

# *The Gardens of* Belvoir Castle

## **Thank you for visiting the Gardens of Belvoir Castle.**

The 11th and present Duchess realised when moving to Belvoir in 2001 that there were few resources to make big changes in the gardens. Following on from the garden furniture business which she ran, Her Grace has developed a successful working relationship with many of our garden plant suppliers. The Rose Garden has been planted and sponsored by Peter Beales Roses; Clematis have been provided by the Thorncroft Nursery; Lavender by Norfolk Lavender; Box by the Romantic Garden; and ironwork by Room in the Garden 8. The peony specialist Kelways have kindly supplied over 300 peonies in over 50 varieties, herbaceous and tree format. David Raffle has designed a wonderful Summerhouse, which exhibited at Chelsea Flower Show before being erected in the Rose Garden. Details of all these suppliers can be obtained from the Castle and the Ticket Office.

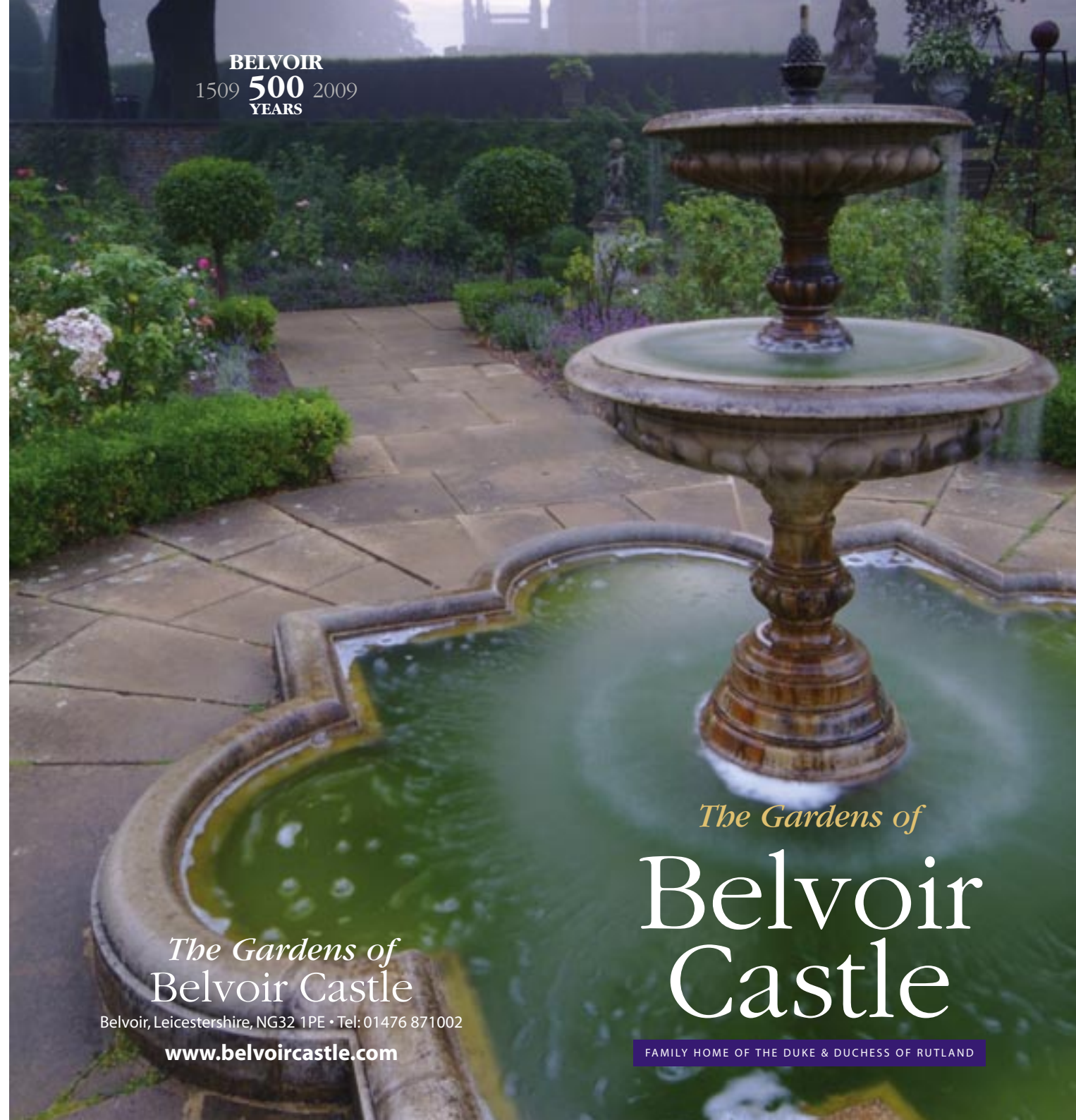
**THE BELVOIR CASTLE COFFEE SHOP** situated at our Visitor Centre in the car park, serves coffee, tea and cold drinks, delicious assorted cakes, paninis and a wide selection of ice creams. In addition the Stewards Restaurant is available in the Castle on Castle and Gardens opening days.

Telephone 01476 871021 or visit our web site [www.belvoircastle.com](http://www.belvoircastle.com) for more details.



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*The Gardens of*  
Belvoir Castle

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*The Gardens of*  
Belvoir  
Castle

FAMILY HOME OF THE DUKE & DUCHESS OF RUTLAND

# A guide to the gardens & walks at...

# Belvoir Castle

There are three garden walk options, depending on how energetic you feel! They are colour coded on the map and well signposted when walking.

And you must see the view from the Castle's North Terrace – on a clear day you can see the towers of Lincoln Cathedral, 35 miles away! It is the 'beautiful view' which Robert de Todei described in 1067 as the 'bel voir' and which gave Belvoir its name.

## WALK 1 – Gentle Stroll

### The Rose Garden and Statue Garden

These gardens are within easy reach of the Castle and its facilities.

The Rose Garden was created by Violet, the 8th Duchess, and the soft colours of the roses provide the perfect contrast to the stark Ancaster and Ironstone walls of the present Castle.

Lying in the valley below the Rose Garden, the Statue Garden has a central water lily pond which was created as recently as 2005.

Here you can see statues by Caius Gabriel Cibber, sculptor to King Charles II, overlooked by the intriguing Gothic House which is set into the hillside. The statues in the garden once lined the drive approaching the third Castle in Charles II's days.



The Gothic House in the Statue Garden



## WALK 2 – Out & Back

### The 'Root & Branch' Pavilion

Follow the sign at the bend in the Castle's approach drive, which directs you to "The Duchess's Garden". This is reached through a gate at the end of a woodland footpath lined with azaleas and rhododendrons. Also known as The Spring Garden – after a natural water spring, not the season – they were created by Elizabeth, the 5th Duchess, between 1800 and 1825.

The natural amphitheatre of the woodland garden not only contains trees and shrubs from around the world, but also boasts a Grade 1 Listed 'Root & Branch' Summer Pavilion designed by James Wyatt and made – as its name suggests – from tree roots and branches with wattle and daub walls.



Root & Branch Pavilion

## WALK 3 – Full Circle (stout walking shoes advised)

### The Rose Garden, Statue Garden and Spring Garden



For a more lengthy walk, follow the woodland path away from the Statue Garden, which leads to the Duchess's Spring Garden. After passing through a wonderful collection of trees including many rare species, camellias, magnolias, flowers and ornamental trees and shrubs (supplied and planted by Charles Williams from Burncoose Nurseries in Cornwall under the watchful eye of the present Duchess), you will reach the 'Root & Branch' Pavilion from the opposite direction to Walk 2. Continue on along the woodland path to complete a full circular walk!

Please be extremely cautious of the grass paths and steps as they can be very slippery underfoot, especially in wet weather.