



Our Victorian Walled Garden: Planting information

At the beginning of 2020, The Walled Garden was completely overgrown after years of neglect. Apart from the three trees that you can see – red oak, wild cherry and silver birch - the site was choked up with brambles and nettles. The site was cleared and then began the task of turning it back into a garden. The traditional design of a walled kitchen garden dates to the very earliest gardens of Persia (present-day Iran). The garden's quadrants broadly reflect the cardinal points of the compass and were formed with pathways running west to east and north to south. To recreate the traditional look, we divided the area into four separate beds with long borders running the length of the beautiful old walls, which were also restored back to their former glory.

You may have noticed the small frost doors which are quite an unusual feature. Frost was a recognised problem that could affect fruit trees, even those trained and pinned to the warmer, south facing walls. Although the walls keep the heat of the sun inside the garden, they also trap pockets of frost within them. This of course can be disastrous. The cold air that creates frost is most concentrated where it sinks towards the lowest point of a garden. Gardeners recognised the need to release these pockets of cold air and so frost gates were used. These are openings in the walls and took the form of gates or doors.

Many of the plants within the garden have been given to us, and a loyal team of volunteers work every Wednesday and Saturday preparing the soil and planting.

Here we explain the different areas of the garden:

The No Dig Bed - Cut flowers dahlias, pumpkins and gourds	Meadow and Orchard Bed	
Cherry Tree Bed - Traditional herbaceous border style	The Cutting Garden Bed	
	Café patio	

Cherry Tree Bed - Traditional herbaceous border style

Our border is not a true herbaceous border as these were originally long and comparatively narrow. Traditionally, the main season of interest of herbaceous borders would run from late spring to late autumn, and, if planned well, was an everchanging masterpiece of colourful, showy planting design. They were originally introduced during the Victorian period as new perennial plant species were introduced from abroad. Before that, the growing and planting out of bedding plants was common practise and was very labour intensive. These wonderful borders were known in many great country gardens, and they have recently enjoyed a resurgence in popularity but with a slight difference. Today a border is likely to include structural evergreen shrubs, roses, ornamental grasses and perhaps topiary, all of which extend the interest across the seasons.

Adding bulbs helps to increase the flowering season at both ends of the year, providing interest when the main planting has been cut back after flowering and before new growth starts to burst through in late spring.

Tree

Wild cherry – ‘Gean’ – British native	Eucalyptus gunnii	Rosa chinensa viridiflora
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Shrub

Rosa pimpinifolia - double deep pink Scotch Briar	Rosa ‘The Fairy’	Ribes alpinum – alpine currant
Viburnum opulus – Guelder rose – British native	Viburnum tinus	Viburnum farreri Nana
Amelanchier alnifolius var nana	Hydrangea hortensis	Lavatera ‘Burgundy Wine’ – tree mallow
Pittosporum tenuifolium	Sarcococca hookeri	Taxus baccata – upright Irish yew – British native
Kolwitzia amabilis	Deutzia gracilis ‘Nikko’	Sorbaria sorbifolia
Hypericum ‘Albury Purple’	Rosa chinensa viridiflora	

Herbaceous

Stachys byzantinus – lamb’s ears	Hesperanthes (formerly Schizostylus) coccinea – kaffir lily	Myosotis arvensis – Forget me not – British native
Michaelmas daisy	Delphinium laxiflorus	Phlomis russeliana
Anthemis tinctoria	Geum ‘Blazing Sunset’	Geranium phaeum – British native
Geranium ‘Johnson’s Blue’	Veronica	Malva
Lunaria annua – white flowered honesty	Lunaria annua ‘Chedglow’ – purple leaved honesty	Astrantia major - masterwort
Aquilegia vulgaris - Granny’s bonnet	Libertia ixiodes	Iris – German bearded
Erysimum ‘Ellen Willmott’ - a perennial wallflower	Erysimum ‘Red Jep’	Nonea aurea -
Carex ‘Frosted Curls’	Liatris spicata	Ophiopogon planiceps
Corydalis cheilanthifolia	Verbena bonariensis	Kniphofia uvaria ‘Flamenco’
Sisyrinchium striatum	Aconitum – ‘Bressingham Spires’	Epimedium ‘Little Shrimp’
Epimedium ‘Neosulphurea’	Helianthus ‘Lemon Queen’	Euphorbia amygdaloides purpurea
Catanche caerulea	Adoxa moschata – town hall clock – British native	Pulmonaria officinalis – lungwort – British native
Miscanthus	Lupin ‘The Pages’	Sedum ‘Madrona’
Rudbeckia?	Prunella grandiflora – greater selfheal	Silene coronaria
Potentilla ‘Miss Willmott’	Luzula sylvatica ‘Hohe Tatra’ – golden wood rush	Crocsmia ‘George Davidson’ – (a former gardener at Earlam Hall)
Chrysosplenium macrophylla		

Meadow and Orchard Bed

Community orchards have never been more important. Orchards have played an important role in communities for many centuries and along the way, many customs and traditions have developed. Thousands of different variations on *Malus domestica*, our well-known apple, each cultivar with its unique flavour, texture, use and story, linking people to place and heritage.

As orchards were grubbed up, many beautiful old varieties were lost along with the skills used to produce them. Now most of the world's commercially grown apples come from just four or five parent varieties. Luckily though, in recent years, community orchards have had a renaissance as people rediscover the benefits and pleasures of growing fresh fruit from trees.

Orchards provide vital green spaces and offer a space for us to enjoy as well as a place in which training of traditional skills can occur, such as pruning and grafting. Whether wassailing, Blossom Day or Apple Day, the orchard offers much scope for celebration while at the same time helping us to keep track of the changing seasons. Our orchard will be registered with Orchards East Anglia.

Planting in Orchard/Meadow

Malus sylvestris robusta	Cydonia vulgaris - quince	Mespilus germanica – common medlar
Pyrus communis – ‘Conference Pear’	Apple ‘Greenfinch’	Quercus ruber – American red oak
Forsythia	Leycestris – Himalayan honeysuckle	Cut-leaved elder – purple leafed
Scilla non scripta – wild bluebell – British native	Ransoms ursinum – wild garlic – British native	Iris foetida – stinking iris or gladdon – British native
Silene alba – white campion – British native	Meconopsis cambrica – Welsh poppy – British native	Digitalis purpurea - foxgloves – British native
Vinca minor – variegated periwinkle – British native	Cyclamen hederifolium – cyclamen	Anemone japonica – Japanese anemone
Bowles golden grass	Narcissus ‘Van Sion’ – an old English double daffodil	Melica uniflora – wood medick - British native
Helleborus foetidus – stinking hellebore – British native	Fragaria vesca – double form of wild strawberry – British native	Saxifraga spathularis – London Pride
Primula vulgaris – wild primrose – British native	Primula elatior – cowslip – British native	Primula – oxlip – British native

Meadows and grasslands were once an intrinsic part of British agriculture, full of colour and the hum of insects, but a staggering decline has left this important habitat covering just 1% of the UK. A hundred or so years ago our countryside was a very different place. Since the 1930s, over 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost which equates to about 7.5 million acres (3 million hectares). Species-rich grassland now only covers a mere 1% of the UK's land area. What remains is mostly scattered fragments of just a few acres and is still vulnerable to disappearing under the plough. The seriousness and causes of the decline were outlined in a report by the charity Plantlife. The scale of the decline is astonishing, and the loss of meadows and species-rich grasslands is without parallel in the history of nature conservation in the UK.

Meadows developed as a result of traditional farming practices. Each small farm would have grown a few crops, had permanent pasture for grazing, and meadows for hay that were cut and stored to feed the livestock over winter. Management followed an annual cycle of growing in spring and summer, cutting in late summer and grazing in winter. Things changed for ever during World War II when six million acres of grassland were ploughed to grow cereals, starting an inevitable decline. This decline continues today with the huge number of new roads and houses that are being built. Decades of careful management can be lost in a few hours.

A meadow remains an important habitat with many different species of flower and grass that support a myriad of insects from bees and beetles to grasshoppers and butterflies, which in turn support many small animals and birds. A meadow could contain up to 40 species per square metre. Few habitats in Britain can match this diversity.

The No Dig Bed

'No Dig' means reducing the amount you turn the soil. A layer of cardboard and thick layer of mulch/compost is put on top of the soil to suppresses weeds. This layer on the surface allows worms and soil biology to do the cultivation for you underneath. The soil is undisturbed so its organisms can work and multiply. The organisms are fed with the organic matter on the surface, as happens in nature, albeit a bit quicker because the top layer of mulch has already decomposed. Each year you add a top layer you should never tread on the areas so as not to compact it.

Annual weeds can land on the plot and germinate but these can be expediently dealt with, and perennial weeds underneath are severely weakened by the top layer.

We will be planting annual flower seeds in this weed free environment which should produce strong plants.

Planting in the No Dig Bed

Bergenia cordifolia	Acanthus mollis – bear's breeches	angelica
Fragaria vesca – strawberries	Larkspur	Annual chrysanthemum
Nigella	Artichokes	Angelica
Clarkia	Cardoons	Dahlias – various
Centaurea annua	Sweet cicely	
Squashes	Gourds	Pumpkins

The Cutting Garden Bed

Historically, a cutting garden was a functional space used to grow flowers for indoor use rather than outdoor display. It was usually only a feature of large residences as they need plenty of room. The Head Gardener would have been responsible not only for producing fruit and vegetables for the kitchen but also flowers and plants for the house. He would have had to supply buttonholes for the family and their guests and produce flowers for every birthday, anniversary or other major events in the house calendar. The cutting garden was typically placed in a fertile and sunlit position out of public view and was not artistically arranged. Cathedrals, including Durham and Winchester, had large walled gardens to produce most of the flowers for their decorations within the cathedral.

So many of the cut flowers that are on sale these days, whether on the garage forecourt or in supermarkets, are grown abroad – mainly in the Netherlands but also as far afield as South America – such as those scentless red roses that arrive before Valentine's Day. How much nicer to produce beautiful, scented plants here in the UK! As we have plenty of space within the Walled Garden, we thought it would be good to dedicate part of it to growing cut flowers so that we can sell them to visitors. Another advantage of a cutting garden over picking flowers from borders is that it avoids reducing their colour.

We planted things in rows as this makes weeding, staking and picking so much easier. We took into account the final spread of the plants and to allow access between the rows as, if planted too close together, plants will fall into each other, get tangled and may be damaged, making them less suitable for harvesting.

Planting in the Cutting Garden

Nerine bowdenii - Nerines	Paeonia officinalis - peonies various	Phlox
Agapanthus – various	Sweet Peas	Cardoons/Artichokes
Gladioli mixed	Allium hollandica 'Purple Sensation'	Iris
Parsnips and Carrots!		

The Long Borders

Protecting produce from the elements was the main situation of a walled garden. The planting of beds and borders was originally based on some common conventions so that the height of the wall should determine the depth of the border running beneath it. These lovely old brick walls also provide character as well as protection.

Our longest border is south facing and below the fruit trees we have planted things that appreciate sun all day long. Many of these will attract insects to help with the pollination of the trees. Underneath this wall it is very sheltered indeed. In time, and with funds permitting, we hope to have a traditional style glasshouse along the south wall.

The west border also gets quite a lot of sun but the one half of it gets shade from the birch tree and the café building so shade lovers have been put in here. The east border already had some beds and curving paths laid out, so we have kept these.

South & West walls

Laurus nobilis Bay tree	Alcea rosea - hollyhocks	Fatsia japonica
Cornus stolonifera flavirima	Potentilla 'Hopley's Orange'	Iris germanica
Pittosporum undulata	Potentilla 'Abbotswood'	Iris siberica 'Caesar's Brother'
Ilex aquifolium	Hypericum erectum	Phlox adsurgens' Clouds of Perfume'
Sarcococca confusa	Salvia officinalis	Cardoon
Deutzia 'Strawberry Fields'	Salvia officinalis purple leaf	Galactites tormentosus
Caryopteris	Buxus balearica	Lupin 'The Pages'
Helleborus orientalis	Iris latifolium	Agapanthus 'Morning Star'
Agapanthus 'Midnight Star'	Ajuga 'Catlin's Giant'	Carex 'Silver Mount'
Agapanthus 'Bethlehem Star'	Luzula sylvatica variegata	Campanula persicifolia
Bergenia	Heuchera sanguinea alba	Geranium phaeum
Veronica spicata	Hemerocallis 'Night Embers'	Mint flavoured lemon verbena
Dianthus 'Fetty's Mount'	Hemerocallis 'Franz Hals'	Origanum 'Acorn Bank'
Dianthus barbatus 'Sooty' & 'Margery Fish's White' – Sweet Williams	Aconitum 'Bressingham Spire'	Origanum vulgare
Morina longifolia	Erysimum 'Orange Flame'	Achemilla mollis – lady's mantle
Sphaeralcea – orange flower	Phlomis russeliana	Nandina domestica
Salvia przewalskii	Digitalis lanata	Heuchera 'Belle Notte'
Alstromeria	Anaphalis	
Phlox paniculata	Centaurea 'Bella'	

Rhubarb Bed

Rhubarb	Blackcurrant	Thymus – golden thyme
Fragaria vesca – strawberries	Artichoke 'Green Globe'	
Amaranthus 'Green'		

Semi-circular Bed (1)

Aucuba japonica – spotted laurel Helleborus orientalis – Lenten rose	Euonymus upright Narcissus – 'Van Sion' – Old English daffodil	Euonymus japonica variegata Narcissus – 'Tete a Tete'
Digitalis purpurea – foxglove – British native	Luzula sylvatica – wood rush – British native	Pulmonaria mollis – lungwort – British native

Circular Birch Tree Bed

Fatsia japonica -	Eranthis hyemalis - Aconites – British native	Narcissus
Crocus	Snowdrops	

Rose Bed		
Rosa 'Buff Beauty' Ribes sanguinea – Show Currant Rosemarinus officinalis - Rosemary x 2 Lavendula angustifolius - Lavender x 3 Alchemilla vulgaris – Lady's mantle – British native Dianthus 'Haytor White' Dianthus 'Valda Wyatt' Dianthus 'Tickled Pink' Dianthus 'Doris' Dianthus barbatus 'Sooty' – a	Rosa? Sweet William Geranium pratense – dark leaves Thalictrum flavum– meadow rue - British native Asphodeline liburnica – a yellow asphodel Lunaria rediviva – perennial honesty	Galactites tormentosa – variegated thistle Knautia macedonica a scabious relative Campanula CD? Salvia Prunella grandiflora 'Bella' - large self-heal Phygelius capensis Primula vulgaris – primroses various colours

The Stumpery

Although the first examples of stumperies date from the 1850s, they were made famous by HRH The Prince of Wales who created one of Britain's largest at Highgrove. The largest stumpery in the country is in Norfolk at Raveningham Gardens and was created by Sir Nicholas Bacon who has supported the restoration of the Walled Garden in many ways.

A stumpery is an architectural arrangement of wood that is planted with ferns and other shade loving plants. Traditionally, tree stumps are used because of the sculptural appearance of the exposed roots but logs are just as good. As the stumpery decays it creates perfect conditions for a range of invertebrates from worms to woodlice and centipedes to stag beetles. These attract some mammals, frogs and toads. All in all, stumperies are a wonderful way to bring wildlife into the garden.

Shrubs

Taxus baccata - Yew – British native	Lonicera periclynum – British native	Humulus lupulus – hop – British Native
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Ferns

Dryopteris affinis – scaly male fern - British native	Dryopteris felix-mas – British native	Polypodium cambricum – western polypody - British native
Polystichum aculeatum hard shield fern – British native	Asplenium scolopendrum – hart's tongue fern – British native	
Claytonia siberica	Erythronium 'Pagoda'	

Hostas in Pots Hosta 'Frances Williams#' Hosta 'Love Pat' Hosta 'Francee'	Bulbs Crinum powellii Allium senescens glauca Leucojum aestivum - summer snowflake Camassia esculenta Ficaria verna – celandine - British native
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