

PRESS RELEASE

ON THE TRAIL OF HIDDEN TOTNES GARDENS

More visitors and residents will now be able to find their way along a Garden Trail to three public green spaces in the heart of Totnes, thanks to an information board erected in Heath's Garden, behind the Market Square.

Sue Holmes, former project leader for Leechwell Garden, came up with the idea for promoting the Trail, which takes in Heath's, Leechwell and The Lamb Gardens through a well sited information panel. She explained "Having produced a leaflet on the Garden Trail some years ago we were aware that many people still did not know it was there". The award winning public spaces were created by local community groups in partnership with Totnes Trust and South Hams District Council.

Working with local parks consultant Keith Rennells, Totnes Trust set about creating an information point to introduce the Garden Trail to visitors, with money from the Trust's Public Art Fund. This fund has also helped towards the cost of the bench in the Rotherfold, and will go towards public art in the immersion pool area of Leechwell Garden. Sue continued, "We decided to site the board where people passing between the main car parks and the town centre would see it. It was created with help from South Hams Council's design and property teams, and now these hidden gems can be appreciated and enjoyed by all".

The very diverse gardens have places for play, picnics, quiet spaces, vegetable growing and public art, all linked by a walk through the ancient Leechwell Lane. Away from Totnes' busy High Street shops, the Garden Trail offers visitors an insight into both Totnes' history and its well-deserved reputation as a green, artistic and innovative community.

The Trail continues into the Rotherfold, which is currently being enhanced as a public square, then to The Narrows, with its interesting shops and cafes, and ends back in the Market Square. "The Trail itself takes about 20 minutes to walk but allow longer as I am sure everyone will find something to hold their interest along the way", added Sue.

Leechwell and Lamb Gardens have won gold awards as part of Totnes' entry into the RHS Britain in Bloom 'Your Neighbourhood Scheme'. "It is exciting to have the opportunity to celebrate these interesting open spaces, the result of successful collaborations between community groups, local trusts and South Hams District Council," added Keith.

Further information on Leechwell Garden can be found at www.leechwellgarden.org.uk and details of free courses on vegetable growing at the Lamb Garden are available via www.gardeningforhealth.org.uk

Totnes Trust would like to thank everyone who made these gardens possible.