garden, and a glade of Hydrangeas has been established beneath a canopy of the autumn colouring Acer 'Brandywine'. Helping to chart the future of this much-loved landscape is Peter Hall, an RHS Associate of Honour, formerly Head Gardener for the National Trust at Dunham Massey, Stourhead and Powis Castle.



There is a border, a view or unusual plant of interest to enjoy in every month of the year. The early flowering Magnolias and spring bulbs are the highlights of April. The herbaceous borders gain momentum, height and depth as spring blends into the summer months. During June and July the flowerbeds are overflowing with herbaceous perennials including many Roses. From early August through to the first frosts, the borders are dominated by stunning half hardy annuals such as Cannas, Dahlias and Salvias. Colourful berries and seedheads blaze through September and October, while the trees planted for their glorious autumn hues create a spectacular backdrop.

At the centre of the garden is Tŷ Uchaf (*Upper House*) - not open to the public - which is the birthplace of Augusta Waddington (1802-1896), better known as Lady Llanover. A champion of the Welsh language and culture, Lady Llanover introduced the flock of Black Welsh Mountain Sheep which can be seen grazing in the parkland. The bell known as 'Big Ben' in the clock tower of the Palace of Westminster, London was named after Lady Llanover's husband, Sir Benjamin Hall MP, later Lord Llanover.



Group visits

We offer two options for group visits: **Guided tour** and **Day course**.

Guided tour

- You are welcomed by the owner Elizabeth Murray, who leads a personalised tour. Peter Hall, the Head Gardener, may also accompany larger groups.
- The guided tour includes a brief history of the family and their influence on the garden over the past two centuries, planting schemes, wild flower and grass management and maintenance of historic features.
- Groups are welcome to walk around the garden unaccompanied, if they prefer.
- Tea/coffee and home-made cake is served in the garden, or indoors if the weather is poor.
- There is an option to upgrade to a two-course seated lunch with a glass of wine or elderflower pressé (additional charge).
- Multi-lingual tours are available, if booked in advance (additional charge).

Opening times

Guided tours are available on weekdays from late March to the end of October.

Length of visit

2 hours, for a guided tour and tea/coffee with cake.

2.5 hours, if two-course lunch is included before or after the tour.

Group size

Minimum 15

Maximum 45

When a guided tour is booked, the minimum charge for 15 people is payable, even if the number attending falls below that. Visitors aged under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.



Day course

- Our day courses offer a rare chance to learn from gardening experts in an informal setting, wander around Llanover Garden and enjoy relaxed conversation over good food.
- Recent talks at our day courses have included
 - ‘Designing with plants at Great Dixter’ – Head Gardener Fergus Garrett explores colour, shape, texture, repetition and balance
 - ‘Landscape of Dreams’ – Isabel and Julian Bannerman delve into some of their garden designs
 - ‘Beyond the Border’ – Anna Pavord, The Independent’s gardening correspondent, considers how to plan a superb flower border
- The courses take place in the renovated coach-house at Llanover Garden.
- Typically, a day course starts with coffee and biscuits at 10am followed by the morning talk. A delicious two-course lunch with wine or elderflower pressé is served before the afternoon talk starts at 2pm. The day ends with tea/coffee and home-made cake.
- There is plenty of scope for questions and discussions.
- A selection of plants and books may be available for purchase.

Opening times

Day courses are usually planned for March, October and December, and may be booked by individuals or small groups. There is scope to arrange a day course exclusively for groups of at least 20 people, at any time of the year.

Length of visit

10am - 4pm

Group size

Minimum 4, if booking places on a course that is part of our existing programme.

Minimum 20, if course is organised exclusively for your group.

Maximum 45

When a course is organised exclusively for your group, the minimum charge for 20 people is payable, even if the number attending falls below that. Visitors aged under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.



Planning a group visit

We aim to make visits to Llanover Garden simple for groups to arrange and memorable for everyone.

Complimentary services

- Preview visit for tour operator
- Risk assessment, if required
- Parking for coaches, mini-buses and cars
- Entry for organiser of groups of 15 or more
- Entry and refreshments for coach driver
- Images for marketing materials

Facilities

- Coach set-down and pick-up point just outside main gate
- Free on-site parking for 29-seater coaches, mini-buses and cars
- Toilets
- Room where refreshments/lunches are served if the weather is poor
- We welcome assistance dogs and well-behaved dogs on leads, and we provide bowls of fresh water

Parking

- **Coaches** There are two 'pull-in' bus stops near the main entrance, at the top of the drive, where visitors can safely disembark. Coach visitors are met here.
- **Smaller coaches and minibuses** Our main gates are wide enough for a typical 29-seater coach and minibuses to drive through. These vehicles can continue up the tarmac drive to the house, where there is space to turn around and park.
- **Cars** There is space for up to 40 cars to park, either at the house or on a nearby field, depending on numbers and weather.

Location

Llanover Garden is in the village of Llanover about 5 miles (8 km) south of Abergavenny, on the eastern edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales. Nearby are the picturesque market towns of Abergavenny, Crickhowell and Usk.

Llanover Garden is easily accessed by road via the M4, M5 and M50. Detailed directions will be provided with each booking confirmation. If using Sat Nav, NP7 9EF directs drivers to Llanover but, once in the village, do not follow the direction to turn off the A4042 down the narrow Hanover Lane. Stay on the A4042 and turn into the gated entrance which is opposite a pull-in bus stop with bus shelter and telephone box.

Travel

Llanover Garden is just 25 minutes from junctions 24, 25A and 26 of the M4, and 40 minutes from the M50.

Approximate distances from Llanover:

Bath	90 miles / 145 km	Gloucester	48 miles / 77 km
Birmingham	90 miles / 145 km	Hereford	28 miles / 44 km
Bristol	43 miles / 68 km	London (Heathrow)	135 miles / 218 km
Cardiff	28 miles / 44 km	Ross-on-Wye	29 miles / 47 km
Cheltenham	65 miles / 104 km	Swansea	53 miles / 86 km

Accessibility

The main drive is smooth tarmac. Vehicles park on tarmac, gravel or grass (only in dry weather). The garden has paths on either side of streams and ponds. The flagstone bridges which cross the streams can be slippery in damp weather so please walk across them slowly. The garden has some slight inclines and many grass or gravel paths which, unfortunately, can make pushing manual wheelchairs hard work in some places. There are two streams, three ponds and other water features in the garden which are all unfenced. For your own safety, please do not leave children or dependents unsupervised. If a member of your group has any special requirements, please contact us to discuss how we can help make your visit an enjoyable one.

Group rates 2018

Garden tour

For pre-booked groups of 15 visitors or more:

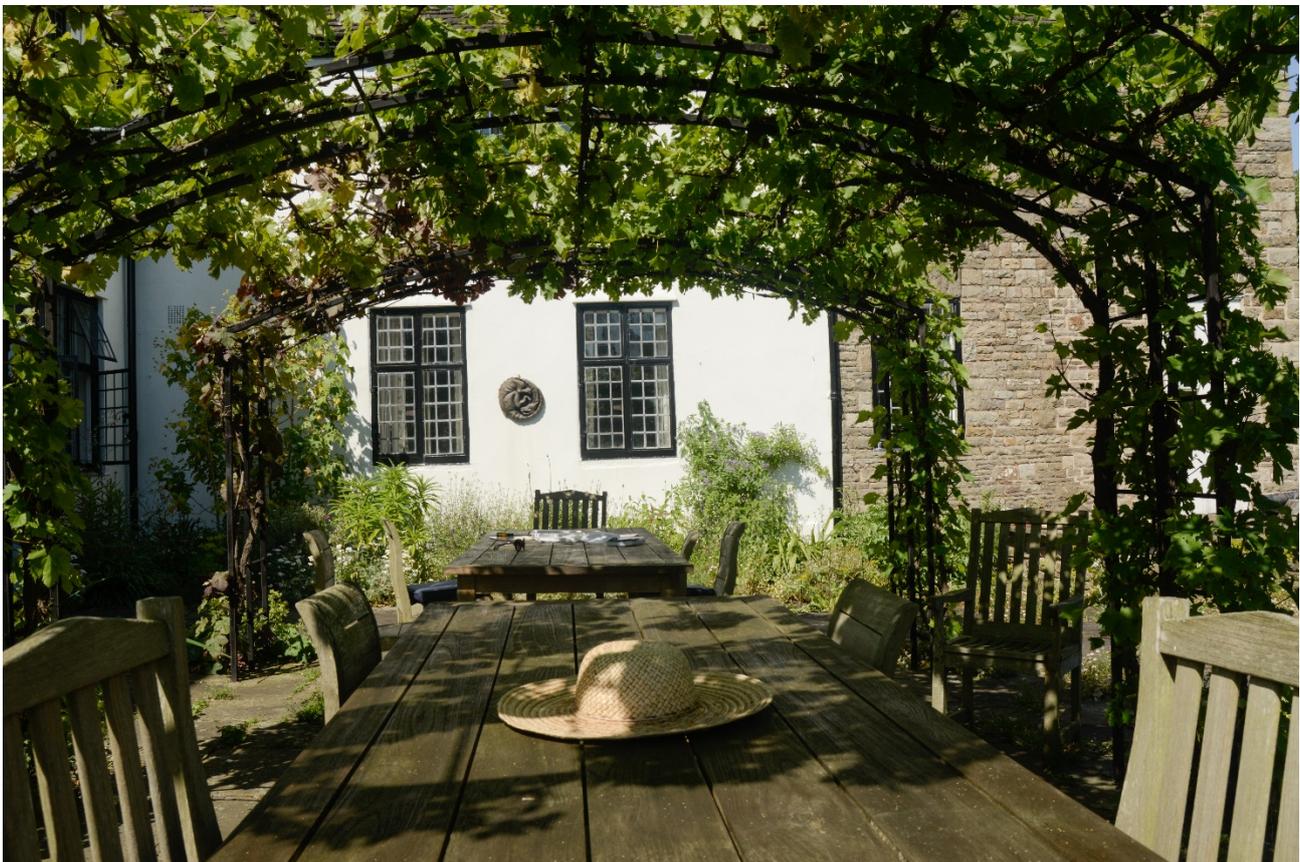
- Guided garden tour with tea/coffee and cake, from £12 per person
- Guided garden tour with 2-course seated lunch with a glass of wine or elderflower pressé, from £28 per person

Day course

For pre-booked groups of 4 visitors or more, including morning coffee, 2-course lunch with a glass of wine or elderflower pressé, and afternoon tea, from £65 per person

Guide book

Full colour 36-page guide book that includes a map of the garden £3



How to book

Contact Elizabeth Murray by phone +44 (0)7753 423635 or email elizabeth@llanover.com to discuss your requirements. All group bookings must be made and paid in advance, and numbers attending need to be confirmed at least 48 hours before the visit.

Payment methods

Preferably by cheque or BACS transfer, at least 14 days in advance.

Cancellation

If you need to cancel your group's visit, please telephone us as soon as possible. Cancellations received more than 14 days in advance of the visit will be fully refunded.

Inspiration for a longer visit

We would be delighted to help you plan an itinerary for a longer visit to this beautiful region on the England/Wales border. We have links with excellent accommodation providers and official tourist guides. The following attractions and events are close to Llanover Garden:

Gardens

[Allt y bela, near Usk](#)

[Brockhampton Cottage, Herefordshire](#)

[Dewstow Gardens, near Caldicot](#)

[Glebe House, near Abergavenny](#)

[Grendon Court, Herefordshire](#)

[Hampton Court Castle & Gardens, Herefordshire](#)

[High Glanau Manor, near Monmouth](#)

[Nant-y-Bedd, near Abergavenny](#)

[New Inn Farm, near Abergavenny](#)

[The Laskett, Herefordshire](#)

[The Pant, near Abergavenny](#)

[Veddw House, near Chepstow](#)

Heritage

[Blaenavon World Heritage Site & Big Pit](#)

[Caerleon Roman amphitheatre & baths](#) and [Roman Legion Museum](#)

[Hereford Cathedral & Mappa Mundi](#)

[Llanthony Priory](#)

[Raglan Castle](#)

[Tintern Abbey](#)

[Tretower Court & Castle](#)

Artisan food and drink producers

[Ancre Hill Estates Vineyard, near Monmouth](#)

[Apple County Cider, near Skenfrith](#)

[Black Mountains Smokery, Crickhowell](#)

[Kingstone Brewery, Tintern](#)

[Sugarloaf Vineyard, Abergavenny](#)

[Trealy Farm Charcuterie, Goytre](#)

[White Castle Vineyard, near Abergavenny](#)

Golf

[Celtic Manor Resort, near Newport](#)

[Marriott St. Pierre, near Chepstow](#)

[The Monmouthshire Golf Club, near Abergavenny](#)

[The Rolls of Monmouth Golf Club, near Monmouth](#)

Events

[Crickhowell Walking Festival](#) (March)

[Hay Festival](#) (May)

[Usk Gardens Open Day](#) (June)

[Monmouthshire Show](#) (July)

[Royal Welsh Agricultural Show](#) (July)

[Three Choirs Festival](#) (July)

[Usk Show](#) (September)

[Abergavenny Food Festival](#) (September)

[Brecon Baroque Festival](#) (October)