

140 might be a Kent Tudor Garden, an English Cottage Garden, a Physic (Medicinal) Garden, a Perfume Garden. ... Perhaps the tea pavilion could be set in a cottage garden ...

... Whilst Connaught Park should always remain a place for the people of Dover District, there seems to be no reason why it should not also be developed as an important tourist attraction. Coach operators would

probably include it in their Dover Castle itineraries. Connaught Park could then be enjoyed going down from the top entrance, leading visitors to the town ... At present the top entrance leads to a long path across the top of the park, receiving much sun. Could this be a Lavender Walk, with rose arches at intervals? Bulbs could be planted for Spring interest."

From the second paragraph onward the following is an extract from a letter written to Mrs J. Dyer by Susan Goodenough, Curator of Ventnor Botanic Garden.

Ventnor Botanic Garden

Ventnor Garden is on a sloping site, near the sea, protected from the north and east by chalk downs. Although frosts are recorded they are usually of short duration.

"... Primarily the Botanic Garden at Ventnor is the responsibility of the Isle of Wight Council. They employ the staff and fund the day to day running of the place. This is as you can probably imagine run on a very limited budget and as the garden is on public open space it does not generate a great deal of revenue for itself.

Having started with the more negative side of the situation the positive aspects of the scheme here is that it is seen as a tourist facility and is therefore part of the council commitment to the tourist industry. The community at large utilises the garden in many ways and the intention is to expand upon this particularly with regard to children and education. There is a very active 'Friends of the Gardens', about 700 strong, autonomous from the council and an active fund raiser for development of the garden. A small rental is obtained from the franchises on the café and the Smuggling Museum that are on site. The Temperate House is currently

generating money through admission fees although this is small beer.

Historically the garden came into being largely through the foresight of the then Ventnor Urban District Council who purchased the site as public open space to avoid over development of housing. A local pressure group called the Isle of Wight Botanic Garden Society were instrumental in the direction that the grounds developed. The involvement of the late Sir Harold Hillier encouraged the society to press for the botanic garden and this is finally how the public open space became the Ventnor Botanic Garden. Officially opened in 1972 by Mountbatten the garden had a short, by garden standards, and very chequered history. After the death of Sir Harold the sourcing of plants dried up and the garden rapidly deteriorated and was virtually destroyed by the 1987 storm. The gardens today have largely been rebuilt by raising our own plants from seed from other botanic gardens around the world. The need for a support nursery to do this was of paramount importance and indeed as the garden continues to develop we are needing to expand this aspect."



The mixed border at Ventnor Botanic Park



The Tavern and its garden



Re-development after the storm of 1987