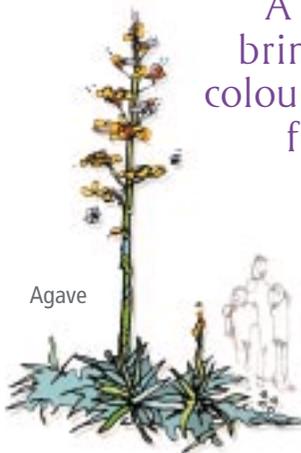


A sub-tropical oasis brimming with vibrant colours, tropical scents and fabulous flowers.



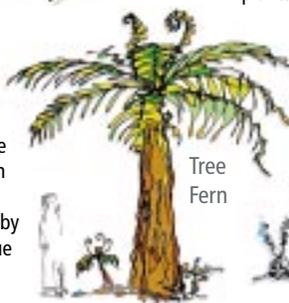
Agave

Agave or 'century Plant' - America - We have an extensive collection of Agaves. Perennial, but each rosette flowers once and then dies.

Heliconias - Pacific Ocean - easily recognised by bright red flowers growing on long stems.

Yucca - N and S America - In the bandstand area in summer the mature plants display huge flower spikes of creamy-white flowers growing from stiff spiky leaves.

Echium - N Africa - There are several Echiums in the gardens which are easily distinguished by their giant blue flower spikes growing to a height of 4 metres...
...irresistible to bees.



Tree Fern



Echium

Cordyline Australis - W Pacific Ocean - One of the showpieces of the gardens was the avenue of palms at the Morrab Road entrance, sadly many have died during harsh winters with only ten remaining today.

Musa - Indo-Malaya and Australia - the 'banana tree' although not in fact a tree at all.

Tree Fern. In general, any fern that grows with a trunk elevating the fronds above ground level can be called a tree fern. At Morrab we are very proud of our collection of ferns some of which are extremely old.

Gunnera Manicata - SE Brazil - gigantic plants, leaves up to 2m wide.

Monkey Puzzle Tree - Chile and W Argentina - There are two trees at the southern end of the gardens. They can grow to 40m high, our specimens, one of which was planted to commemorate the diamond jubilee, are still quite small.



Banana



Magnolia



FRIENDS OF MORRAB GARDENS

Join the Friends of Morrab Gardens

The Friends are a lively group of people who share a love of the gardens. Some volunteer their help in the greenhouses and the grounds, others like to get involved with fundraising, especially at the annual summer fete. Regular events are organised where friends can get together to visit other gardens, learn new horticultural skills or just enjoy a social event.

Most importantly by becoming a Friend of Morrab Gardens you will have a say in the future of the gardens and how best to use the funds raised. Annual subscription is £10 per year for individuals, £15 for couples. Membership information can be found at www.morrabgardens.co.uk

You may also book the gardens and bandstand for events at www.cornwall.gov.uk/events

...remember gardens need friends too!

- 1 Morrab Gardens
- 2 Railway Station
- 3 Jubilee Pool



Car Parks:

- 4 Greenmarket
- 5 Wellfields

Supported by: Councillors' Community Chest.
The Gardens are owned by Cornwall Council.



Researched, illustrated and designed by graemeandrust.co.uk 01872 552286
Printed in West Cornwall on recycled paper using vegetable inks

MORRAB GARDENS

The Friends' guide to...



...the sub-tropical oasis in the heart of Penzance.

MORRAB GARDENS

Garden guide

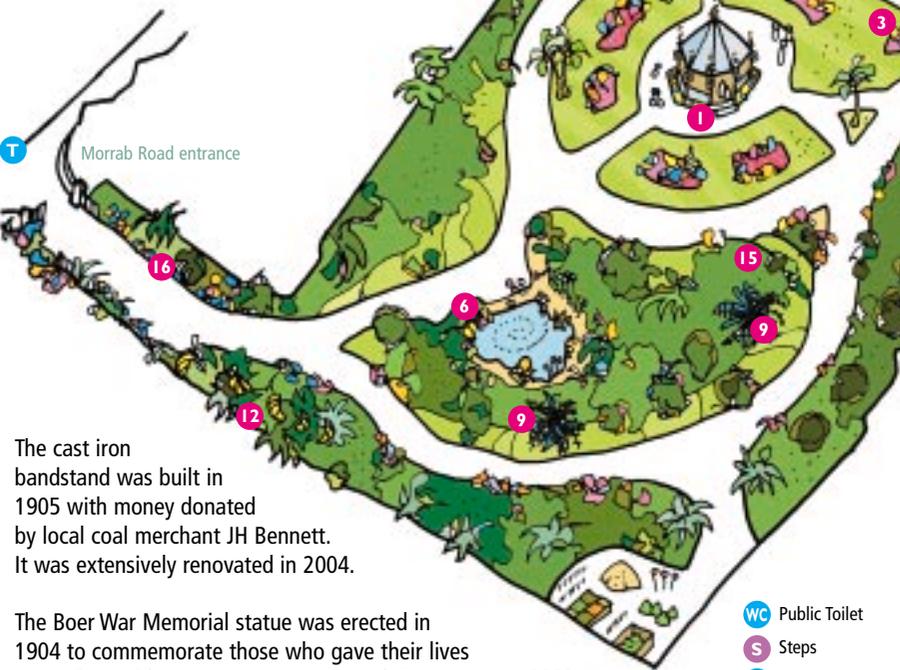
Morrab Gardens' extensive collection of sub-tropical plants have been accumulated over many years. In the 1880s, unlike today there were no nurseries selling exotic plants, the original planting was the result of gifts from local estates. Contributors to the gardens included the Bolitho family of Trengwainton, the Williams' at Trewidden, the Dorrien-Smiths at Tresco and Canon Boscawen, rector of Ludgvan.

Morrab House and walled garden was built in 1841 by wealthy brewer, Samuel Pidwell. By the late nineteenth century, Penzance had become a popular seaside resort and required a park for visitors' recreation. To this end, Penzance Corporation acquired the property at auction in 1888 for £3,120.

The villa was leased by Penzance Private Library and the Borough held a competition to design a public park. London designer, Reginald Upcher won the prize of 20 guineas with his plan for the three acre site. The original design which included a bandstand and sub-tropical garden divided by a series of curvilinear walks is still much in evidence today. A copy of the plans can be viewed in Morrab Library.

The cast iron fountain is an elaborate design consisting of a pedestal with dolphins and cherubs riding tortoises. Water was originally sourced from a natural spring above Causewayhead.

The cannon, origins unknown, was moved to its present position when the library was extended.



- 1 Bandstand
- 2 Library - Morrab House
- 3 Fountain
- 4 War memorial
- 5 Top Pond
- 6 Lower Pond
- 7 Cannon
- 8 Holm Oak - 130 yrs old
- 9 Monkey Puzzle tree
- 10 Tree Ferns
- 11 Alpines and Succulents
- 12 Banana trees
- 13 Fig tree
- 14 Olive tree
- 15 Magnolia 'Kobus'
- 16 Cordyline avenue
- 17 Gunnera Manicata
- 18 Camelias
- 19 Bamboo

- WC Public Toilet
- S Steps
- T Public Telephone

The cast iron bandstand was built in 1905 with money donated by local coal merchant JH Bennett. It was extensively renovated in 2004.

The Boer War Memorial statue was erected in 1904 to commemorate those who gave their lives in the South African campaign and was fully restored in 2002.

When the park opened in 1889, the Gardeners' Chronicle wrote: "One of its features is a Palm-grove, where tourists may fancy themselves in the tropics or on Mediterranean shores." A significant role for the gardens was the study of acclimatisation of rare sub-tropical plants, a tradition which continues to this day.

Now, go enjoy the garden...!

The word Morrab comes from 'Morapp' and translates from the Cornish for sea-shore 'mor' - sea 'app' - shore



FRIENDS OF MORRAB GARDENS