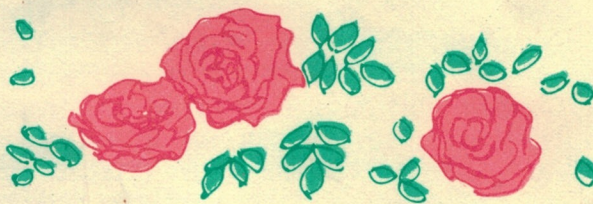





PARK HOUSE 1991 GARDEN

Welcome to this garden designed with the disabled and visually impaired very much in mind.

This leaflet very briefly explains what the garden contains, some of the background to its creation and gives a little detail of Park House itself. Further information is available from the District Council and it is hoped that a taped commentary and tactile plan will soon be available for hire.



Parking for the disabled is adjacent to the main entrance and there is also a set-down/pick-up space for mini-buses. There are no steps or ramps on the approach to or within the Garden. Disabled toilets are sited in the Conservatory Cafe immediately next to the Garden.



PLANTING INFORMATION



With so many plants, information can only be highly selective. In most cases plants are not labelled, however, should you like to identify certain plants copies of the planting plans and complete plant lists are available from the District Council at Park House.

Herbaceous borders (8)

Dwarf native box (*Buxus suffruticosa*) surrounds the lush planting of mainly blues and pinks. Noteworthy is the lacy silver foliage of *Artemesia*, Upright Rosemary, two forms of lavender - the large Dutch and the smaller narrower leaved Old English, the stripped flowered *Rosa mundi*, *Agapanthus* and the pink flowered *Gypsophila*.

Mixed borders (9)

A raised border of hot reds/purples/blues in both leaves - shining red *Photinia Red Robin*, translucent copper *Smoke Bush (Cotinus)*, glaucous *Hebe* species, and *Purple Sage*; and flowers and berries - bright red hips of *Rosa rugosa* and *Rosa geranium*, late summer flowering *Fuschia* and *Penstamen* spp, fluffy blue flowered *Ceanothus* and the tall aromatic silver-leaved violet-flowered *Russian Sage (Perovskia)*. The wall top includes several more delicate species such as *Dianthus*, *Alliums* and *Stachys*. The yew hedge at the rear will ultimately form a strong dark background to the bed.

Mixed Borders (10 & 11)

Mainly yellows and whites notably the acid yellow bracts of *Euphorbia polychroma*, soft leaved starry green flowered *Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla)*, the large *Azalea*, the golden *Hypericum Hidcote*, Bed 10; *Potentillas* *Abbotswood* and *Elizabeth*, yellow *Day Lily* and *Phlox*, Bed 11.

A shady mainly winter flowering bed with quiet yellow, greens, and whites. Of note are the autumn flowering single Japanese *Anemones*, sweet scented *Mock Orange (Philadelphus)*, white flowering *Bergenia* and the boldly serrated leaves and green flowers of the *Corsican Hellebore*.

THE GARDEN SEASON BY SEASON



Spring: *Prunus Pink Shell* - flowering cherry (Bed 9) *Bergenia*, pink, cerise and white (most beds), *Narcissi Tete a Tete* (10), *Muscari* (9), *Malus purple weeping* (9).

Summer: Particularly *Lavender*, *Rosemary*, *Ceanothus* (9), *Fuschia* spp (9), *Penstemon* (9), *Aster frikartii* (8), *Geranium* spp (9), *Cistus* (8), *Spartium junceum* (10), *Wisteria* (arbours), *Lilium* (generally), *Euphorbia polychroma* (10 & 11)

Autumn: *Vitis coignetiae* (large leaved climber, 9), *Hydrangea* spp. (9 & 12), *Rosa rugosa* and *Rosa Geranium* hips (9), *Pyracantha*, orange berries (12).

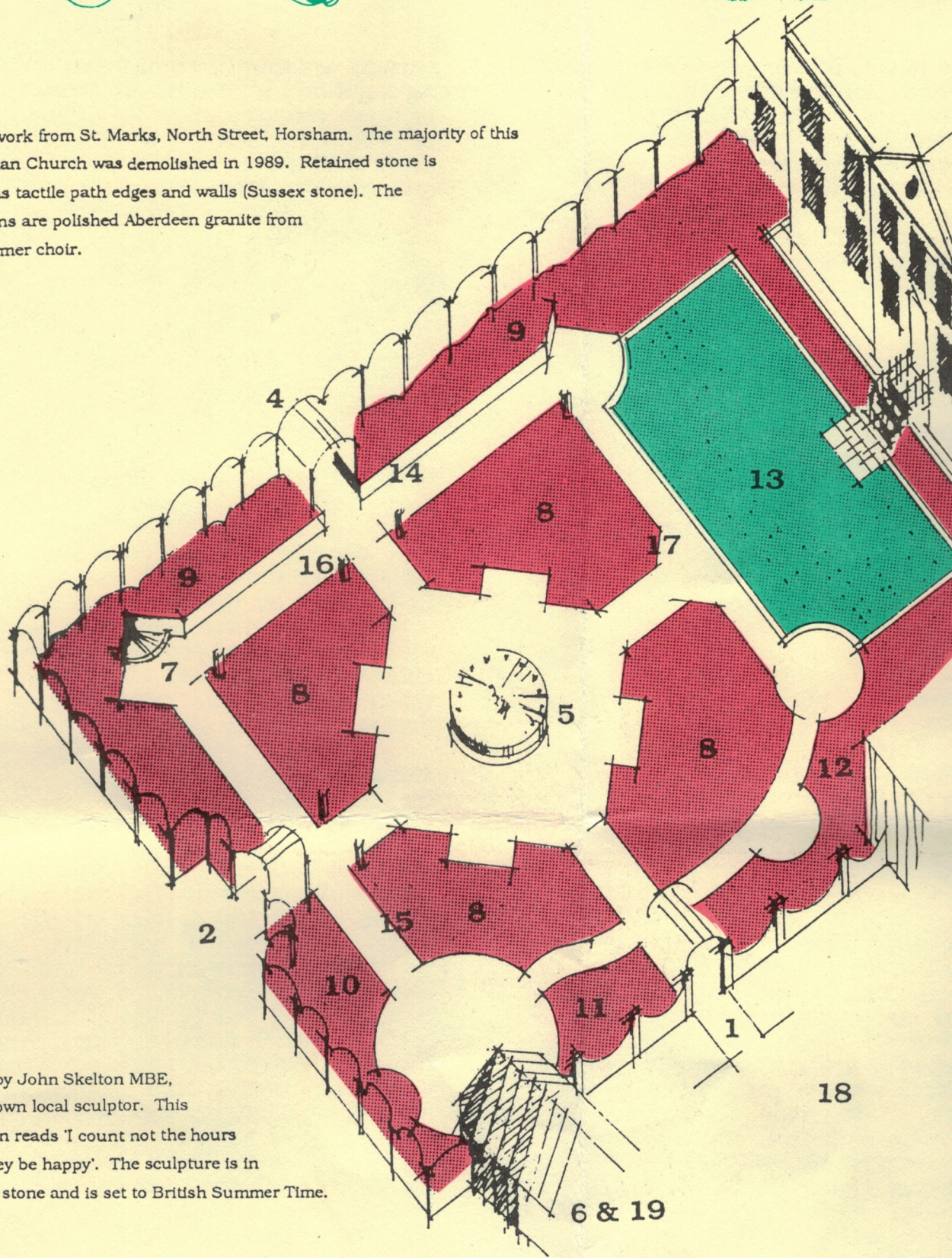
Winter: *Snowdrops* (12), *Garrya elliptica*, silvery catkins; *Viburnum davidii*, brilliant blue berries; *Mahonia bealii* and *M. lomarifolia*, yellow fragrant flowers (10,11).

Scented Foliage

Look out for: *Rosemary* (8, 9), *Lavender* (8), *Choisya* - crushed pineapple (10), *Box-rather foetid* (8), *Perovskia-aromatic* (9), *Nepeta-catmint* (8), *Purple sage* (9), *Allium*.



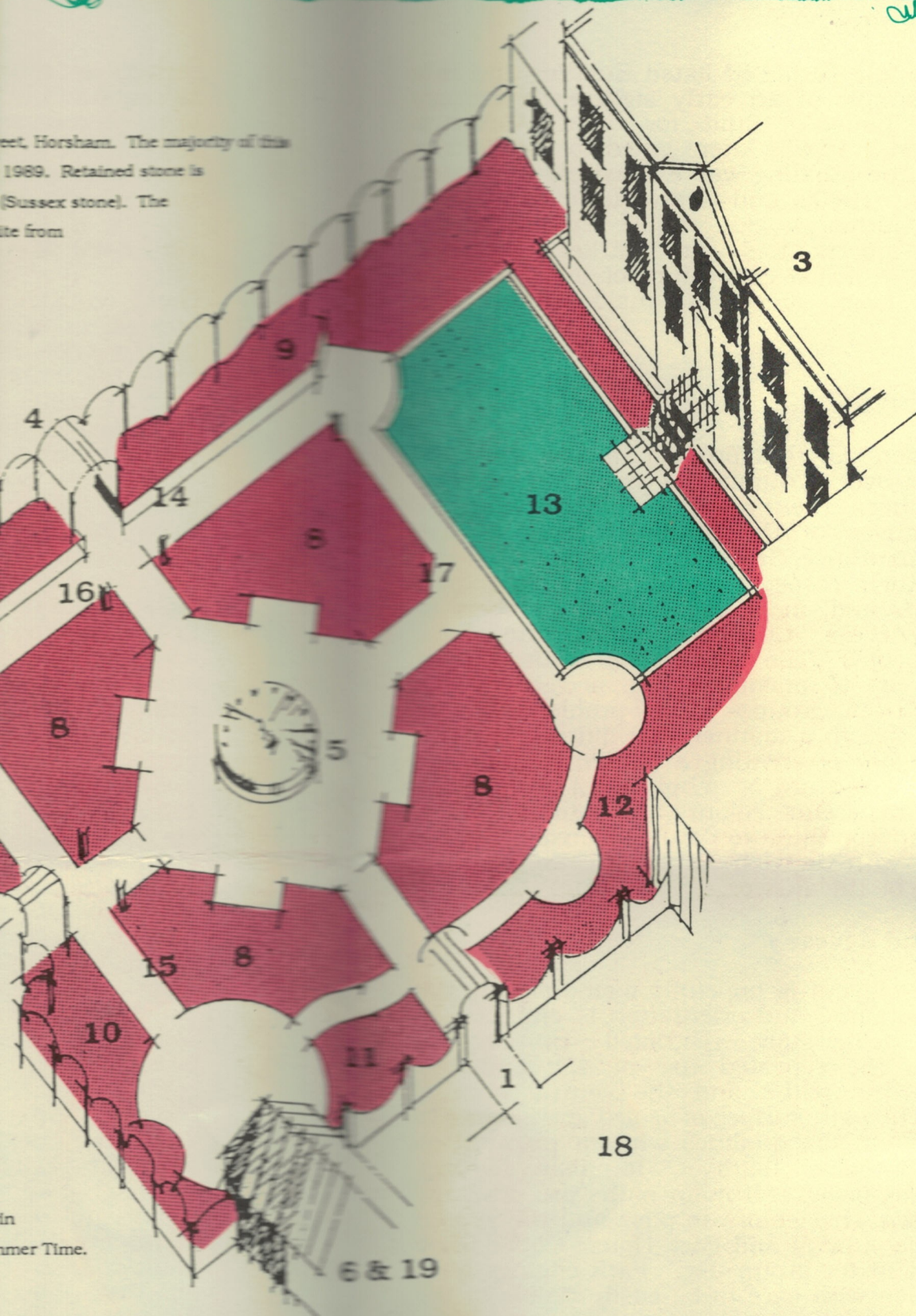
Stonework from St. Marks, North Street, Horsham. The majority of this Victorian Church was demolished in 1989. Retained stone is used as tactile path edges and walls (Sussex stone). The columns are polished Aberdeen granite from the former choir.



5. 'Sungod' by John Skelton MBE, a well known local sculptor. This inscription reads 'I count not the hours unless they be happy'. The sculpture is in Clipsham stone and is set to British Summer Time.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Main entrance | 6. Park House Coffee Shop | 14, 15, Stonework & 16. Horsham |
| 2. Park entrance | 7. Splash fountain | 17. Tile edging |
| 3. Park House (no public access) | 8. Herbaceous borders | 18. Disabled set-down |
| 4. Arbour with Wisteria over | 9-12. Mixed borders | 19. Toilets and |
| 5. Sundial sculpture | 13. Lawn | |

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 1989. Retained stone is
 (Sussex stone). The
 site from



in
 Summer Time.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 6. Park House Coffee Shop | 14, 15, Stonework from St. Marks,
& 16. Horsham |
| 7. Splash fountain | 17. Tile edging |
| 8. Herbaceous borders | 18. Disabled parking and mini-bus
set-down/pick up |
| 9-12. Mixed borders | 19. Toilets and disabled toilets |
| 13. Lawn | |

PARK HOUSE

The house is a Grade II* listed Building and is a typical example of an early eighteenth century provincial house. Built for John Wicker a Horsham M.P. it was later gifted to the District Council. The building was extensively renovated in the early 1980's and is now used as Council Offices. Although not visible externally the building incorporates an earlier medieval structure. A leaflet giving further information is available from reception inside the front entrance.

THE GARDEN

The Garden is the product of considerable discussion over a number of years. Central to this has been the Project Team consisting of representatives of the funding agencies, Sun Alliance Insurance Group and Horsham District Council, their respective professional staff and consultants and, most importantly, members of Horsham Access Committee representing local disabled people. The primary aim of the garden was seen as to maximise safe access for the principle user group. The problem lay in achieving this in a manner that did not jar with the other aim of creating a garden in the true sense of the word - a place of stimulated contentment, scents, colours and sounds - and a garden appropriate to Park House. Simple formality with a rich profusion of planting seemed to be the answer.

Layout and Access

The simple layout is hopefully memorable to the visually impaired and orientation is emphasised by the deliberately restricted number of entrances, the repeated use of 45° and 90° angles in the paths and the central sundial feature. The path surface of sealed gravel aims to give good non-slip qualities without proving too rough for wheelchairs. It also reduces troublesome glare. All main paths are designed to allow two wheelchairs to pass and the spaces around the sundial and Park House Coffee Shop are sufficient for group use. Path edgings have been chosen with care to be easily visible to the partially sighted and discernible to the blind when using the long tapping cane. They also act as a wheelcheck for wheelchairs. The edges have been further differentiated with large section Sussex stone on the outer edges and 'ripple' tile for the edges of the inner beds. Major corners on these inner beds are marked by large polished granite columns. All the stonework is from the nearby St. Marks Church partly demolished in 1989. The inner beds have dwarf box hedging which further reinforce the path edge. All

corners are rounded and potential obstacles such as seats and litter bins are recessed. The layout of these recesses allow for different permutation of seating including that of wheelchairs and the seats themselves are set at different heights to suit different needs.

Improved Micro-climate

Great consideration has been given to the creation of a favourable micro-climate within the garden. This is particularly important where low levels of mobility causes higher sensitivity to cold, draughts or even hot sun. Both the seating in its range of orientation and the combined planting and boundary treatment are influenced by this. So too was the need to foster a sense of security among users, many of whom through their disability are potentially more vulnerable. The resulting timber fence surround aims to give this security without presenting an unfriendly aspect from the outside. Its height and scale are determined by the lower eye levels of those in wheelchairs, where something reasonable to an ambulant person becomes overpowering to them. Ultimately plants will climb some of the fence posts allowing the possibility of varying the degree of visibility along the boundaries.

Planting

The planting is soft, varied and full, very much in the manner of the traditional country garden, although both plan and plants do not aim to be historically accurate for the building of Park House. Over 130 species are used to maximise flower, foliage, scent, berry, even acoustic effect. On the basis that all visual handicaps differ, no colours have been avoided but instead they have been grouped bed by bed with the softest in the centre. Whilst unashamedly a summer garden, the use of mixed borders particularly around the perimeter means that something is usually happening whatever the season. Considerable emphasis has been placed on foliage - in forms, colour and scent - and many of the foreground plants are deliberately tactile. Whilst some of the plants are of exaggerated nature like the enormous leaved *Bergenia* or bright silver *Artemesia*, others like the minutely blue berried *Viburnum* or wintering flowering *Iris* are worth the search. And, of course, these are the roses - some eleven species - lavenders, rosemaries, cat-mints and day-lilies - the old favourites.

The planting will obviously take time to establish and in so doing the balance between plants will change. If you would like further information on the plants used, a plan and complete list are available from the District Council, Park House.