

Leicester Botanical Gardens: Founded in 1921 with the assistance of the Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society, the University of Leicester Botanic Garden was established on its present site in Oadby in 1947. It comprises the grounds of four houses: Beaumont, Southmeade, The Knoll and Hastings, which were built early this century and are now used as student residences. The four once-separate gardens have been merged into a single entity, whose 16 acres display an array of interesting features, including an arboretum, a herb garden, woodland and herbaceous borders, rock gardens, a water garden, the National Collections of *Skimmia*, *Aubrieta*, hardy *Fuchsia* and Lawson's Cypress, and a series of glasshouses displaying temperate and tropical plants, alpinists and succulents. For more information please contact: University of Leicester Botanic Garden, Stoughton Drive South, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 2NE Phone/fax **0116-271-2933**
Email botanicgarden@le.ac.uk

The Attenborough Arboretum: is a satellite facility of the Botanic Garden. Opened on 23rd April 1997 by Sir David Attenborough, it occupies about five acres in the old village of Knighton, and forms part of the land that used to belong to Home Farm. Now swallowed up by Leicester, the Arboretum site features possibly the only surviving example in the city of a medieval ridge-and-furrow field, and also contains two large ponds, complete with a board-walk. The planting scheme is designed to display our native trees in the sequence in which they arrived in this country following the ending of the last ice-age, approximately 10,000 years ago. Importantly for schools and other visiting groups, the Arboretum includes a fully-equipped, purpose-built classroom, with access for disabled people. For more information please contact: University of Leicester Botanic Garden, Stoughton Drive South, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 2NE Phone/fax **0116-271-2933**
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Barnsdale Gardens are the creation of Geoff Hamilton, Britain's best loved television gardener and presenter of BBC TV's Gardener's World weekly gardening programme, which Geoff presented from his home at Barnsdale in Rutland, Barnsdale Gardens, The Avenue, Exton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8AH, for more information please visit www.barnsdaleplants.co.uk or telephone: (01572) 813 200, E mail office@barnsdalegardens.co.uk

Belvoir Castle Gardens: Surrounding the rustic summerhouse, dating from 1800. The gardens have been lovingly restored to their original set in a natural amphitheatre with fresh water springs, lawns and small architectural features. Address: Grantham, Leicestershire, NG32 1PE, website www.belvoircastle.com, Telephone +44 (0)1476 871002

For more information please visit www.goleicestershire.co.uk

