

# The Secret Memorial Garden

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## Background

The Secret Memorial Garden was inspired by the local community as a memorial to 5 young boys who were evacuees in the second world war only to lose their lives in a fire at Sydney House.

This project cost over £35,000 to complete and was funded through various grants and awards including Joanna herself as a Community Champion.

The garden itself, is a walled garden and situated to the rear of Castle Hill in Great Torrington, Devon... indeed a secret location! When Joanna took on the project it was nothing more than a clay pit. To get the project started several hundred tonnes of top soil were required, and duly trucked in on lorries to make the ground workable.

## Design

The garden was designed by Joanna around a Tradescant Knot Garden, with lawn area and den at one end, and herbaceous borders at the other. The den was replaced with a living willow dome which was installed by Jo herself.

There was a strict deadline as the formal opening approached with special guests including the sister of one of the boys lost in the fire, and a string quartet. Jo and volunteers worked late into the night to get the plants in and everything prepared.

The Knot garden is bordered with slow growing Buxus (Box) and interplanted with herbs such as lavender, marjoram, sage, thyme, rosemary, standard bay trees, and other culinary and medicinal herbs.

The lawn garden celebrates the four corners of the world with trees such as incense cedar, Japanese Maple, Eucalyptus and Myrtle with shrubs and plants to attract birds and insect life.

The herbaceous garden includes plants such as Wisteria, Jasmine, Parthenocissus, Cosmos chocamocha, Daphne, honeysuckle and other beautiful and fragrant plants.

## Memorial

A bronze statue of a boy reading a book, designed by the talented artist Annie Pomeroy and cast by a local foundry was then mounted on a river worn boulder and installed during a thunderstorm!

The garden was lovingly tended by the talented Mickey who has since passed away. Following Mickey's death the garden fell into a state of abandonment for a time before a group of volunteers got together and started looking after it again.

Visitors can now find this beautiful garden in the centre of Torrington , sit and relax in this magical oasis of peace and tranquility that is the Secret Memorial Garden.

Latest photos of the Secret Memorial Garden







Older Photographs













