

## **The Duchess of Northumberland**

(c) Julie Bonn Heath

(Web Copy for Client with a fundraising slant, linked throughout to the Alnwick Garden site. Pictures are also posted.)

The Alnwick Garden (pronounced with a short A) is famous for it's beauty, size, clever components, witty design, care for humanity, appearances in movies (Elizabeth, Prince of Thieves and yes, it IS the school in Harry Potter), and for it's free and uniquely-designed loos.

Loos? That's right. They won the Loo of the Year Award for 2007.

Jane, the Duchess of Northumberland, prioritized the unique design and decor of the loos for the garden, knowing that if people left to use a loo elsewhere, they would likely not return.

But it wasn't her only priority, of course.

Many components throughout the garden began with her love for mankind, generous spirit and her inspirations as she traveled world-wide to visit varied gardens. She was very impressed with the water elements in the gardens at Euro-Disney and ultimately chose almost all the plants from Holland and Belgium. There is no doubt that the garden holds very unique elements, and that visitors (who number a half million a year) travel worldwide to visit.

Among her loves in the garden are:

Extensive Water Features and Sculptures (none are off limits and all are splashed in on a regular basis).

Fiber Optic lighting, perfect for showing off features of the garden both during the day and in the evening.

The world's biggest Cherry Orchard (currently being built).

The world's largest Treehouse (6000 square feet).

An Adventure Play Area (20,000 square feet) where play is not only truly a blast but where high suspension walk-ways 60 feet above the ground are accessible even to kids in wheelchairs (the only play area in the world with this unique feature)

A garden with plants accessible to children and adults in wheelchairs-in fact, guests put on blindfolds and manuevar their way around this garden in a wheelchair to increase their sensitivity to disabilities.

A Bamboo Labyrinth built on raised beds with ferns underneath.

The Poison Garden (a locked garden which grows plants that can kill-and is used for drug education). In fact, actors portray drug addicts throughout the garden and after a tour, children see a musical presentation focused on drug education and resistance.

The Alnwick Gardens is a non-profit organization and The Dutchess has never received a penny for her twelve years of dedication and hard work. With already over 140 million dollars at work in the garden, they slowly but surely seek to raise the amount of funds needed to complete it-one phase at a time. The next phases are planned and ready to make an impact on the world when the needed funds are available. To find out how you can help this truly impactful and far-reaching project, please contact (client).