

Dunraven Gardens: the weird and wonderful plant safari!



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Dunraven Gardens started life as a walled paddock during Tudor times, 400-500 years ago. The walls would have provided protection against thieves and wild animals, as well as sheltering the plants from strong winds that blow along the coast. During the Victorian times the Gardens provided food and a place to relax for families living in the nearby Castle.

Buddleia



Buddleia is sometimes called 'butterfly bush', because the colourful flowers are very attractive to butterflies. The flowers grow in clusters and sometimes smell of honey!

Rosa Filipes Kiftsgate



Rosa filipes is part of the rose family and is from China. It has small white flowers which grow in clusters of up to 100 flowers. It can be very fast growing, sometimes reaching 10 metres tall!

The shelter provided by the walls allowed plants from all over the world to grow here. See how many you can find!

Yucca



There are many different species of Yucca plant. Some have edible fruits, seeds and flowers. They are usually grown as ornamental plants for gardens and homes.

Fig



The fig fruit, which you can buy in many shops, grows on this plant. It usually grows in the Middle East or Mediterranean climates where it is warm with little rain.

Medlar



Medlar is a small tree with edible fruit. The fruit is only edible after it has softened and the skin is wrinkled and dark brown. This process is known as bletting. It can then be eaten in lots of dishes, like tarts, jams or with cheese.

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Dunraven Quiz

Look out for the listening post in the Garden. Turn the handle to hear interesting stories. Use the listening post to complete the Dunraven Quiz!

1 In what year were the gardens given the their present design that you see here today?

2 Name a fruit grown here by the Victorians.

3 Many of the exotic plants in the garden were brought here by courageous plant hunters, who travelled the world bringing back different plants from often dangerous places. How did plant hunters Robert Fortune and Ernest Wilson nearly lose their lives?

4 Why does the wind here make life so difficult for trees?

5 Name a bird that migrates along the Dunraven coastline.

Answers
1 1820 2 nectarines, peaches or grapes. 3 Fortune – Chinese pirates, Wilson – avalanche. 4 It contains salt.
5 herring gull, linnet, goldfinch, swallow or willow warbler.