

HOMELYARDS

Italianate Garden

William Sears designed this garden that is similar to the famous Italian garden at Lindridge and used a number of similar features such as the classical balustrades. From the disused Gardeners Hut, (now a roost for lesser horse-shoe bats and swallows) the central steps lead down to a rectangular lawn where remains of a rose covered bower have recently been discovered and a memorial bench and table Mrs Homeyard set up in honour of William Sears.



BROADLANDS

Pond and Rill

The rill flows down through a series of 3 smaller ponds into the larger pond below; this was stocked with huge ornamental Japanese goldfish in Mrs Homeyard's day. The area has recently been replanted and it is hoped that this water feature will run as a closed circulatory system in the near future.



The Witches Cave

This small grotto constructed of Torquay limestone is reputed to be where 'Old Mother Gum comes down from the woods at dusk and takes tea in her secret cave'.



The Castle

Mrs Homeyard entertained her friends to tea and bridge in this 'summer house'. Its lead roof was stolen many years ago but remains of the weather vane and flag pole can still be seen. It's hoped to refurbish this important feature of the Gardens in the near future.



➔ Entrance

Open all year round. Admission free.

The story behind the Gardens

Homeyards Botanical Gardens were created during the 1920's and 30's for Maria Laetitia Kempe Homeyard. Her husband William had invented and manufactured a very popular patent cough syrup called Liquifruta. They used their fortune to buy Ness Cottage at the east end of the gardens and many of the steeply sloping patchwork of fields above the picturesque village of Shaldon.

Following William Homeyard's death in 1927 Maria continued to create not only the large private garden but also built 54 distinctive houses which completely transformed the hillside above the village. The well known Southwark building firm of Thomas Rider & Sons were brought in and employed a small army of local workers over a 10 year period. With the guidance of garden designer William Sears, Maria created an informal terraced arboretum with a level walk along the top providing many views over the Teign estuary and across Lyme Bay.

Mrs Homeyards died in 1944 and there being no heirs, Teignmouth Town Council bought the gardens in 1950 for a nominal sum. It came under the stewardship of Teignbridge District Council in 1974.

A book about the history, 'Aturfuqil's Shaldon' is available from local shops and Teignmouth Museum. A 'blog' maintained by the Friends of the Gardens lists items of news and developments in the Gardens:

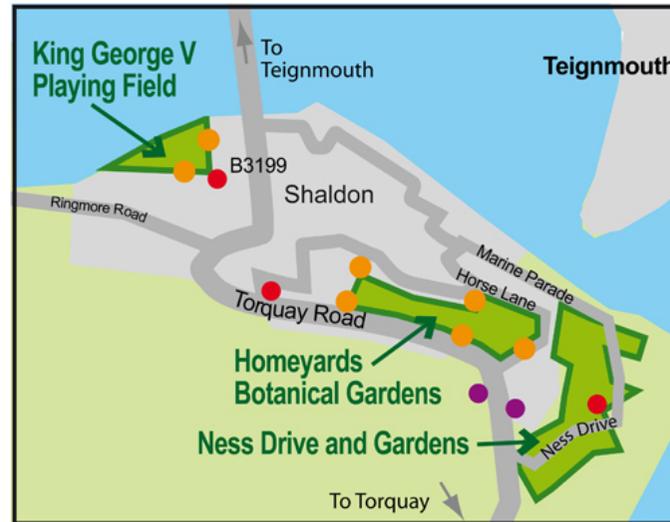
<http://shaldonbotanicals.wordpress.com/>



Trees and plants

365 trees and shrubs were reputed to have been planted but only a few of the originals survive, among them: Three fantastic Weeping Beech (*Fagus sylvatica Pendula*) specimens dominate the lawn area around the Italianate gardens,

the Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus X andrachnoides*) a native of Greece and the large Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*). More unusual recent plantings include the Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) and 3 Tree Ferns (*Dicksonia Antartica*).



● Pedestrian Access Points ● Car Parks ● Bus Stops

Any queries please call 01626 215751 or email greenspaces@teignbridge.gov.uk website: www.teignbridge.gov.uk/homeyards

HOMEYARDS

Botanical Garden



green spaces

 **Teignbridge**
DISTRICT COUNCIL
South Devon