Walks in the Park and Woodland

Cliffe Castle Park & Museum

Spring Gardens Lane,
Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 6LH

Cliffe Castle Park Conservation Group

Keighley Healthy Living

with support from City of Bradford MDC www.bradford.gov.uk

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How to get there

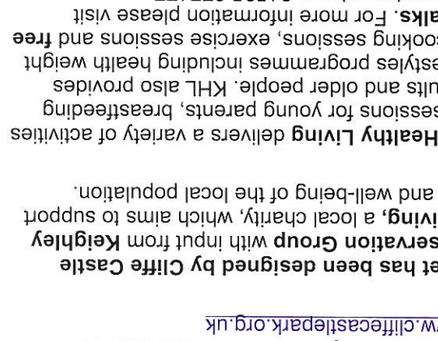
On Foot
Approximately 12-25 minutes walk from Keighley railway station, 6-15 minutes walk from the bus station. Walk up Spring Gardens Lane and take the lane straight on into the Park on the right, just before the entrance to Holly House.

By Bicycle
From Keighley town centre take North Street towards Skipton until you reach the large gateway on the left, beyond which is the drive leading to the Museum. SUSTRANS National Cycle Route 696 passes nearby along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

By Bus
Buses to Keighley travel frequently up Skipton Road. From the Keighley bus station catch the 25, 65, 66, 67, 78A, 762, 765. Bus number 903 travels up Spring Gardens Lane past the entrance to Cliffe Castle Museum Monday to Saturday (stops at Cliffe Castle car park on request).

By Car
From Keighley town centre take the A629, travel up Spring Gardens Lane and Cliffe Castle car park is on the right, or follow the signs for the Museum.

What is there to see in the Park?



Take a look at the **noticeboard** at the top of the terrace steps just across from the Museum entrance for the latest news and what's on in the Park, including the free concerts on the bandstand in summer.

The dolphin lamp post was made from cast iron in 1870. It is part of a set designed for the Victoria Embankment in London. Originally the lamp was lit by gas and had a glass shade with a copper crown on top.

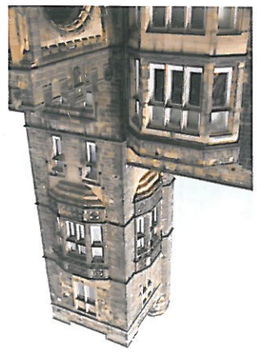
The tunnel, grotto and rockwork were created in the 1870s by French craftsmen.The grotto was a cool place where the family could sit or take tea.

The two marble fountains were carved in Italy and brought here by Henry Isaac Butterfield in the 1870s. Look out for the carved mouse at the base of one of the fountains.

The King George VI Avenue was planted in 1953 to commemorate his reign. Details of his life featured in the 2011 Oscar-winning film 'The King's Speech'.

Cliffe Castle Museum

The building, originally named Cliffe Hall, was built for local lawyer Christopher Netherwood in 1833. It was bought by the Butterfield family in 1848. Henry Isaac Butterfield spent huge amounts of money on the building and its grounds in the 1870s and 1880s.



In 1950 Cliffe Castle was given to the people of Keighley by local benefactor Sir Bracewell Smith, a former Lord Mayor of London. Following alterations to the building it was opened as a museum and art gallery in 1959.

The Museum has some of Henry Isaac Butterfield's magnificent rooms with chandeliers and period furniture. There is also an outstanding mineral collection and geological display, fascinating natural history cabinets of birds and local mammals, William Morris stained glass, old dolls, toys and domestic items, displays featuring Keighley history and local industries plus a programme of temporary exhibitions.

Museum opening times:
Monday to Saturday 10-4 pm
Sunday 12-4 pm
Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays
Phone **01535 618231** or visit
www.bradfordmuseums.org
to check opening times

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Welcome to Cliffe Castle Park

Cliffe Castle Park and its spectacular Victorian mansion was part of the estate of the Butterfield family, mill owners in Keighley and district.

On the slopes of the Aire Valley, the Park has something for every age and every interest:

Beautiful trees and shrubs all year round, an exciting new children's play area with fun for toddlers to young teens. There are animals, aviaries and glasshouses with tropical plants and cacti and a café offering a wide variety of refreshments.

Victorian terraces are a great place to picnic. There are quiet spaces and shady resting places and it is a dog walker's delight. There is also plenty of space for football and ball games in the wide grassy spaces at the bottom of the hill.

History is everywhere, from the ancient Dark Lane which led to the villages along the River Aire, and that may have seen fugitives during the Civil War, to the grand designs of the Italian marble fountains, stately terraces and views of the Aire Valley and Rombalds Moor, shaped by glaciers many centuries ago.

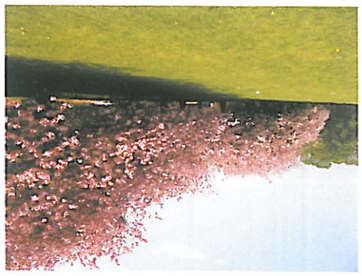
There are many paths around the Park with plenty to see at all times of the year.

The map inside shows three circular walks that start from the entrance to the Museum. There is also a cross-country route for the more active. Or feel free to wander at will through the woodland and grassy spaces of this wonderful Park.

Restoration of the Park

There has been a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery and BIG Lottery Funds by the City of Bradford MDC, supported by Cliffe Castle Park Conservation Group. Work is due to start on the restoration of the Park in 2014. Many areas will regain their Victorian grandeur, including the glasshouses and terraces. The Palm House will be rebuilt and the Italian fountains will work again. Views across the Park will return, as will the pond, and the bandstand will be given a new lease of life.

During construction some areas will have to be cordoned off but the Park and Museum will remain open throughout the restoration.



Cliffe Castle Park Conservation Group is a voluntary group working to improve the Park for all and to encourage and promote events in the Park.
Interested? **Please join us.** Tel: **01535 667001**
or visit www.cliffecastlepark.org.uk

This leaflet has been designed by Cliffe Castle Park Conservation Group with input from **Keighley Healthy Living,** a local charity, which aims to support the health and well-being of the local population.

Keighley Healthy Living delivers a variety of activities including sessions for young parents, breastfeeding mums, adults and older people. KHL also provides healthy lifestyles programmes including health weight courses, cooking sessions, exercise sessions and **free guided walks**. For more information please visit www.khl.org.uk or phone 01535 677177.

Cliffe Castle
Walks in the Park

All three walks start and end at the information board opposite the Museum entrance.
This shows pictures and details of the history of Cliffe Castle.
From here take the path that runs in front of the Museum building. To your right across the park you can see the terracing and the fountains. Continue to the end of the building, then past the lawns and flowerbeds to the junction of several paths.

Walk 1 - Around the Museum

400m or ¼ mile, 10 mins

From the junction, you will see the new Play Area ahead of you. Turn left up the hill towards the glasshouses. Tower House, on your right, was originally connected to the main house by continuous glasshouses where grapes and other fruit were grown for the family.

As you reach the formal flowerbeds, there is a café on your right (access to toilets when café open). There is a cactus house and a glasshouse with orchids and tropical plants. Carry on past the information board and the steps that lead up to the animal houses, where there are guinea pigs and rabbits.

Walk along the path by the flowerbeds. Ahead there are aviaries housing tropical birds in summer. On your right is a small gateway through the wall into the car park.

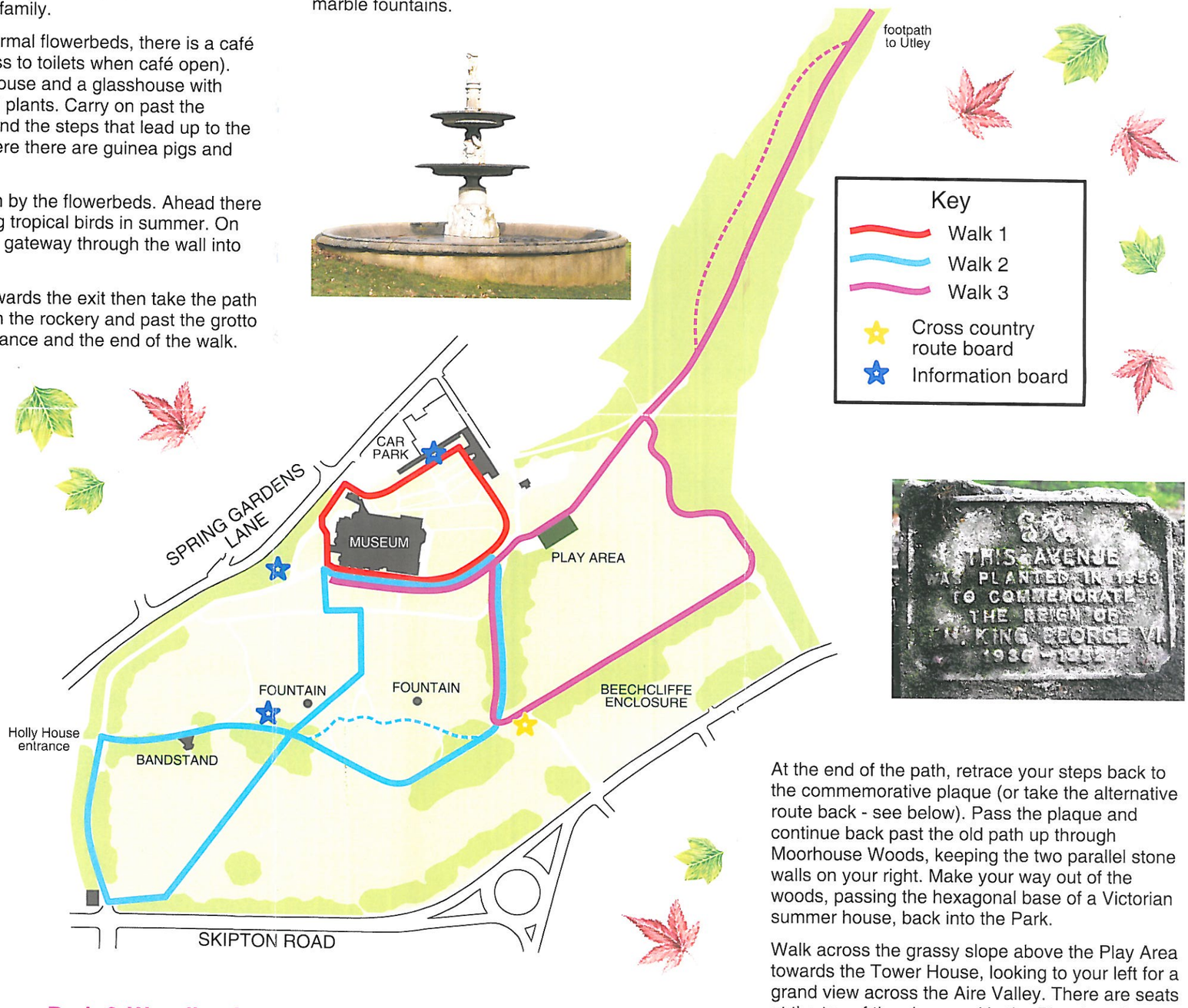
From here, walk towards the exit then take the path left downhill through the rockery and past the grotto to the Museum entrance and the end of the walk.

Walk 2 - Museum and Park

1km or ½ mile, 20 mins

From the junction near the Play Area turn right, walk straight downhill bearing left (do not turn right along the terrace). There are early flowering Azaleas here.

When you reach the T-junction at the bottom of the hill, turn right and walk along the pathway. On your right you'll have a closer view of the two Italian marble fountains.



Walk 3 – Museum, Park & Woodland

1.6km or 1 mile, 25 mins

From the junction near the Play Area turn right, walk straight downhill bearing left (do not turn right along the terrace). There are early flowering Azaleas here.

When you reach the T-junction at the bottom of the hill, turn left and follow the path along the bottom of the steep grassed area, a favourite place for sledging in winter. In Spring there are Rhododendrons in flower close to the path and up the hill on the edge of the wood on the right.

Where the path curves to the right, take the narrow unpaved path on the left into the woods. On your right you will see the new school buildings. The path climbs up the hill. You are now in Moorhouse Woods.

Take the winding path to the left up the hill just inside the edge of the woods. Near the top you will walk up the remains of a Victorian asphalt path. There are bluebells here in Spring. At the top you will see a large wall in front of you. Turn right along the level path past the end of the wall. As you continue along the lower level path look out for the small plaque on the left. This is the start of King George VI Avenue, planted to commemorate the reign of the monarch featured in the 2011 film 'The King's Speech'. In Spring there are daffodils, wood anemones, other wild plants and cherry trees flowering here.

This is a great place to see birds such as wrens, blue tits, blackbirds and magpies and sometimes woodpeckers and brightly coloured jays.

Carry on bearing right as the path curves around to where there used to be a pond (rough surface here - pushchairs and wheelchairs should keep to the main path). Rejoin the main path, passing an opening on the left and an information board on your right, before reaching the Bandstand. Stay on this path until you reach the junction by the Holly House entrance to the Park.

Turn left and walk down the hill to the Lodge by the large ornate iron gates. This was the main entrance to the Estate.

At the gates, turn left and walk into the large grassed area. The impressive Beech tree here may have been part of an old field boundary and has been here since at least 1830.

Walk diagonally left across the field towards the gap in the wall. Go through the gap and make your way up the path or across the lawns to join the path between the fountains. Follow the path up towards the Museum. Either go up the steps or walk left and then right along the level path to the Museum entrance and the end of the walk.

At the end of the path, retrace your steps back to the commemorative plaque (or take the alternative route back - see below). Pass the plaque and continue back past the old path up through Moorhouse Woods, keeping the two parallel stone walls on your right. Make your way out of the woods, passing the hexagonal base of a Victorian summer house, back into the Park.

Walk across the grassy slope above the Play Area towards the Tower House, looking to your left for a grand view across the Aire Valley. There are seats at the top of the slope and in the Play Area for a rest and to enjoy the views.

When you reach the tarmac paths, look for the finger post on your left and take the path that runs towards the Museum to return to the entrance and the end of the walk.

Alternative route - Look out for runners and joggers!

From the end of the path walk back a short distance and then turn right by the sign for the Cross Country Route. This will take you uphill through the woods and then back down to rejoin King George VI Avenue near the commemorative plaque.