

## Plants introduced

*Fritillaria pyrenaica* 'Bernard Tickner'  
*Lunaria rediviva* 'Honour Bright' AM  
*Euphorbia* 'Redwing'  
*Euphorbia* 'Blackbird'  
*Galanthus* 'Marielle'  
*Iris cretensis* 'Bess Tickner'

## The Origins

The late Bernard Tickner (1924-2017) moved to Fullers Mill in 1958 and made the garden you see today from rough scrub and woodland. In 2004 he and his wife Bess donated the garden to The Fullers Mill Trust, a registered charity, which was established to manage the garden and to ensure its future. In January 2013 the garden was gifted to Perennial, The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society for its long-term preservation.

## Visiting

The garden is open from April to September on Wednesdays and Fridays 2 – 5pm, Sundays 11 – 5pm. Tea, coffee, delicious home-made cake and plants are for sale. There is disabled access to most of the garden. Uneven surfaces, grassed areas, proximity to water and sloping ground limit access to some areas.

Disabled toilet and tea room are fully accessible. Assistance dogs welcome. Private visits from groups or clubs are available by prior arrangement please.

**Adults Standard: £4.50 / Gift Aid: £5.00**

**Children (16 and under): Free**

## About Perennial

Perennial is the only charity that helps gardeners and everyone in the horticulture industry, offering a lifeline to those facing crisis as a result of injury, illness, financial hardship or other difficulties. Perennial provides free and confidential support and advice for as long as it takes people to rebuild their lives. Visit our website or call our helpline **0800 093 8543**.

[www.perennial.org.uk](http://www.perennial.org.uk)

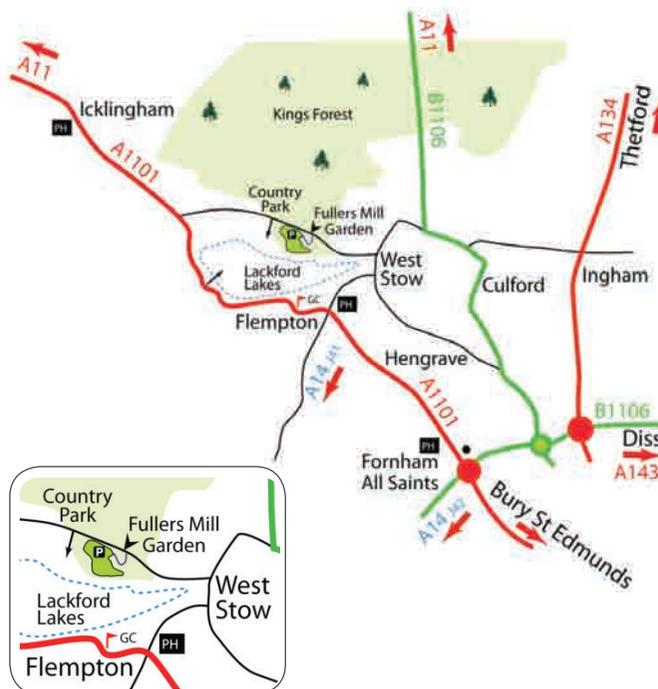
## Fullers Mill Garden

### How to find us

Fullers Mill Garden is 5 miles north-west of Bury St Edmunds. Turn off the A1101 (Bury to Mildenhall road) signposted West Stow Anglo Saxon Village.

Continue for 1.5 miles and the entrance is clearly marked.

Postcode: **IP28 6HD**



Join us online [#fullersmillgarden](https://twitter.com/fullersmillgarden)



**Fullers Mill Garden**

**West Stow Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP28 6HD**

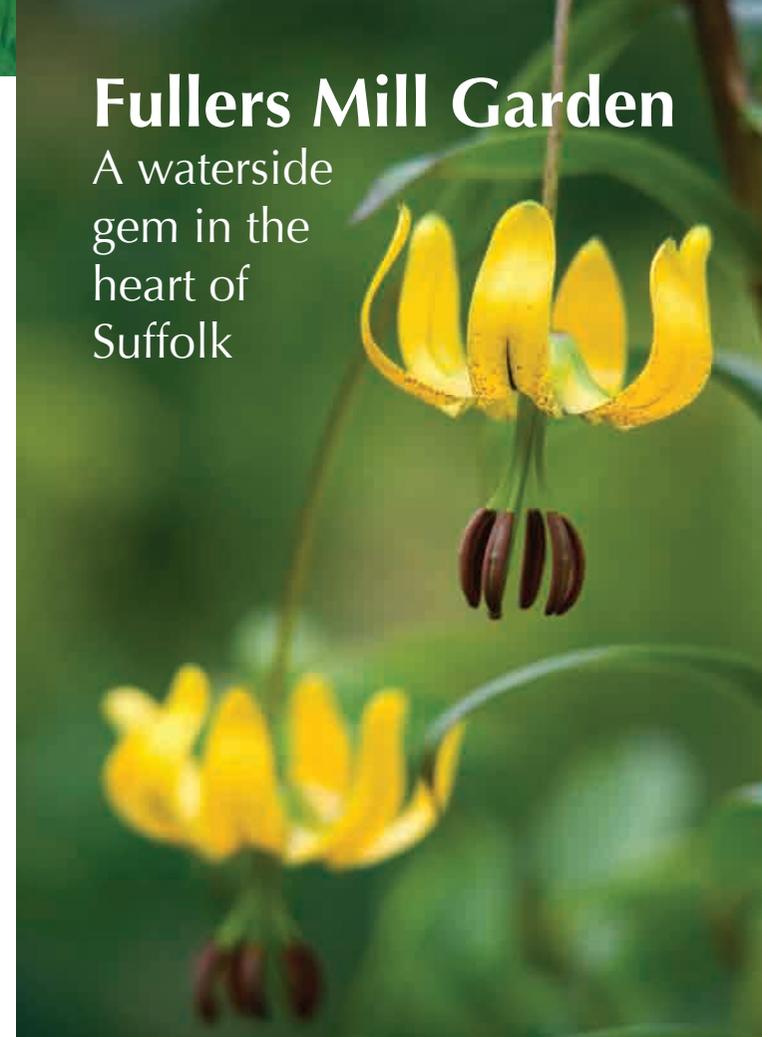
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# Fullers Mill Garden

A waterside gem in the heart of Suffolk



Fullers  
Mill  
Garden



**PERENNIAL**  
GARDENERS' ROYAL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY  
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Images: © Marcus Harpur

## Fullers Mill Garden

Fullers Mill Garden is an enchanting seven acre creation on the banks of the River Lark. It combines a beautiful site of light dappled woodland with a plantsman's collection of uncommon and unusual shrubs, perennials, lilies and marginal plants. Bernard Tickner, the creator, spent over 50 years designing and making the garden, working particularly with plant form and texture in addition to colour, to build a garden of truly year-round interest.



*Betula 'Silver Grace'*

### 1 Top Garden

In making the garden, the late Bernard recognised that the poor soil and dry conditions at Fullers Mill resemble those of the Mediterranean region and consciously made use of plants naturally adapted to such places. Thus the early flowering snowdrops from Greece – *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, start to flower in October. The wild *Tulipa sprengeri*, now extinct in the wild, is an unusual sight in late May. In winter the elegant birch grove of *Betula 'Silver Grace'*, which was originally discovered by the lake, brings great freshness to the Top Garden, and in summer it becomes a romantic, dream-like scene underplanted with silver and purple. In early summer the Top Garden is transformed by flowering shrubs, which later form the backdrop for majestic displays of lilies.



*Tulipa sprengeri*



*Matteuccia*

### 4 The Low Garden

To the west of the Mill Pond is the Low Garden, which was the first area of the garden to be developed. Recently the original planting has been rejuvenated with many choice new plants added. In late winter and spring the curious purple flower of toothwort – *Lathraea clandestina*, a parasitic plant which colonises willow roots, can be found at ground level scattered through this area. At the same time the birch bank is carpeted with *Crocus tommasinianus* followed by *Anemone blanda*, which in turn make way for *Galactites tomentosa* in summer. The raised terrace beds are packed with flowering bulbs, which in spring look over a wonderful fresh mass of the shuttlecock fern *Matteuccia*. Beyond this, in late June the giant lily *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, produces its stems of tall trumpet flowers. This bulb has very particular cultivation requirements and takes about seven years to flower and then dies. However, it leaves behind a ring of small bulbs to start the process again and we are fortunate to have a succession of plants of different ages to ensure a display of flowers in most years. The mix of shady areas and sunny glades in the Low Garden offers ideal conditions for a whole range of charming woodland plants in spring and summer together with lilies followed by displays of colour in autumn.

### 2 The River and Mill Pond

The sound of rushing water draws the visitor to the weir and footbridge across the River Lark. This was formerly one of 23 locks enabling barges to bring mainly coal from the North Sea up to Bury St Edmunds and to take corn back. The Lark ceased to be navigable in 1900. When Bernard Tickner bought the property in 1958 the Mill Pond had disappeared under a tangle of fallen trees, brambles and nettles. Its southern bank had been washed away by the Culford Stream and it was impossible to recognise it as a pond. Much work has been done since then and now the area is planted with massed *Primula*, *Darmera* and the skunk cabbage *Lysichiton* along with other moisture loving plants. There were many fulling mills along the river. Each mill had a water wheel which powered a set of mallets, these were used to pound locally woven cloth, to make it more full and thicker. After fulling it was put out to dry on a flat tentering ground where it was secured with tenter hooks to stop it shrinking as it dried.



*Primula*

### 3 The Quandaries

Beyond the Mill Pond lie the Inner and Outer Quandaries, offering a more sunny open aspect. A succession of snowdrops continues here in winter and early spring, with many large flowered varieties followed by *daphnes* and *paeonies*. In summer the air carries the spicy scent of *Spartium*, hinting at the Mediterranean, while the Indigo plant *Indigofera*, *Crocsmia*, arum lilies and a stunning white-flowered Angel's fishing rod *Dierama*, form an elegant display. The approach of autumn is detected by wafts of 'burnt sugar' given off by the tree *Cercidiphyllum*, while in October, a very large clump of *Persicaria* is a mass of sweetly scented bloom. Nearby, a massive *Euphorbia stygiana* from the Azores is a handsome plant throughout the year.



*Lathraea clandestina*

### 5 The Strip

The Strip contains the Chatto bed, planted with sun-loving foliage plants mainly obtained from Beth Chatto's superb garden in Essex. Further along is a lovely example of *Crataegus x prunifolia* and a huge Himalayan rose *Rosa brunonii*, which is covered with very sweetly scented flowers in June. There are views from here across the lake.



*Lilium pardalinum*

### 6 Fullers Mill Cottage and Private Gardens

This is not open to the public.

