

# Historic Fruit and Kitchen Gardens

## Newsletter number 5, January 2024



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### Tribute to Susan Campbell (1931-2024)

Susan Campbell, one of the initiators and co-presidents of the European Symposium on the conservation of historic fruit and kitchen gardens has passed away January 2, 2024. She was a leading expert on the history and restoration of walled kitchen gardens.



*Susan Campbell (third from right) and the other members of the organizing committee of the Chambord Symposium, June 23, 2022. From left tot right: Michel Schlosser, Lucy Pitman, Mike Kleyn, Alix de Saint Venant, Anne-France Loumaye, Susan Campbell, Marjorie Yerushalmi and Alexia de Buffévent.*

### Outstanding contributor to the advancement and practice of Horticulture

Susan was awarded the prestigious RHS Veitch Memorial Medal 2023. This award is given for outstanding contribution to the advancement of the science and practice of horticulture and for Susan

in recognition of her astonishing years of work and research on walled kitchen gardens - writer, historian, artist and gardener.

### **Founder of the Walled Kitchen Gardens network (WKGN)**

Over almost forty years, Susan Campbell has visited and researched over seven hundred walled kitchen gardens in the UK and abroad. With fellow garden historian Fiona Grant, she established the [Walled Kitchen Garden Network in 2001](#). As the leading authority in the field, Susan was instrumental in helping create a renewed interest for historic kitchen gardens and in advising on many pioneering kitchen garden restoration projects, including those at Tatton Park, Hampton Court, Fulham Palace, Audley End, Quarry Bank and Croome Court. Susan Campbell was also a vice president of The Gardens Trust.

It was through WKGN that Susan met Mike Kleyn, they were married in 2013.



*From left tot right: Henri Carvallo, Alix de Saint Venant and Susan Campell at Villandry Castle.*

### **Illustrator, artist and writer**

Susan Benson was born in Ruislip, Middlesex, 14 September 1931. She trained at the Slade School of Art and worked under her maiden name as an illustrator. Initially she worked for *The Sunday Times*, *The Observer*, *Shell Oil* and various magazines. Her first book illustration was a collaboration with Nell Dunn, *Up the Junction*. This was followed in 1968 by another collaboration with Dunn on a children's book, *Freddy Gets Married*. After her marriage to Robin Campbell, she went on to be a food writer. She continued to write and illustrate books and articles on food until 1981, when her interest was diverted to the history of walled kitchen gardens.

### **Cottesbrooke**

This change of tack was inspired by a visit, some twenty years earlier, to Thomas Pakenham at Tullynally Castle where the vast walled kitchen garden was intact and still in production. She had never seen a functioning walled kitchen garden before. The garden there, then, was in stark contrast to almost every walled kitchen garden in England, where so many had fallen into dereliction with the decline of the country house following the Second World War.

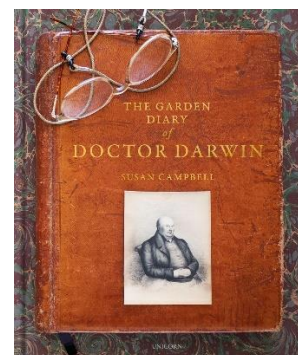
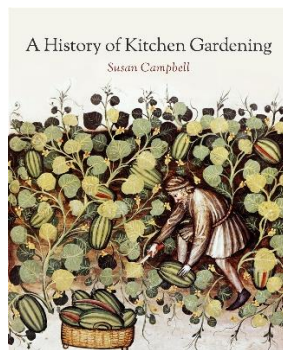
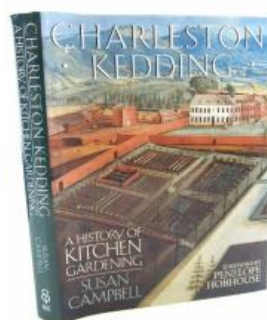
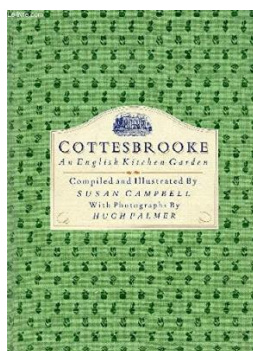
Following an enquiry, in 1984, from the BBC about a suitable garden for the BBC2 TV series *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* Susan Campbell discovered the kitchen garden at Cottesbrooke Hall, which was unique in being run exactly as it would have been before the war. This led to the publication of *Cottesbrooke, an English Kitchen Garden*, in August, 1987, which coincided quite unintentionally with the first airing of the TV series *The Victorian Kitchen Garden*. The two events highlighted the huge loss of walled kitchen gardens, ignited public interest and spurred Campbell on to research them further.

### Charleston Keddig

She then concentrated her research on the history of the walled kitchen at Pylewell Park close to her home in the New Forest. This became the fictionalised garden Charleston Keddig in her book of the same name, first published in 1996. The name was an anagram of old kitchen gardens to protect the identity of the garden. However, interest in the subject matter was so great that it was eventually felt there was no need for anonymity and the book was subsequently re-issued in 2005 by Frances Lincoln publishers with the more descriptive title *A History of Kitchen Gardening*. All editions of the book were illustrated with drawings by the author.

### The Garden Diary of Doctor Darwin

Her most recent publication in November 2021 was *The Garden Diary of Doctor Darwin*. In 1986 she made the chance discovery of this previously unknown garden diary written between 1838-1865 by Dr Robert Darwin (father of Charles) and after his death in 1848, by Charles' sister Susan. It describes the horticultural and domestic activities principally around the kitchen gardens at the family home – The Mount, Shrewsbury. Susan spent many years researching the background of the diary, before bringing this book to publication.



## Co-president of the European Symposium on the conservation of historic fruit and kitchen gardens

As co-president of the symposium, Susan introduced its first online session on October 15, 2020 (see [slides](#) and [text](#)) and has been very instrumental to the success of this event since then.

Susan will be greatly missed as an expert and as a person. We will cherish her legacy and continue the European exchange of knowledge and savoir-faire to preserve and restore historic walled fruit and kitchen gardens in Europe. One initiative will be to translate her book *A History of Kitchen Gardening* into French, Dutch and German.

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## Next online conference January 19, 2024

Two presentations await you at our next conference session on Friday January 19, 2024, 10h - 12 h (9 - 11am UK time).

We welcome for the first time a prestigious garden in Poland: **the kitchen garden of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów near Warsaw**. Paulina Szulist-Pluciniczak, head of the education department and

Nela Kokoszka, deputy head of the education department and responsible for the kitchen garden, will tell us about the history of this kitchen garden and how educational activities are helping reconstruct it.



*Culinary workshop for children at Wilanow ©W. Holnicki*

The second presentation focusses on the fruit and kitchen garden of Château de la Bourdaisière. Owner Louis Albert de Broglie and head gardener Nicolas Toutain will present its Dahliacolor ® and National Conservatory of Tomatoes.

To receive the link, please register at: [amisdupotagerduroi@yahoo.fr](mailto:amisdupotagerduroi@yahoo.fr)



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You receive this email because you participated in one of our online conferences or attended the symposium at Chambord Castle.

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