



Cumbria in Bloom Portfolio - July 2025.

Friends of Chances Park, Carlisle.

The Georgian Gardens.



Step back in Time. Welcome to Chances Park.

Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 3-8 years. It would be helpful for the parent or adult in charge to also download a copy of the "Chances Park Nature Trail" for extra information. Adults must stress to children that they must not put anything that they find in the park in their mouths, and that they should wash their hands after finishing the activities.

Activity 1: The Mansion House

- We will start our trail at the house, marked number **1** on your map. Do you know the name of the house? Does your house have a name or a number?
- Walk to the edge of the gravelled area and look at the house. Can you tell your friend about the house? Does your house look like Morton Manor?

Activity 2: A Grand Entrance

- Do you know when Morton Manor was built? Do you know when your house was built? Some very rich people have lived in Morton Manor. When it was built the

people who lived here would have travelled around by horse drawn

carriage. Can you act out a scene where the Lord and Lady of the Manor arrive in a carriage, and the servants of the house stand outside to meet them?

Activity 3: The Georgian Gardens

- We are now going to walk around to the Georgian Gardens, marked **2** on your map. They are called Georgian because they were built when the King of England was King George. Imagine that you are Lord or Lady of the Manor.

Have a walk around the gardens and tell your friend about your favourite flowers. You are very proud of your plants so you are allowed to show off a bit!

Activity 4: The Ha –Ha

- Take a walk to the Ha-Ha, marked **3** on your map. Walk carefully along the wall, then run back along the trench.
- Now go and stand on the lawn in front of the house. Look out across the park. The Ha-Ha does not block your view. Ask some people from your group to stand on the wall, and make themselves into a fence. Do they block your view of the rest of the park? The Ha-Ha's job is to stop rabbits or deer from getting at the plants in the Georgian Gardens, without spoiling the view.



Friends
of Chances Park



Chances Park - Highlighting the Georgian Garden

The Nature Trail - follow the map to find these numbered posts:

- 1 **Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)**
These trees are named after the shape of their leaves. They live for 250 years and are native to eastern America.
- 2 **Yew Tree (*Taxus baccata*)**
Yew forests were once common in Europe. You will often see them in churchyards. English archers used yew bows in battles. The Fortingall Yew in Scotland is over 3,000 years old!
- 3 **Holly tree (*Ilex aquifolium*)**
The holly is an evergreen plant. Birds eat the red berries in the winter. It is a very special tree for Fairies!
- 4 **Meadow**
This grassland is a relic of an ancient meadow. The wild plants attract insects and other wildlife.
- 5 **Home to Creepy Crawlies!**
Lots of creepy crawlies live in the old tree trunk! It also attracts those that like to eat creepy crawlies! Some woodland birds nest in holes in dead trees. The great spotted woodpecker and owls will roost here. There is more life in a dead tree than a living one!
- 6 **Giant Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*)**
These trees will one day grow and be HUGE! The tallest tree in the world is a Coast Redwood, which is 115.61 metres high - that's over 100ft taller than Dixon's Chimney in Carlisle!
- 7 **Owl Boxes**
Can you see the owl boxes high in the tree? These are for little owls. The Little Owl is the smallest owl in Britain. It has a flat head and short tail and its plumage is gray-brown mottled with white - can you see one?
- 8 **Walnut tree (*Juglans regia*)**
This tree is native to Central Asia. Walnuts are good to eat. The Romans used the wood to make beautiful furniture.
- 9 **Bat Boxes**
Can you see the bat boxes clinging to the tree trunk? There are 17 species of bats resident in the UK. A pipistrelle bat can eat 3,000 insects in a night! It is only 4cm long and weighs less than a 2p coin! Bats hang upside down or creep into cracks to sleep. Bats have great navigation skills - they won't fly into you!
- 10 **The Oak Tree (*Quercus cerris* - the Turkey Oak)**
The British Oak is one of the most significant trees in England. It is very important to wildlife as it provides a home for over 300 types of insect and lots of fungi! The oak trees planted at Morton Manor are Turkey Oaks.

As you walk round the park also look out for:

- | | |
|---|----|
| Morton Manor
The mansion house has a fine Georgian facade | 1 |
| Georgian Garden
A peaceful haven to sit and watch birds and butterflies | 2 |
| Georgian Ha-Ha
A sunken trench that does not block the view of the park from the house | 3 |
| Wildflower Meadows
We are re-establishing the traditional meadow | 4 |
| Spring bulbs
A springtime carpet of colour | 5 |
| Avenue of Handkerchief Trees
Underplanted with more bulbs! | 6 |
| Ridge and Furrow
Remains of medieval farming | 7 |
| Seating Area
One of 26 benches along the paths | 8 |
| Performance Area
The park is your stage! | 9 |
| Children's Play and Nautical Adventure Areas
The Octopus, zip wire and much more for you to enjoy playing on! | 10 |
| Two Football Pitches
why not have a kick about? | 11 |
| Youth Area and mini MUGA (multi use games area)
Another recreation area for you to have fun and play games in! | 12 |



Chances Park - Highlighting the Georgian Garden



Nestled behind elegant facades and quiet stone walls, the Georgian gardens radiate a serene charm that feels untouched by time. Their symmetry and graceful design invite a slow wander past manicured lawns and clipped hedges.

The soft rustle of leaves, the scent of old roses, and the distant hum of bees blend into a backdrop of stillness and refinement.

These gardens offer more than greenery, they whisper stories of a more graceful pace of life, where contemplation and beauty took precedence.

The Georgian Garden – planting for people and wildlife

The key and images below will help you recognize the plants in each bed and identify their special characteristics. The planting may change over time.

FLOWERBED 1

- Black elder *Sambucus* 'Black Lace'
- Yew *Taxus baccata*
- Box hedging *Buxus sempervirens*
- Shrub rose *Rosa moyesii*
- Rose *Rosa* 'Ferdinand Pichard'
- ◆ Montbretia *Crocusmia* 'Lucifer'
- Meadow sage *Salvia* 'Blauhügel'
- Coral flower *Hescheria* 'Chocolate Ruffles'
- Japanese sedge *Carex* 'Evergold'
- Masterwort *Astrantia* 'Roma'

Mixed planting

- Japanese anemones
Anemone 'Honorine Jobert'
Anemone 'Queen Charlotte'
- Scabious *Knausia macdonaldia*
- Sanguisorba *Officinalis* 'Morning Select'
- Bistorts
Pastinaca amplexicaulis 'Fire Dance'
Pastinaca amplexicaulis 'Alba'
- Catmints
Nepeta grandiflora 'Wild Cat'
Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'

FLOWERBED 2

- Holly *Ilex aquifolium* 'Alaska'
- Mock orange *Philadelphus* 'Belle Etoile'
- Shrub roses *Rosa*
- Shrub rose *Rosa* 'Gertrude Jekyll'
- Peony *Paeonia* 'Festiva Maxima'
- Michaelmas daisy *Aster*
- Aster *Aster* 'Mönch'
- Russian sage *Perovskia* 'Blue Spire'
- Sneezeweeds *Helenium*
- Coral flower *Hescheria* 'Chocolate Ruffles'
- Anemone *Anemone* 'Honorine Jobert'
- Ice plant *Sedum spectabile*

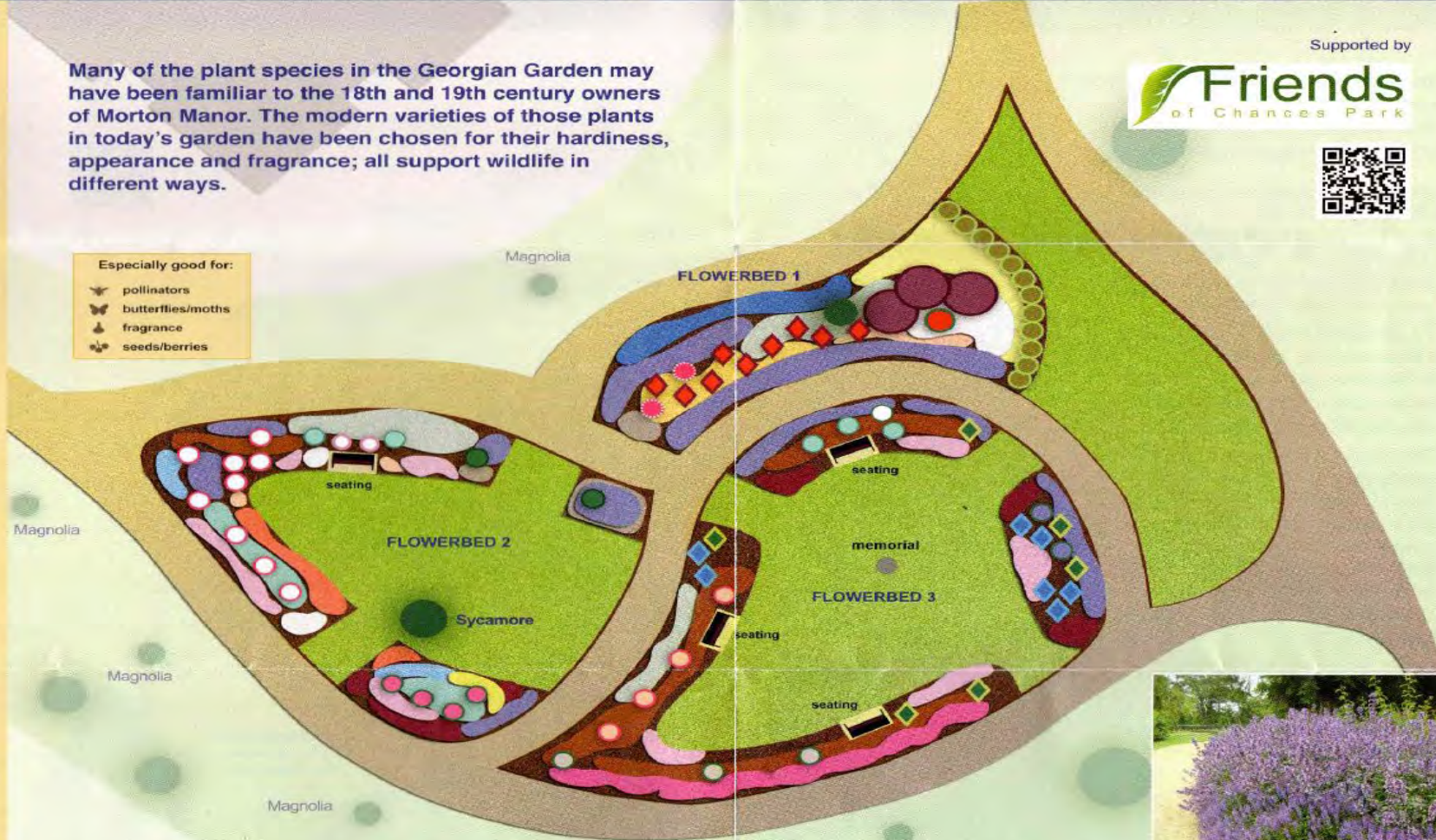
Mixed planting

- Geraniums
Geranium 'Ann Folkard'
Geranium 'Rozanne'
- Bistorts
Pastinaca amplexicaulis 'Fire Dance'
Pastinaca amplexicaulis 'Alba'
- Catmints
Nepeta grandiflora 'Wild Cat'
Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'

Many of the plant species in the Georgian Garden may have been familiar to the 18th and 19th century owners of Morton Manor. The modern varieties of those plants in today's garden have been chosen for their hardiness, appearance and fragrance; all support wildlife in different ways.

Especially good for:

- ✿ pollinators
- ✿ butterflies/moths
- ✿ fragrance
- ✿ seeds/berries



Supported by



This is the garden's 'high season', when foliage is at its best and flowering reaches its peak. Paths are bordered by fragrant banks of purple nepeta - a favourite with bees, hoverflies and other pollinating insects. The blues of Iris 'Jane Philips', Geranium 'Rozanne' and Salvia 'Blauhügel' blend with the soft pink of Astrantia 'Roma'; and the flowers of Buddleja 'Pink Delight' are alive with Red Admiral, Peacock and Tortoiseshell butterflies.

Roses add variety, colour and fragrance to the summer garden. 'Ferdinand Pichard' is a tall, old-fashioned shrub rose with striped petals, while the more modern 'Gertrude Jekyll', named after a famous English garden designer, has radiant pink flowers and is richly scented.

If you have time, pause near the peonies in flowerbed 2 to enjoy their beautiful scent for a moment.

Peacock



FLOWERBED 3

- Mexican orange *Choisya ternata*
- Butterfly bush *Buddleja* 'Pink Delight'
- Mock orange *Philadelphus* 'Belle Etoile'
- Hybrid musk rose *Rosa* 'Buff Beauty'
- Species rose *Rosa Californica Plena*
- ◆ Eulalia *Miscanthus* 'Morning Light'
- Bearded Iris *Iris* 'Jane Philips'
- Cone Flower *Echinacea purpurea*
- Coral flower *Hescheria* 'Chocolate Ruffles'
- Ice plant *Sedum spectabile*

Mixed planting

- Geraniums
Geranium 'Ann Folkard'
Geranium 'Rozanne'
- Bistorts
Pastinaca amplexicaulis 'Fire Dance'
Pastinaca amplexicaulis 'Alba'
- Catmints
Nepeta grandiflora 'Wild Cat'
Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'
- Sneezeweeds
Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'
Helenium 'The Bishop'
Helenium 'Rubinsweg'



The Younger Generation Looking After the Park - Newlaithes



NEWLAITHES
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Inspirational Learning,
Inspirational Children.**

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Headteacher: Mr R Clark

Thursday 26th June 2025

Dear Friends of Chances,

Friends of Chances have invited Newlaithes Junior School over to Chances Park each year, for a significant number of years. Our pupils are welcomed over to create their own wildflower patch, planting a number of plugs to leave a beautiful stamp on their local park. Due to the planting and nature trail experiences provided, we take learning outside of the classroom. As a result, children learn respect and appreciation for the beautiful nature in Chances Park. Children get to make a real difference to their community and view themselves as individuals that can make a positive change to their environment, creating a sense of ownership. In addition, the year 3 curriculum teaches about functions of plant parts and their role in the lifecycle, so being able to see that first-hand supports children's learning. Our trips to Chances Park also inform our persuasive and descriptive writing units in year 3, and it is so valuable to have that hands-on experience to generate vocabulary and ideas.

Children are excited to return to the park with their families to play and, in dry periods, some children have been in their free time to water the flowers that they have planted. In a world where children are surrounded by technology, it is so important to encourage this outdoor exploration and play.

Chances Park is helping us build a generation of young people who genuinely care for the environment and are equipped and inspired to make a positive change.

The impact of having a stunning, natural area like Chances Park right on the doorstep of Newlaithes Junior School is summed up beautifully in the following quote -
"If children don't grow up knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it. And if they don't understand it, they won't protect it. And if they don't protect it, who will?" - Sir David Attenborough


Kind regards,
Alexandra Foster
Year 3 Teacher
Newlaithes Junior School










Friends of Chances
Community Grants

We are managing this area for plants, wildlife and people



Scan here for more info

There's so much more to a wildflower meadow: it supports a whole ecosystem!

Yellow rattle: Rubb your hand over the top of yellow rattle and you'll hear a rattling from the tiny seeds inside. Their special ability is to be a seed parasite: this is feeding off nutrients in the roots of nearby grasses. By feeding off the vigorous grasses it allows more delicate wildflowers to push their way through.

Our Wildflower Meadows are shrinking
It took 6,000 years to create our meadows, yet we've lost 98% of species rich grassland since the 1930s. Most of the loss of species rich grassland has been caused by farming and land use change. This loss is one of the main causes of the decline in biodiversity, pollinators and birds. The rate of extinction of wild pollinators is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles.

A study by British Invertebrates that UK flying insects have declined by nearly 70% between 2003 and 2018. One of the main causes of the current crisis is the loss of wildflower meadows. Wildflower meadows are a vital habitat for many insects, including bees, butterflies and moths. In a highly built-up area, wildflower meadows are the only places where many of our bees can find nectar and pollen. They are also a vital habitat for many other insects, including beetles, crickets and grasshoppers. They also provide a safe haven for a wide range of other insects, including many species of dragonflies and damselflies.











Bees: Wildflower-rich grasslands are the most important habitat for bumblebees and solitary bees in their grassland plants throughout the summer and contain many other, and often rich plant species. Wildflower meadows can contain up to 40 plant species per square metre. In the UK, we have about 200 species of solitary bees, 44 species of bumblebee and 1 species of honey bee.

Butterflies: There are 44 species in Britain. The meadow brown butterfly is one of Britain's commonest and most widespread butterflies. It needs tall grassy change and its larval hostplants, where it lays its eggs, are all grasses that will be abundant in most grasslands.

Grasshoppers: Bees known for their songs, which grasshoppers make by rubbing their legs against their wings which creates a rhythmic sound.

Slugs and snails
Much of our grassland meadows are being eaten by them very fast and they eat the base of the plants. Long grass green earth and slugs shorter from the sun and earth. They enjoy eating other plants that grow alongside long grass like herbs and many species - very low mallee. An interesting fact - they don't like green!

All of these plants can be found here during spring and summer.

How many can you find?	
 Common Knapweed	 Red Campion
 Common Bent Grass	 Annual Meadow Grass
 Cornflower	 Musk Mallow
 Meadow Buttercup	 Wild Carrot
 Selfheal	 Oxeye daisy

The Younger Generation Looking After the Park - St Bede's



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Headteacher: Mrs F Winter

Dear Friends of Choices Arts,

Thanks so much for mixing us to plant the seeds in the meadow.
We had such a lovely day - it was really fun!

We learned loads about the different plants and how to look after them. It was cool finding out what they need to grow and why they help ourselves. It's great that we get to learn these things outside, not just in the classroom. It made learning fun and exciting!

We also went on trips and saw so many different bees. The park is so pretty and peaceful. We loved exploring and finding different plants and animals. Some of us said that we want to come back with our families because the park is brilliant even when we are not at school!

Thank you again for everything - we had the best time and we hope we can come again soon!

Fiona

Leo

and St Bede's School

Appreciation from the Older Generation



Eden Manor Care Home

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enquiries@lovett-care.com

FAO Ray McCreadie
Friends of Chances Park
Carlisle

3rd July 2025

Dear Ray

We just wanted to write to let you know how much our residents enjoy going for their daily walks round Chances Park.

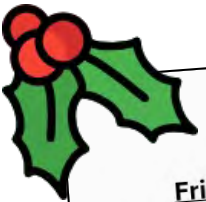
We have several residents who enjoyed gardening whilst they were still in their own homes, and the Georgian Gardens are a particular favourite. They enjoy looking at the displays and appreciate the benches which enable them to have a breather mid-walk!

Our residents frequently comment on the fact that there is always something going on in the park - even the residents who do not get out love to "people-watch" from their rooms. Our top-floor conservatory is also well-used by our residents due to the wonderful views over the park.

Many thanks to you and your colleagues for the upkeep of the park & gardens which we feel make a positive contribution to our residents' wellbeing.

Yours sincerely
K. Head

For and on behalf of
Eden Manor Activities & Wellbeing Team



Friends of Chances Park and St. Luke's.

St. Luke's Church members have been delighted to host Committee meetings for Friends of Chances Park. We meet regularly in the church hall and three of our members attend as a link between the Church and the Friends. We think it is very important to support such a valuable community group.

The Friends held their Christmas Concert in St. Luke's Church with refreshments etc. in the church hall afterwards. The evening was compered by Val Armstrong and we enjoyed contributions from Yewdale School Choir, St. Stephen's Silver Band and Carlisle Community Singers. It was a very successful evening. The Friends arranged the donation of the Christmas tree to St. Luke's which was very much appreciated.



Everyone Coming Together at Christmas

The Friends of Chances Park Christmas Concert is a cherished annual tradition that brings the Carlisle community together to celebrate the festive season in heartwarming style.

Held at St Luke's Church, the event filled the venue with joyful carol singing, festive music, and a strong spirit of togetherness. Organised by the dedicated Friends of Chances Park, a group committed to preserving and enhancing the park's legacy—the concert not only spread Christmas cheer but also raised awareness and support for local heritage efforts.

With twinkling lights, mince pies, and plenty of goodwill, it was a memorable evening that captured the true essence of a community Christmas.





Parkrun - Carlisle parkrun is a weekly, free, 5k run and walk held in Chances park, entirely organised by volunteers. Come along and run, walk or volunteer to get involved!

VOLUNTEERS WORKING TO PRESERVE
& ENHANCE YOUR GREEN SPACE
...YOU COULD HELP TOO!

For all the latest
news and events
check out our
News page and
get involved
now!



THE PARK...


The Park is well-used and well-loved. It is used by local residents of all ages to enjoy the fresh air and views, the beautiful spring plantings, the magnificent trees and the historical features. These go back several centuries with an example of a medieval "ridge and furrow" system, and examples of late Georgian landscaping.

THE FRIENDS...

The Friends is a constituted group of committed enthusiasts from all walks of life, dedicated to preserving the Park for the enjoyment of the community. We work closely with Carlisle City Council and with Morton Community Centre (situated in the historic manor house).

GET IN TOUCH...

Email: friendsofchancespark@yahoo.com

 [FriendsofChancesPark](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofChancesPark)

🌸 To conclude - Friends of Chances Park working with Cumberland Green Spaces Team and Morton Manor exemplifies the power of community in protecting and enhancing local spaces. Together we are working towards making the park into a place where nature, connection with the environment and recreation can thrive side by side. Reflecting on what has been achieved we are all pleased to have played a part in nurturing the green spaces that bring, such joy, peace and pride to our community. Thank you for being part of the journey. 🌿

GET IN TOUCH...

Email: friendsofchancespark@yahoo.com

 **FriendsofChancesPark**