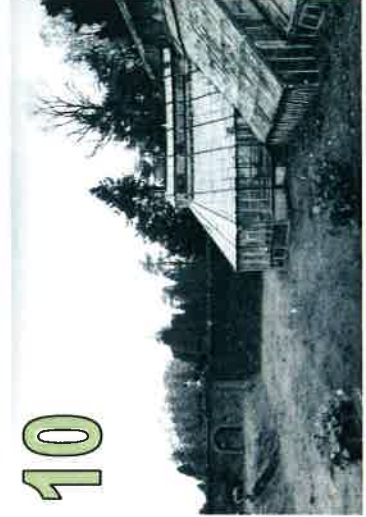
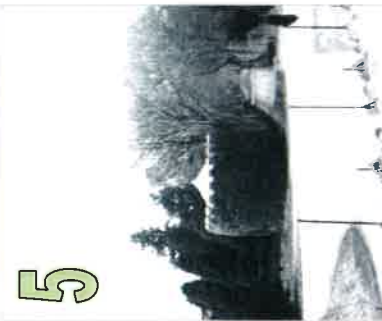
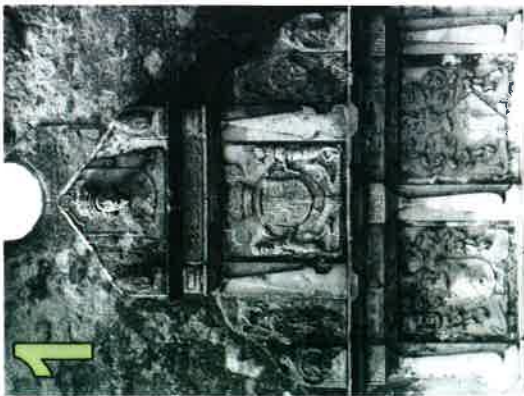


Antrim Castle Gardens Heritage Hunt



Why not take this fun Heritage Hunt with you on your tour of the Gardens. Use these interesting old and new photos to try and spot the various pieces of history that can still be viewed in Antrim Castle Gardens today. Read the history and learn what each feature was used for all those years ago. Also try the activity page and Heritage Hunt Trivia Questions!



1 Grand Door Frontispiece

The crowning feature of the frontispiece is a bust of the head of Charles II and his coat of arms. In the 17th century it was unusual to have permission to use the Monarchs image or coat of arms and yet Antrim Castle has both. Charles created the Viscountcy of Massereene for his loyal servant and close friend Sir John Clotworthy. Sir John even helped the King return from exile in France. Also on the display is the coat of arms of the Clotworthy family to the left. To the right is the Coat of arms of Lady Marian of wolfhound fame. It was rare that a woman had a coat of arms, but could use her fathers and is shown with a diamond 'lozenge' instead of a shield.

2 Deer park Bridge was built in mid 1800s by 'The Colonel' Clotworthy Skeffington 3rd Viscount who was a MP for county Antrim. The bridge was built to gain access to the family's hunting grounds. They had a large herd of deer that supplied courses of veal for many fine dinner parties. It has 6 semicircular arches and is built mainly of basalt rubble. It has also been used a public road and provided the family access to the shores of Lough Neagh

3 The Motte Was most likely built in 11th Century as a strategic position, to protect Antrim from attack. 6 Mile water and Lough Neagh. Therefore it is the oldest feature in grounds, largely determined location of castle and gardens. A defensive garrison would have originally been placed on top and had a commanding view of the local area. From the top the last cannon ball of 'Battle of Antrim' was fired which sailed up high street and crashed through the straw roof of the All Saints Church.

4 Italianate Tower/ Castle Site

This area has been left as an interpretive design. The castle was built by 1st Viscount and took over 50years to build 1610-52, first stage complete in 1613. The 8th Viscount enlarged and developed Antrim Castle in 1811, 200yrs after 1st built. The castle was destroyed by fire in 1922, and what was left knocked down in the 70s. The only remaining feature is the Italianate tower which was added when the castle was developed. The original castle did not look like the rough brick of the tower and was actually plastered smooth and light orange in colour.

5 Pump house/ Band room

The tower was built by the 10th Viscount, who also built the pleasure gardens in 1840s. The tower was used for a time by the 11th Viscount as a rehearsal room for his band the Massereene Brass & Flute Band and was known locally as the 'Band room'.

6 Lady Marian's Wolfhound

One day Lady Marian was walking along the banks of Lough Neagh and came across a huge wolf ready to attack. Lady Marian fainted and fell to the ground. When Lady Marian came round she found the wolf lying dead and an Irish wolfhound wounded and panting, had come to her protection. Lady Marian tended the wolfhound's wounds and became friendly with Lady Marian, until one day as quickly as it appeared the wolfhound then disappeared. The statue was built to commemorate the wolfhound as it once again saved the family, the second time however was from an attack in the night by an invading army. The wolfhound's loud barking awoke the castle soldiers to their imminent attack and one shot from the cannon was enough to scare them away.

7 Clotworthy House

Clotworthy house was built by 10th Viscount as a coach house and stable, to be used for the houses as the original stables where now the pleasure gardens. The family lived here after the fire and right up until 1950s. It is now used as a cafe, art gallery and holds the Garden Heritage Exhibition.

8 Gardeners' Ladder

This very tall ladder was used by the Gardeners to cut the hedges Can you imagine what it was like cutting the hedges from this height all those years ago, it must have taken days. The original ladder is still on display in the garden heritage exhibition, but had to be cut down in size to fit in the exhibition room.

9 Monument to 10th Viscount

The 10th viscount built the Pleasure Gardens for his wife and loved to spend time strolling in the gardens and mainlining their beauty. The story goes that he died after bumping his head after he slipped and fell trying to remove a weed in gardens. This stone was placed here in his memory and used to be adorned with a cross.

10 Old Gardens Wall

This wall marks the original boundary of the castle walled gardens. Only one section still remains, can you find the old brick work? The gardens supplied food to the kitchens and grew a range of exotic fruits unique to Ireland with Botanical Greenhouses. The family claim to be the first people to introduce the Pineapple into Ireland.

11 Pleasure Gardens Archway

This beautiful stone archway was one of the many features added during the Garden expansion including a labyrinth and pleasure gardens and was built by 10th Viscount in 1844. This area was different and less formal than the rest of the gardens. The ruins you see in the gardens, where the original stables and where made to look like this to add to the mystery and romance of the pleasure gardens.

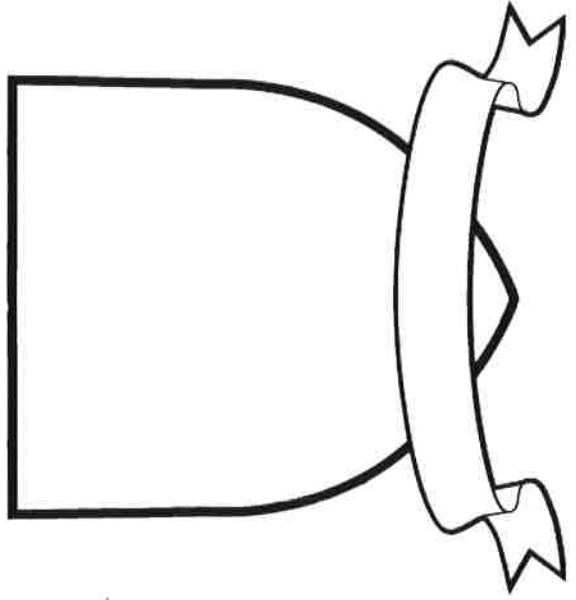
Why not draw what you think the castle looked like in 1650s.

Why not colour in your own Irish Wolfhound Protector!



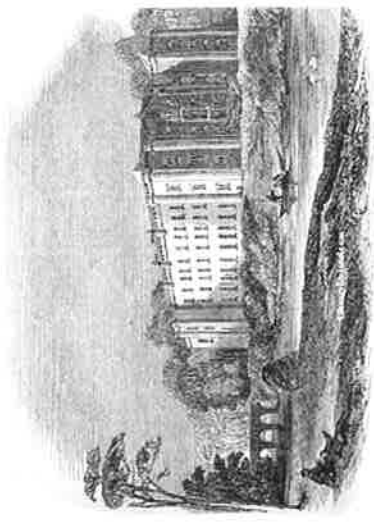
Why not create and colour in your own coat of arms.

Why not do a rubbing of one of the historic stone surfaces you find.





Antrim Castle Gardens - Heritage Hunt Trivia.



1. What is the Clotworthy Family motto? _____
2. What animals are on either side of the Clotworthy Family Crest? _____
3. What is the name of the Bridge that crosses the 6 Mile Water River? _____
4. How many different casts from the original entrance door are on display at the castle site? _____
5. How many floors did the castle have? _____
6. What colour was the castle? _____
7. What is the name of the Ghost that haunts the Castle? _____
8. How many trees are planted around the motte? _____
9. What other old buildings can you see from the viewing gallery? _____
10. What name is on the urn in the burial ground? _____
11. What year did the castle catch fire? _____
12. What was the name of the Dog that the 2nd Earl had a funeral for in the Gardens? _____
13. What fruit did the family first introduce to Ireland? _____
14. What kind of Dog is carved in the middle of the Clotworthy castle? _____
15. When was this dog carving built? _____
16. Did you enjoy the Antrim Castle Gardens Heritage Hunt? _____

