BAILEY PARK

Bailey Park is in the heart of Abergavenny, an amphitheatre for the surrounding mountains. Splendid Victorian gates mark the entrance to an avenue of beech and oak trees of great age, home to bat and bird boxes and a playground for squirrels and bird life. Seasonal flowers bloom beneath them.

The Priory stream flows through the park with a mixture of aquatic plants, passing the bandstand and circular seat under the majestic horse chestnut trees. The park is home to many amazing flower beds and a sensory garden created by Friends of Bailey Park who have successfully received the prestigious Green Flag Award. The area offers peace and tranquillity for the community to sit and appreciate the surrounding beauty with plants encouraging butterflies, bees, and insects together with a bug hotel and nest boxes made by local school children.



LAURIE JONES COMMUNITY ORCHARD

A mixed fruit orchard, planted with local and regional varieties of apple, pear, plum and other fruit trees with a soft fruit area. The grassland is managed as a hay-meadow, cut in late summer, and there is a small wildlife pond. The boundaries are formed by hedgerows of hazel, blackthorn, elder and wild rose with bramble.

In the spring look out for bumble bees as they feed on Dandelion and Lesser Celandine flowers. Holly Blue butterflies are around in April/May and again in August/September. The fruit trees and the soft fruit bushes flower in April/May with the blossom attracting a range of bees and other insects. Marsh Marigold and Yellow Flag Iris flowers in the pond.

In the summer look out for butterflies such as Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Large and Small Skippers, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral and Comma. Listen out too for the chirping of grasshoppers and crickets. Look for dragonflies and damselflies around the pond.

In autumn and winter many birds, including Song Thrush and Blackbird, are attracted to feed on fallen apples and on the rose hips, elderberries and sloes in the hedgerows.



GAVENNY MEADOWS

Gavenny Meadow lies between the Old Ross Road and the River Gavenny. The southern end of the meadow is a copse of mature trees and scrub saplings with an underlayer of blackberry providing a rich habitat for woodland birds and small mammals.

The northern end of the Meadow is open grassland, with a hedge along the Old Ross Road

providing another interesting habitat for nesting birds.

The River Gavenny cuts a steep sided channel through the Old Red Sandstone layers here in the meadow and the shaded steep



damp environment provides an ideal habitat for abundant growth of ferns, mosses and liverworts. Sit quietly by the river and you may see dippers and grey wagtails. There is also evidence that otters visit the river.

SWAN MEADOWS

The west side of Swan Meadow is set out as an urban park. There is a small children's play area and the Gorsedd Stones with a paved path along the River Gavenny passing the weir that fed the leat to power the former mills in nearby Mill

The meadow is dissected by the River Gavenny and the east side of the meadow is a semi natural habitat with areas of grassland and a variety of tree species. There is a well established slowworm colony on this side but they are secretive and can disappear into the undergrowth if disturbed. A wide variety of woodland birds nest here and wrens are often seen in the foliage around the riverbank.

CASTLE **MEADOWS**



Castle Meadows is a wonderful 22 hectare green space, with a range of habitats; a large pond, 3 rivers, a large floodplain meadow, a small copse, a wetland and a network of reens. The floodplain meadow is rare, there are few left in the UK as many have been drained and the rivers canalised. Here the meadow is rich in plant and animal life with over 90 different plant species.

The flooding of the meadow is important because it deposits silt which enriches the soil. The area is managed organically with Welsh Black cattle on the meadows for 6 months of the year. A hay crop is taken after the flowers have seeded. The large pond is fed by water from the nearby river Cibi and has a good range of pond life and is noted as an important site for dragonflies. If you are there at dusk you may see bats flying down from the Castle.

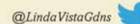
The small copse is an area under renovation with a bank of 100 trees to commemorate 100 years since World War 1, there is a stone memorial too. The river Usk flows along the edge of the meadows and the area is an Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

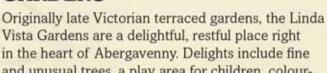


EXPLORING NATURE IN ABERGAVENNY



LINDA VISTA GARDENS





Vista Gardens are a delightful, restful place right in the heart of Abergavenny. Delights include fine and unusual trees, a play area for children, colourthemed radiating flower beds interspersed with ornamental grasses, a wild grass and flower bank, and a recently planted collection of trees chosen to give autumn colour,

Even more recently, the slope in front of Linda Vista house has been planted with pollinator-friendly shrubs.

The formal planting of bedding plants has been replaced by wild flowers.



Insect life is also encouraged by a bug hotel, a small butterfly garden, and piles of branches left in the edging borders. Additions of land to the original gardens have created several different zones, each with its own flora: woodland, bog garden, a small pond, rockery, grassy swards, copses.

Produced by Abergavenny Town Council in partnership with: Friends of Bailey Park

Friends of Castle Meadows

Friends of Laurie Jones Community Orchard, Friends of

Friends of Linda Vista Gardens Supported by Heritage Fund and Welsh Government Map © www.pomegranatecreative.co.uk







