



May Walk

MARKSHALL ESTATE

MEMORIAL SITE

Dedicated to the memory of all the service men who flew from the Earls Colne air base in World War II between 1942 and 1945. Grass paths and plantings imitate the original wartime runways and the obelisk is a dedicated war memorial.

ROBINS GROVE

A secluded area of woodland and one of the best places to see the varied birdlife in the Arboretum. In February the wood is carpeted with thousands of delicate snowdrops, followed by narcissi.

CRESCENT IN THE PARK

CHESTNUT CHASE

GONDWANALAND

Gondwanaland is filled with unusual plantings from across the Southern Hemisphere, including the ancient Wollemi Pines, Monkey Puzzle from the dinosaur's age, and the wonderful scented eucalyptus.

THE WILD WOOD

THE HONEYWOOD OAK

The great veteran Honeywood Oak has a 27 foot girth, is thought to be over 800 years old and plays host to a huge range of wildlife.

SCREAMING OAK

MANSION SITE

Marks Hall Mansion stood on this site until 1950. The mansion hosted both the United States Army Air force and the British Air Force in WWII. Following this it fell into disrepair and was demolished.

THE COACH HOUSE WEDDING VENUE AND FLOWER GARDEN

SITE OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

POUND FIELD PICNIC AREA

TAXODIUM SWAMP

Inspired by the Florida Everglades this area has been created to provide ideal conditions for the swamp cypress to thrive, and provides the perfect habitat to support newts, frogs, toads and the rare hairy dragonfly.

THE AVENUE

THE WALLED GARDEN

Built in the 18th Century and redesigned in 2003. The garden is a spectacular sight with five contemporary terraced gardens and a 450ft double border.

THE BIRKETT LONG MILLENNIUM WALK

This spectacular autumn and winter spectacle is planted to provide stunning reflections in the upper lake. The sweet scent of early flowering shrubs fills the air from January.

THE LAKES

The lakes are home to a healthy stock of coarse fish which can be seen in large numbers on warm summer's days.

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GEOGRAPHIC ZONES OF THE ARBORETUM

NORTH AMERICA

ASIA

ASIA

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE (GONDWANALAND)

EUROPE

SIGN POSTS



IRON BRIDGE

VISITOR CENTRE

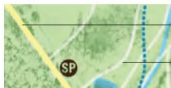


SUGGESTED WALKS

ROBIN'S GROVE WALK - SHORT/MEDIUM DISTANCE

GONDWANALAND WALK - MEDIUM DISTANCE

MEMORIAL WALK - LONG DISTANCE



HARD PATHS

SOFT PATHS

The Arboretum is a dog free area. You are welcome to walk your dog across any of our woodland walks. Please see next page.

May Walk at Markshall Estate

Choose your own pathways as you explore the different geographic zones of the Arboretum. This month's highlights have been selected by our Arboretum Manager and are marked with engraved numbered labels.

1. **Prunus avium 'Plena'** – Although still young these are one of the loveliest flowering cherries with masses of drooping, double white flowers.
2. **European Pear collection** – A collection of several varieties of ornamental flowering pears. Although all covered in white blossom, leaves and fruit sizes differ.
3. **Acer pseudoplatanus 'Brilliantissimum'** – The young leaves on this tree turn from an unmistakable shrimp pink through to yellow green later in the year.
4. **Eucommia ulmoides** – A vigorous and ornamental Chinese tree. The only deciduous and hardy tree known to produce rubber.
5. **Meliosma veitchiorum** – A rare, slow growing tree most remarkable for its very large pinnate, red stalked leaves. This particular tree was propagated from the original introduction to the country by Ernest Wilson.
6. **Cardamine pratensis** – 'Cuckoo Flower', or 'Ladies Smock'. This is a food plant of the Orange-Tip butterfly. Only male butterflies have the orange patches on their wings, the females are small and white.
7. **Abies koreana** – A small, slow growing tree with a neat habit. The new cones which are just forming will soon turn violet/purple and very much worth keeping an eye on.
8. **Phyllostachys aurea** – A graceful bamboo forming thick clumps. Known as 'Yellow Bamboo' or 'Fishpole Bamboo' it produces new shoots in May (look closely and you may spot them) which can grow up to 6ft in its first growing season.
9. **Scent on the Dam** – Take the opportunity to have a good sniff of the *Viburnum x carlcephalum*!
10. **Matteuccia struthiopteris** – The 'Shuttlecock Fern'. Favouring shady conditions, this fern produces bright green, ostrich like plumes make this hardy fern very attractive.
11. **Viburnum plicatum 'Mariesii'** – This wide spreading shrub has a very distinct mode of branching, almost producing layers. In May/June the creamy white flowers give the effect of a snow laden bush.
12. **Bluebell display** – When creating the Winter Walk in 1999/2000 no native wild flowers were planted. The bluebells you see had laid dormant in the soil just waiting for the right conditions to flourish. As were the primroses and wood anemone that you can also see.
13. **Juglans regia 'Monophylla'** – The first of our National Champion trees.*

- 14. Koelreuteria paniculata** – the ‘Golden Rain Tree’. New shoots are flushed pink which turn green then eventually yellow in Autumn. Yellow flowers in summer are followed by bladder like fruits.
- 15. Himalayas** – Under development we are cultivating the ground ready for planting with Asian species of tree and shrub.
- 16. Cammassia** – Native to wetlands in North America and ideally suited here next to our Taxodium Swamp.
- 17. Memorial Site** – Home to the Memorial to the Glider Pilot Regiment, this was chosen for the Memorial Site as it housed the aircrew briefing rooms during WW2.
- 18. Pseudotsuga menziesii** – the ‘Douglas Fir’. The large fastest growing North American conifer. These here are just 60 years old. If the sun is out the new growth is very fragrant.
- 19. Death Valley** – Another area under development. We are cultivating this area ready for planting with North American species of plant. The ‘lake’ will hold water in the winter months and dry out in the summer creating a ‘death valley’ feel.
- 20. Acer macrophyllum** – also known as the ‘Oregon Maple’. This handsome tree has the largest leaves of any maple. They turn bright orange in Autumn.
- 21. Fothergilla major** – These North American shrubs are related to ‘Witch Hazels’. They were introduced to this country by Essex nurseryman Mr Fothergill.
- 22. Cercis canadensis** – The North American ‘Redbud’. The second of our National Champion trees.
- 23. Chestnut Chase** - Natural play area, created using materials from the Estate.
- 24. Cornus** – North American ‘Dogwoods’. These elegant shrubs are widespread in America and each flowerhead has 4 conspicuous white petal-like bracts. Although they look like a flower, they are in fact leaves.
- 25. Walled Garden** – Visit the Walled Garden to walk the longest herbaceous border in Essex and marvel at the planting scheme throughout.
- 26. Gondwanaland** – Home to a mass planting of Eucalyptus, Auracaria and the largest collection of Wollemi pines in the country. Also, Gondwanaland is home to our 3rd National Champion tree, Eucalyptus pauciflora subsp debeuzevillei.*
- 27. Pterostyrax hispida**– A small, rare tree from Japan. Flowers sweetly scented.
- 28. The Nuttery** – This area is managed for its wildflowers and is reaching its peak now with the Cowslips. The grass will be cut at the end of July and clippings removed allowing the seed to drop into the sward.
- 29. The Wild Wood** - Natural play area, created using materials from the Estate.
- 30. Malus sieboldii** – A small semi weeping Japanese crab apple.
- 31. Abies numidica** – Critically endangered in their native habitat of the Atlas Mountains.
- 32. Salix alba ‘Britzensis’** – Planted for their bright orange/red springs in the winter months. These are pruned hard back to the ‘knuckle’ in March and can put up to 8ft of growth in a season.



* National Champion Trees are the UK's most notable trees. The trees are measured for height and girth (a measurement defined as 1.5m above ground level). Markshall Estate is home to three National Champion Trees, three of the largest in the British Isles for either height, girth or both. A great achievement for a still young and developing Arboretum. You will be able to spot these Champions in the Arboretum by the Blue labels placed both on and underneath the tree. They are as follows: *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy', *Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp *debeuzevillei* and *Juglans regia* 'Monophylla'.



MARKSHALL
ESTATE

It is our mission to connect people with nature and inspire generations to become ambassadors for the environment. Through our conservation work, we seek to become a place where people and nature thrive.