

# The Gardeners' House Project

In the heart of Penzance - between the town centre and the promenade - lie the Morrab Gardens, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike since the gardens were laid out over 125 years ago. Benefiting from the mild climate of the far west of Cornwall, Morrab's gardeners over the years have established what may be one of the finest collections of plants of any municipal gardens in Britain.



The Stable Block today

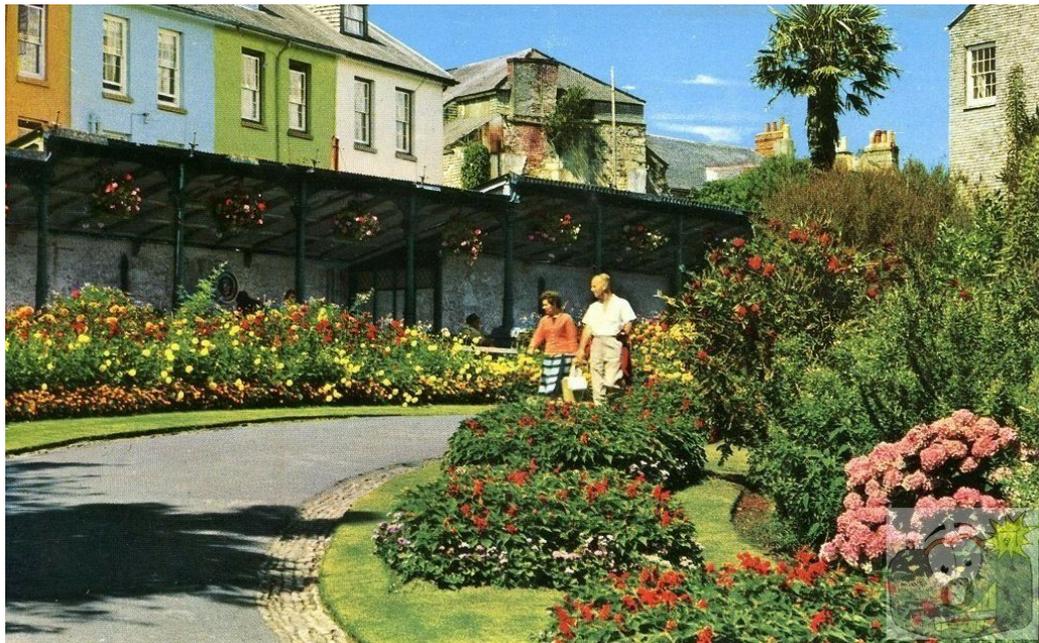


Palms In The Green House

Visitors to the Gardens could be forgiven for not noticing the Stable Block. Well screened, almost hidden by camellias, palms and senecio, the building only comes into view as you approach the entrance to the home of Penzance's independent Library, Morrab House.

Even then, its appearance hardly catches the eye. With walls part-covered in ivy it almost merges into the surrounding vegetation, and paint peeling off the woodwork gives it an air of neglect.

When Morrab House was built – a prestigious ‘gentleman’s residence’ – the Stable Block played an important part in the life of the household. Changes came in 1888 with the purchase of Morrab House by Penzance Corporation; there would have been no longer any need to maintain horses and a carriage, so the Stable Block was adapted to new requirements. Part of the block was converted to provide living accommodation, and was occupied by the Head Gardener and his family until at least 1951.



Old Morrab Gardens

The Stable Block is now used by the gardeners and volunteers who maintain the Morrab Gardens; it serves as office, kitchen, tool shed and machinery store amongst other uses! But the facilities are far from ideal; time has left it in a sorry state, and because of its condition part of the building is unusable, with public access not permitted at all.



Un-usable Upper Floors

# The Gardeners' House – New Beginnings....

But there are exciting plans ahead – in November 2017 The Hypatia Trust secured £70,000 of seed funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and is working together with The Friends of Morrab Gardens and the Pengarth Day Centre to revitalise the stables that will become The Gardeners' House



Architects Impression of the new Gardeners' House

A new learning centre for botanical and horticultural projects, a natural history reading room, lecture hall, an open air laboratory for 'citizen science' and communal activity spaces. You can read more about the plans – and how you can help with this community project – at The Gardeners' House web site. [www.thegardenershouse.org](http://www.thegardenershouse.org)

**Please help us by supporting this wonderful community project however you can, thank you!**



First Floor Lobby



Lecture Theatre



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