# A History of Kitchen Gardening

*Susan Campbell*

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SUSAN CAMPBELL

Unicorn Press

To my second grandchild,
Freddy Robert Campbell

Unicorn Publishing Group LLP
66 Charlotte Street
London
W1T 4QE

www.unicornpress.org


First published in 2005 by Frances Lincoln Limited

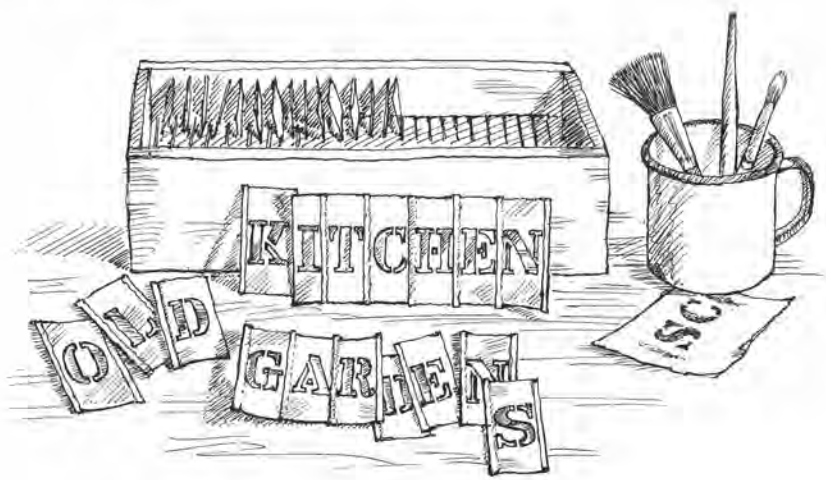


ISBN 978-1-910065-91-4

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Commissioned and edited by Jane Crawley
Designed by Becky Clarke
Cover design by Felicity Price-Smith

Printed in Spain by GraphyCems



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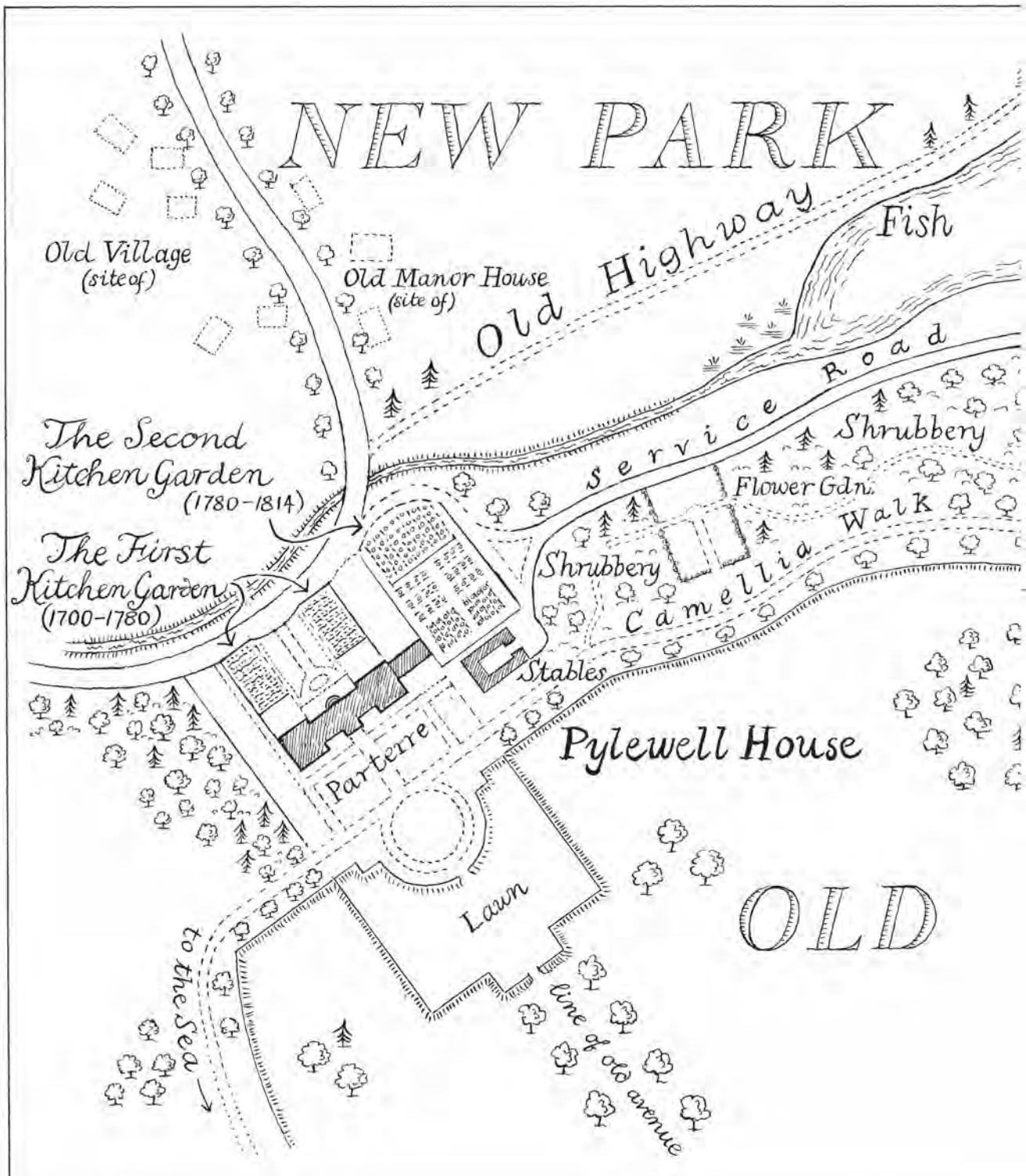
# PREFACE
## TO THE NEW EDITION

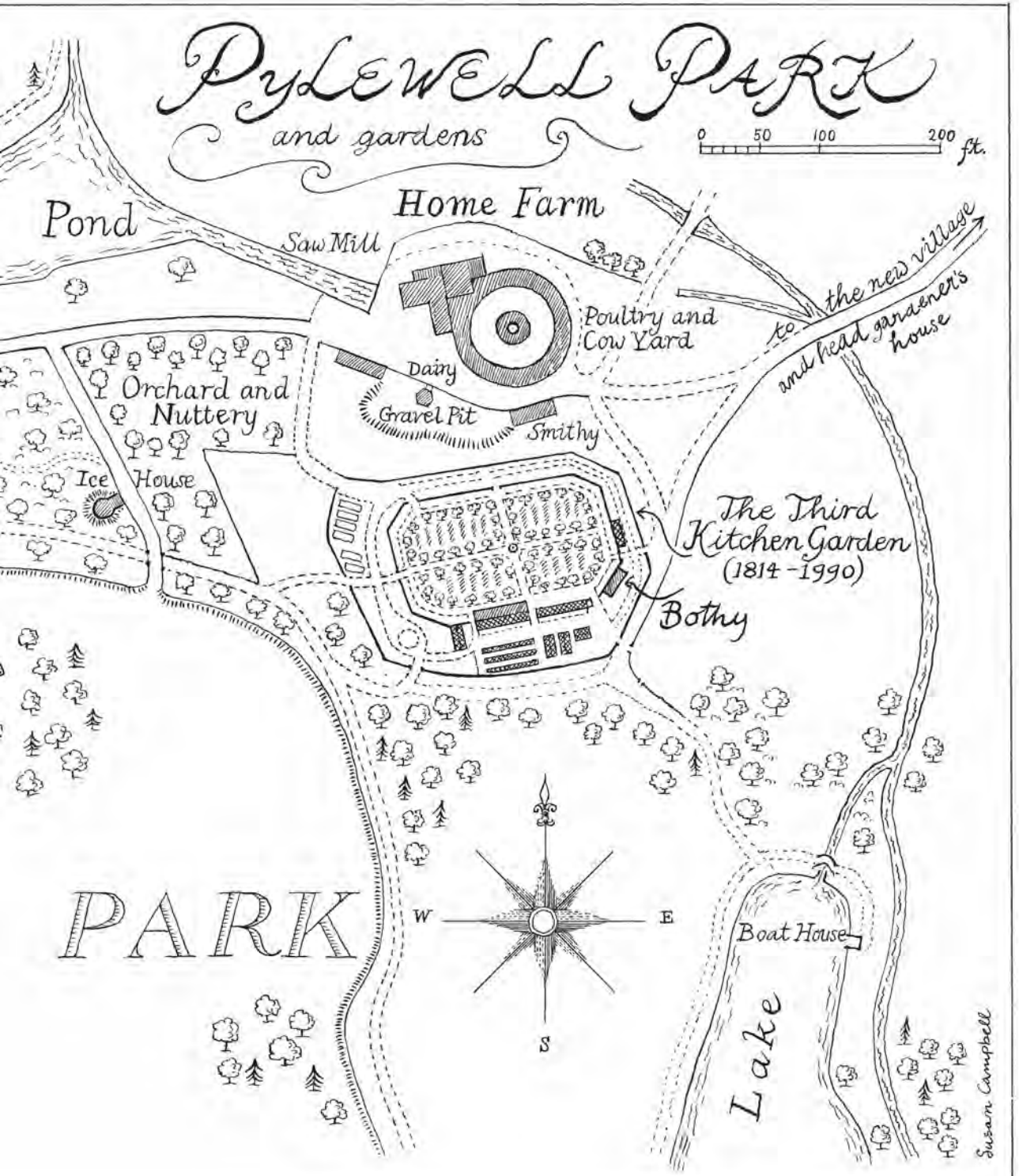
The first edition of this book appeared in 1996 under the title of 'Charleston Kedding'. This sounded as if it was a real place but actually it never existed. The name was merely an anagram of Old Kitchen Gardens. The substance of the book was also an amalgamation of several kitchen gardens that I had come to know particularly well since 1980, when I first began my researches into the history of these marvellous places, old walled kitchen gardens.

This Unicorn Press version is a reissue of a new edition of what then became more accurately and simply 'A History of Kitchen Gardening'. The true name of the garden at the centre of this book is Pylewell Park and all fiction has been removed. The illustrations, historical horticultural material and references, where accurate, remain. I was also able to add page numbers to my references in order to make the book more useful to serious students of garden history.

In the nineteen years since that first edition was published both private owners and the general public have shown a gratifying increase in their interest and concern for the restoration, preservation and renewed horticultural use of old walled kitchen gardens, an interest which I modestly hope was, and will continue to be, supported, informed and kindled by the contents of this book.

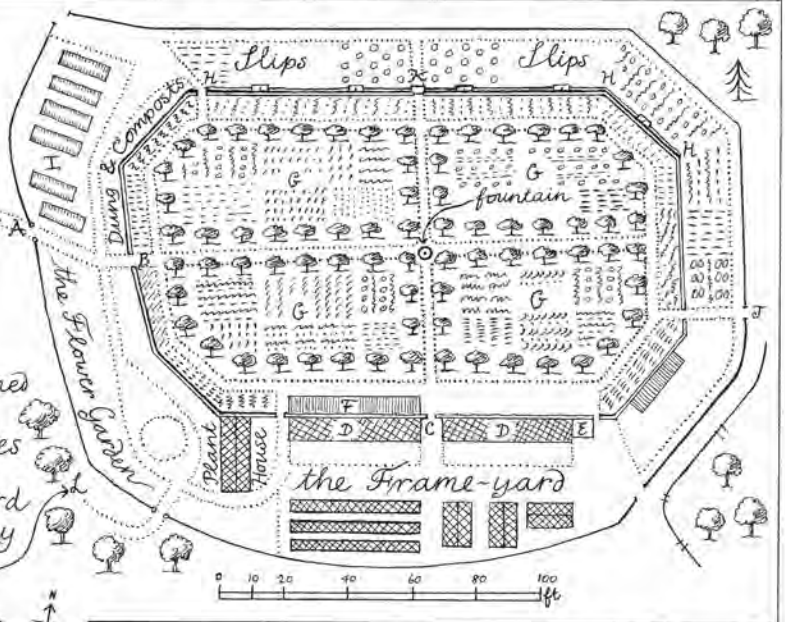
S.C. 2015


NEW PARK
Old Village
(site of)
Old Manor House
(site of)
Old Highway
Fish
Service Road
Shrubbery
Flower Gdn.
Walk
Camellia
Shrubbery
The Second
Kitchen Garden
(1780–1814)
The First
Kitchen Garden
(1700–1780)
Stables
Pylewell House
Parterre
Lawn
OLD
to the Sea
line of old avenue


PYLEWELL PARK
and gardens
0 50 100 200 ft.
Pond
Saw Mill
Home Farm
Poultry and Cow Yard
Dairy
Gravel Pit
Smithy
to the new village and head gardener's house
Orchard and Nuttery
Ice House
The Third Kitchen Garden (1814 - 1990)
Bothy
PARK
W
E
S
Boat House
Lake
Susan Campbell

# TWO NINETEENTH-CENTURY PLANS

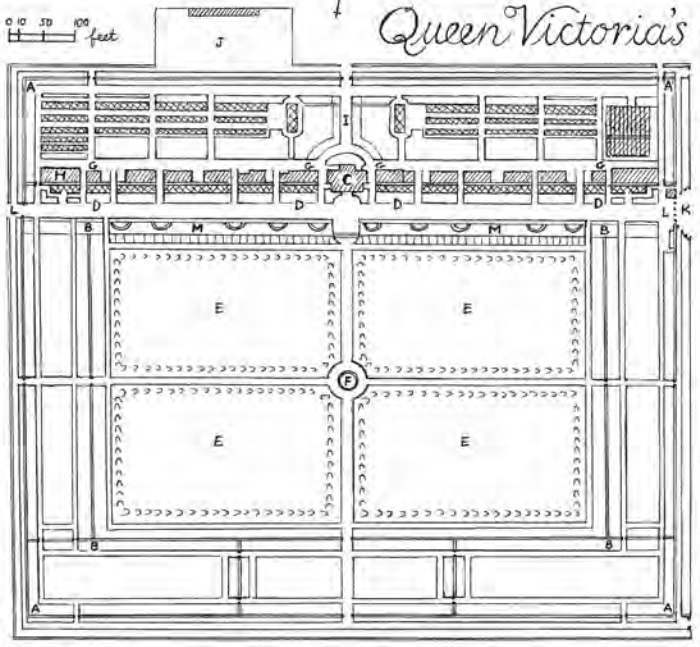
## Pylewell's 3-acre Kitchen Garden (built 1814)




A: walk from house
B: ornamental gate
C: old main entrance
D: vineries
E: boiler-house
F: backsheds
G,G,G,G: open quarters, lined with espaliers
H,H,H,H: hot wall & fireplaces
I: old melon ground
J,J: cartways to farmyard
K: watertank over doorway
L: part of shelter-belt

## Queen Victoria's Kitchen Garden at Windsor (1850)

22 acres in extent




A,A,A,A: 12-ft-high outer fruit-wall
B,B,B,B: 12-ft-high inner fruit-wall
C: head-gardener's house, with sitting-rooms for Q. Victoria
D,D,D,D: 820-ft range of hot-houses
E,E,E,E: quarters bordered by dwarf, arched, pears, apples, plums &c.
F: fountain & 30-ft. diam basin
G,G,G,G: backsheds, boilers, potting-sheds, mushroom houses & c.
H: under-gardener's house
I: forcing-ground; pits, frames & houses for melons, asparagus &c.
J: compost yard, stables, boilers
K: porter's lodge & main entrance
L,L: terrace, 1,000-ft long
M,M: flower borders

# INTRODUCTION

This book takes the form of a conducted tour around an old walled kitchen garden in the south of England. The garden, which I disguised in the first edition of this book as 'Charleston Kedding' (an anagram of 'old kitchen gardens') is at Pylewell Park, near Lymington in Hampshire. There are hundreds of old kitchen gardens like it throughout the British Isles. Most of them are now disused and in ruins, but within living memory, and for several centuries before that, the cooks in the kitchens they supplied never had to buy anything from a greengrocer, except citrus fruits and pine-apples – and even these luxuries were grown in such gardens, once upon a time. My purpose is to discover how these old kitchen gardens were capable of such sophisticated productivity, and thus relate their history.

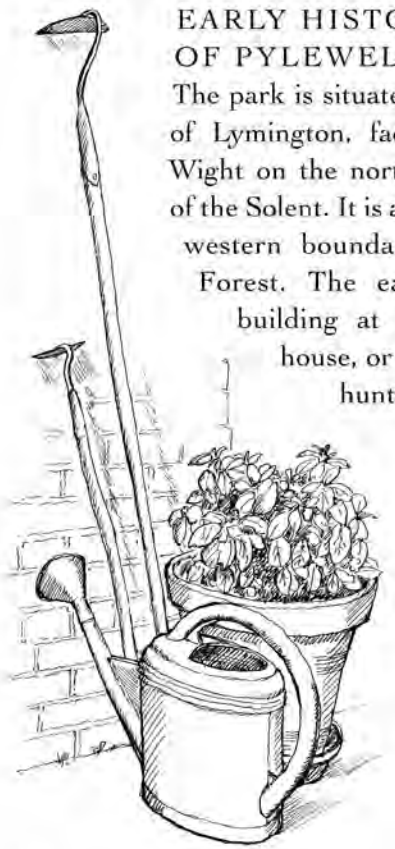
When I began to write this book, in the early 1980s, I talked to several members of the Whitaker family, who owned the estate, and to two old estate workers, a woodman-cum-factotum named Willie Woodford and a gardener-cum-carter named Percy Gregory, both of whom remembered Pylewell in its heyday.

Percy was then in his eighties. When he began work here just after the First World War he had been one of a team of between twelve and sixteen men, under a head gardener named Mr Hamilton. Hamilton had worked at Pylewell all his life, finally retiring as head gardener in the early forties, having first come here as a pot-washing garden boy in 1905. I also talked to Mrs Newstead, a lady then in her nineties, who as 'Mrs' Holmes had been the cook at Pylewell for many years. This was in the days of the second William Ingham Whitaker (known as 'Ingham'), son of the first William Ingham Whitaker (known as 'Willie'), who had bought the estate in 1874. All of these people were disguised as fictitious characters in the first edition of this book and have since died; in now writing without the need for fiction, I have had to resort to talking to their children, whose memories of pre-war days are, sadly, as distant as my own, and as little concerned with the running of a large country house kitchen garden as mine would have been. Nevertheless, I have been able to build on what I had already found out, and Pylewell's kitchen garden remains the central focus of the story.

The present kitchen garden was built in 1814. It is moderately large, occupying about three acres. One and a half acres are enclosed by high walls and the rest is taken up by the forcing houses, frames, back sheds, and slip gardens that lie outside the walls.

The head gardener's cottage stands at one of the four entries to the 200 acre park, where it doubles as an entrance lodge; it is about

300 yards from the kitchen garden. Its position here is not typical, as head gardeners liked to be as near to the centre of operations as possible; however, there was also a small bothy by the kitchen garden, and the Home Farm with its saw mill, dairy and smithy was close by. The mansion itself, which the kitchen garden was designed to serve, is a further one third of a mile away and is surrounded by twenty to thirty acres of shrubberies, woodland gardens and formal gardens, which in turn are set in a large area of parkland.



## EARLY HISTORY OF PYLEWELL

The park is situated two miles east of Lymington, facing the Isle of Wight on the north-western shore of the Solent. It is also on the south-western boundary of the New Forest. The earliest recorded building at Pylewell was a house, or more probably a hunting lodge, which appears as 'Pie House' on Norden's map of 1595. It stands in a deer park in the manor of Badgeley, also known as Badsley or South Badsley (and now a hamlet known as South Baddesley). The manor of Badsley can be traced back to the time of Edward the Confessor. [1]

## THE WORSLEYS

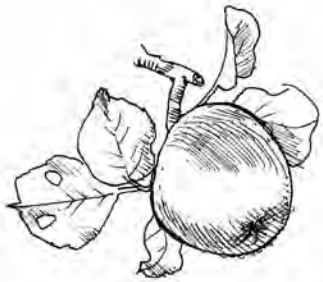
In 1617 a 'capital messuage' and ninety acres of land at South Badsley were bought by Richard Worsley (1588-1621), who already owned property at 'Pylewell ground'.[2] Worsley was a member of one of the leading families on the Isle of Wight and was created First Baronet of Appuldurcomb in 1611. His great grandson James (1645-95) inherited Pylewell in 1676 and in 1688 married and moved in. Seven years later he died, leaving the property to his five-year-old son, also James. Young James married in 1714, but it is probable that the enlargement and improvement of the old hunting lodge and the laying out of its gardens had been begun by his father, to be continued by the son at the time of his marriage.

The date of the original house is unknown, but it would have had splendid views across the deer park, southwards towards the sea. An anonymous, undated, bird's-eye view engraving of *circa* 1700 shows Pylewell's north front, with just such a view (see page 22). This front is in the William and Mary style, with a pair of Elizabethan pepper-pot towers (for viewing deer?) just visible on either wing, and some fairly ancient-looking

stables and a farmyard attached to its east side. A modest kitchen garden and orchard lie to the north of the farmyard. The kitchen garden is rectangular, with the longest axis running north-south. The plot is contained on three sides by low walls (one of which forms the boundary of the main highway from Lymington to Beaulieu). On the fourth side there is a narrow canal backed by a high, thin hedge. The hedge screens the kitchen garden from the house and the formal approach to the north front – a gravelled forecourt ornamented by topiaried shrubs and grass plats.

The kitchen garden is balanced symmetrically by a soft-fruit garden on the other side of the forecourt; this too is screened from view from the house by a tall hedge (technically known as a palisade) and bounded by another canal (an ornamental strip of water, rather than a canal in the modern sense). Its other boundaries are formed by a continuation of the wall beside the main highway, and by a tall fence of flat palings. A small terrace or parterre (a carpet-like design of turf, gravel or clipped shrubs) lies between the kitchen gardens and the mansion.

The palisades, canals, parterre and topiaried trees are typical of the geometrical, late baroque period of garden design which was fashionable from the end of the seventeenth to the early eighteenth centuries. The print of 1700 shows even more elaborate formal gardens to the south of the mansion. A central vista is created by



a lengthy avenue running due south to the sea, while the mansion is faced by a semicircular lawn, bounded by more palisades, which screen a maze-like 'wilderness' containing arbours, topiaried trees, arches and *allées* or alleys.

A later print, published in 1739 in *Britannia Illustrata*, shows the same view, and virtually the same garden layout. There are a few changes; the towers are now castellated turrets, and the kitchen garden has switched places with the fruit garden on the west of the forecourt, enabling it to double in size. Its original site is now all orchard.

It is highly likely that these gardens, and possibly even the house at Pylewell, were designed by John James of Greenwich (*circa* 1672-1746). He was an architect and garden designer and the translator, in 1712, of d'Argenville's *Theory and Practice of Gardening*. He was also a follower of George London and Henry Wise (at that time the leading exponents of garden design). The possibility that he might have worked at Pylewell is supported by two slim pieces of evidence: although the work was never completed, John James was employed between 1701 and 1710 by Sir James's cousin Robert Worsley (the fourth baronet,

born in 1669) to rebuild Appuldurcomb on the Isle of Wight[3] and two of the subscribers to the d'Argenville translation were Sir James himself and his cousin Henry.

In 1747 Robert Worsley died without a direct heir, and Sir James became the fifth baronet and inherited Appuldurcomb, but he continued to live at Pylewell. He was M.P. for Newtown on the Isle of Wight in nine parliaments and a historian of the Isle of Wight. In 1750 he let Pylewell as a summer residence for Frederick, Prince of Wales and his family, who came here for the sea bathing. (There was a small pavilion or bath house on the shore at the end of the long avenue.)

Sir James died in 1756, and his son Thomas, then aged twenty-eight, inherited Pylewell. He was colonel-in-chief in the South Hants Militia and, according to his captain, the young Edward Gibbon, he was 'a man of fashion and entertainment' and 'an easy good-humoured man fond of the table and his bed'. He was also given to 'the daily practise of hard and excessive drinking'.[4] His mark on Pylewell was negligible as he spent much of his time abroad. He died in 1768 and was succeeded by his son Richard, then aged only seventeen.

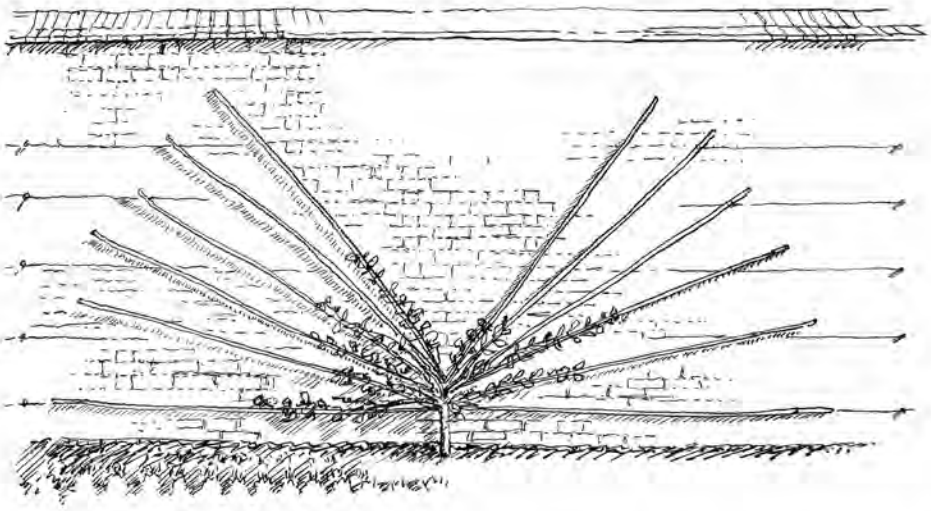
Sir Richard Worsley, rather than make his home at Pylewell, chose to return to Appuldurcomb, where he employed Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to landscape the grounds. Pylewell was meanwhile let, in 1777, to the current Sheriff of Hampshire, a wealthy man who had made his fortune in India, named Ascanius William Senior (?1730-89).

## ASCANIUS SENIOR AND THOMAS ROBBINS

In 1781 Senior bought Pylewell and the nearby manors of Pilley and Warborne from Worsley for £22,000. A pen and wash drawing done in the 1784 by Thomas Rowlandson, of the south front of Pylewell, shows that the turrets on the east and west wings of the house are now pavilions, and the garden has been swept clear of all the old clipped hedges and matching parterres.[5] Lancelot Brown was not only working at Appuldurcomb at this time, but also at the nearby estates of Cadland and Highcliffe; do the drastic changes at Pylewell suggest his influence reached this corner of Hampshire as well?

There is no direct evidence that Senior was responsible for the radical changes to Pylewell's grounds, but these changes, apparent in the Rowlandson drawing, are more fully described by Richard Warner in his *Topographical Remarks relating to the South Western parts of Hampshire* . . . This was published in 1793, six years after Senior had sold his by now considerably enlarged estate to a Thomas Robbins. Warner remarks that:

> the grounds around it are laid out with great simplicity; an extensive lawn, belted by a shady walk, with occasional openings, stretches from the house to the seaside. This disposition of them is extremely different and highly improved from what it was about fifty years ago, as appears from a print I have of Pile-well at that time. [i.e. the *Britannia Illustrata* print of 1739.]



Neither this, nor some comments published by William Gilpin,[6] mention the kitchen garden, but if it was Brown who was the influence here, the grounds to the north of the house would have had the same treatment as those to the south, and the orchard and kitchen garden would most certainly have been moved to a place where they would be hidden both from the mansion and the sight of the best parts of the park or gardens. A full-scale survey of the entire estate proves this to be the case.[7] The survey was made in 1803 by Henry de Bruyn for Thomas Weld of Lulworth, who purchased Pylewell from Robbins. It is with this survey, by the way, that the spelling becomes 'Pylewell'.

By sweeping away the formal drive, its bordering lawns, canals and hedges, as well as the kitchen gardens, the view to the north of the house has been replaced by one similar to that to the south; it is of pleasure grounds and parkland in keeping with the romantic, picturesque and natural style of the time.

The north front of Pylewell is now approached from the old highroad by a sweeping carriageway. The parterres, mazes and topiaried walks to the south of the house have been replaced by the 'extensive' lawn described by Warner, which has done away with the northern end of the avenue of fine oaks, half a mile long and a hundred years old, leading from the south front to the sea. The old deer park now appears to merge with the lawns, thanks to the ha-has or invisible ditches which have been dug about 100 yards from the north and south fronts. A small flower garden has appeared to the east of the mansion.

A new kitchen garden has been made to the north of the old farmyard and stables, and east of the original seventeenth-century site. It occupies just over one acre and has a semicircular south-facing fruit wall. Another wall divides it across, possibly to provide more walls facing south, as the longest axis of this new kitchen garden still runs inconveniently north-south.

## JOSEPH WELD

In 1802 Thomas Weld (1750–1810), a wealthy Roman Catholic landowner of Lulworth in the neighbouring county of Dorset, bought the Pylewell estate as a wedding present for his second son Joseph (1777-1863). Joseph Weld was both an agriculturalist and a keen yachtsman – he was to have seven racing yachts built for him on Pylewell's own 'hard' or beach between 1821 and 1857, one of which was the famous 248 ton schooner, *Alarm*.

As had happened before when Pylewell acquired a new owner, the house, gardens, park and farms were to undergo improvements. In 1810, on the death of Senior's brother-in-law, the rights of the old manor house, the village, its water-driven corn mill and all the land to the north of the house on the far side of the highway reverted to Joseph Weld. Now he could enhance the views in that direction and enlarge his park.

Over the next ten years he swept the ancient hamlet of Baddesley from its original site and demolished the equally ancient manor house, rehousing his tenants in seven new cottages beyond the park boundaries. He razed the village chapel and built a new one by the new cottages. He made a Roman Catholic chapel for the family in a wing of the mansion. He realigned the highway so that it skirted the new park. He created a fifteen acre lake in a marshy part of the pleasure grounds, firming the clay bottom by driving herds of sheep to and fro across the site; the clay excavated for the lake was taken to kilns on the estate to make bricks for several new buildings.

Half a mile to the east of the house he built a new mill house for the miller. In 1814 he began to build a model farming complex with a new farmhouse, a water-powered saw-mill, a carpenter's house, a smithy, an ornamental dairy, a slaughter house, new barns, wagon lodges, piggeries, stables and a circular cow yard 250 feet in diameter, with a circular poultry yard and chicken houses in the centre (see pages 8–9).[8]

And naturally he had to have a new kitchen garden. Weld was, as well as an agriculturalist, an ardent horticulturist; letters from his gardener, Abernathy,[9] show that the old garden was quite productive – 250 sticks of 'sparrowgrass' (asparagus) were sent 'by caravan' to Lulworth in April 1809, along with two brace of cucumbers, potatoes, radishes and kidney beans, which means that some sort of forcing was being done – but he would have been far from satisfied with the kitchen garden built (possibly) by Senior, which, apart from the inconvenience of its north-south orientation and its position (for it now protruded into the new parkland), was situated on damp ground, sloped downwards to the north and was far too small for Weld's large family. Moreover, it would have had inadequate work sheds and storage houses, a glasshouse that was by now very out of date, and inadequate accommodation for the head gardener and the garden boys.

In 1814 Weld built the kitchen garden we see today, on three acres of ground to the south of the new farmyard. The site is ideal, embodying all the requirements for a productive fruit and vegetable garden. It lies on a little rise to the south of the farm, mill and mill pond, thus avoiding the boggy soil and damp, freezing fogs which put the previous garden at a disadvantage. The belief persisted well into the nineteenth century that 'mill-dew' or 'infectious mist' was the cause of blight on fruit trees (see Chapter 15). The orientation of the main axis is east-west, with a slight inclination to east of south, so that the longest walls receive the most sunshine late in the day (see page 10).

The inner garden, quartered by paths meeting at the centre by a little iron fountain, was enclosed by high walls. It occupies about one and a half acres; outside these walls Weld had another one and a half acres of cultivated ground, technically known as 'the slip gardens'. Joseph Weld also planted a nuttery and an orchard just beyond the slip garden. He continued to make improvements at Pylewell until 1837, when his older brother Thomas, the famous Cardinal Weld, died. Thomas had inherited Lulworth in 1810 and on entering the church had passed it on to Joseph in 1828, but eventually the extravagance of running two estates (as well as his racing yachts) proved too much of a financial strain, and in 1850 Joseph Weld sold the 1,288 acre manor and estate of Pylewell to a barrister, George Peacocke.

The sale particulars of 1850 describe:

A CAPITAL KITCHEN GARDEN, Walled in on three sides [this is an estate agent's error, it was walled on four sides], very productive, partly laid out in Pleasure Gardens. In this garden is a Vinery, 40-ft long, with choice Vines in prime bearing. *Second Garden*, a Vinery and Green House, same dimensions. An Orangery, a 12-light Pine Pit, at the back a range of Buildings for Tools, Stoke Holes, Mushroom Houses, Potting Houses, Melon Ground, with brick-built Pit for 18 lights. A Turf House and Fuel Store. [10]

Three years later Pylewell was sold again, to William Peere Williams-Freeman, who, during his twenty years of ownership, built a new village school and enlarged the church

built for the villagers by Weld.[11] He also bought more land, made a new parterre in front of the mansion, a bowling green beside it and a boathouse on the lake. He died in 1873 and a year later Pylewell Park, with its mansion, sundry houses and cottages, brick fields, farms, corn and saw-mills, was bought by 'Willie', the first William Ingham Whitaker, for £72,000.

## THE WHITAKERS, 1874 TO THE PRESENT DAY

The Whitaker fortune was made in Sicily, with Ingham's Marsala wine. Willie made his move to England from Palermo in 1875, with a young son of ten and an ailing wife, in the hope of the climate improving her health, but she died only a year after coming to Pylewell. Both Weld and Williams-Freeman had enormous households, but on his purchase of the mansion Whitaker made major alterations: it already had at least a dozen bedrooms, five reception rooms, a library and a chapel but he added another storey and a conservatory.

He also demolished the circular cow yard and moved the home farm to a farm in the village (where he built a village hall opposite Freeman's school), but he made few changes to the park and gardens. Apart from modernizing the heating systems in the greenhouses, he made even fewer changes to the kitchen garden. It was in his son Ingham's ownership of Pylewell – from 1893 to 1936 – that the gardens reached their heyday. (Ingham also built even more additions to the mansion, but removed the conservatory as his wife said it was damp and unhealthy.)

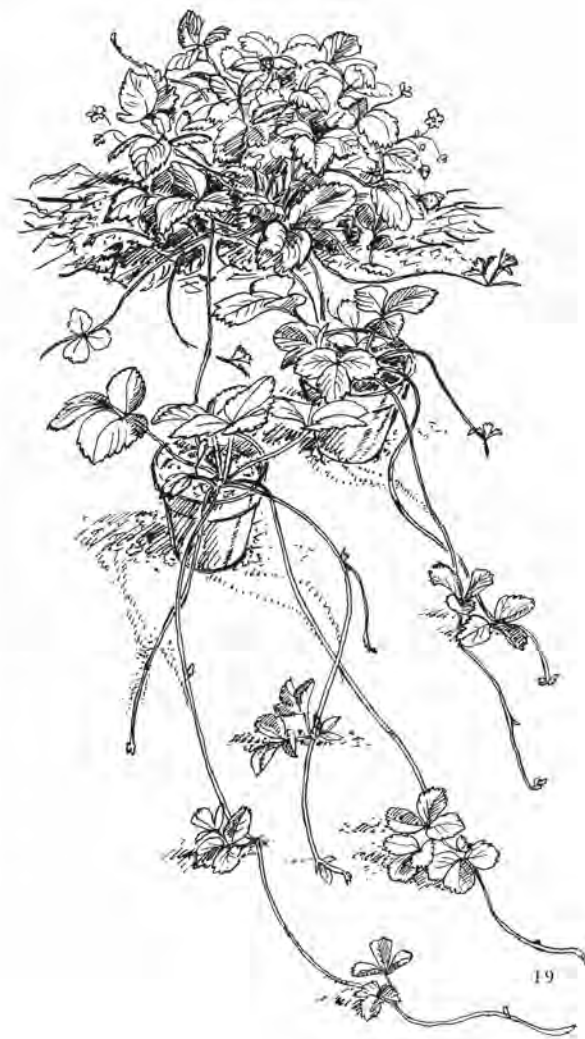
Ingham Whitaker married in 1903, eleven years after inheriting Pylewell, and had five children. With the Whitakers themselves, one or two nannies and a governess, two or three ladies' maids, a housekeeper, butler and cook, two kitchen maids, a scullery maid, two footmen, five housemaids, a hall boy and an odd man living in the house, there were never less than twenty-five people to provide with fruit and vegetables. The kitchen gardens and glasshouses were at full stretch, with at least four men working full-time in the hot houses, four in the kitchen garden and another eight in the pleasure grounds. There were also several woodmen, seven gamekeepers and a dairyman who made fourteen pounds of butter a week in the dairy by the water-mill below the kitchen garden.

Ingham's passion was for Japanese plants and rhododendrons; in the 1890s he planted Kansan flowering cherries in the wild garden and in 1912, with the help of Mr Hamilton and thirty labourers from Lymington, he created an enormous lily pond – virtually another lake – with a Japanese bridge, just below the kitchen garden. His collection of rare Himalayan rhododendrons was formed from seeds found by plant-hunting expeditions in the 1920s, and with plants from Hamilton's friends, who were head gardeners in many well-known gardens all over the country, including Bodnant, Exbury

and Kew. The wives of two of the gardeners were employed for six weeks in the late summer and autumn to dead-head the rhododendrons every afternoon; as the daughter-in-law of one of them told me: 'It helped to pay for our holidays'. Ingham renewed most of the glasshouses, pits, forcing houses and frames in the kitchen garden's old melon ground in the 1930s, but apart from that the kitchen garden changed very little in appearance; it still looked much the same as when Joseph Weld built it in 1814.

The two youngest children, Penelope and Jean, still remember how the kitchen garden looked in the thirties, with its herbaceous borders and apple trees on either side of gravel paths, espaliered peaches, apples, pears, morellos, plums and figs on the walls and raspberries, currants and strawberries in cages. There were grapes, nectarines and more peaches in the lean-to greenhouses. Strawberries were forced there too, for their father's birthday every year, on April 3. In their mother's rooms there were always posies of Malfitano violets, brought from great aunt Tina's villa in Palermo and here grown in frames. There was a rose garden and beds of flowers for cutting for the house in the outer garden or 'slip'. The pigs and chickens that provided bacon and eggs for their breakfasts were nurtured, like the cows which provided all the butter, milk and cream, at the Home Farm, one of the eight farms that comprised the estate.

Ingham Whitaker died in 1936; his widow moved to London. Her son, the third William Ingham Whitaker ('Billy'), inherited the estate and found that he had to make economies; half the house was shut down and most of the servants and gardeners had to go. Moreover, World War Two was looming; head gardener Hamilton went into semi-retirement, knowing that many of his younger gardeners would be called up to serve in the Forces.



The mansion was requisitioned for use, first for the Northumberland Fusiliers and then for the London Fusiliers; the park and gardens were used as an assault course and battle school, and were rather damaged as a result. The next military occupants were Americans, who, with their exotic supplies of food and nylon stockings, were very popular in the neighbourhood. Finally it was inhabited by Italian prisoners of war. Mrs Whitaker meanwhile lived at the Home Farm, with her three younger children serving in the war, as did many of the men and women who had worked at Pylewell as servants. The green-houses were used to raise tomatoes and the kitchen garden was let to a market-cum-nursery gardener. As part of the war effort he raised fruit and vegetables for a green-grocery in Lymington. Mr Hamilton came out of retirement for the duration of the war and acted as a gardens supervisor.

Even after the war ended in 1945, the house was still requisitioned, now as an army convalescent home. It was not derequisitioned for another five years. Neither Billy nor his sister Penelope had married; when Pylewell was finally restored to them they found both it and its gardens in a sorry state. Billy pulled down two wings of the mansion (one containing the chapel; the other the ballroom) and the bedding-out in the gardens was simplified to suit post-war austerity. With only four gardeners now to keep all the twenty to thirty acres of garden going, the kitchen garden was still producing plants for sale, as well as a few fruits and vegetables for Billy's relatively small household; his indoor peaches and nectarines were raised with the minimum amount of heat, and the plant house, with its exotic blooms for the mansion, was kept warm with portable heaters. In 1958 half the kitchen garden was turned over to the production of Christmas trees.

I first saw the kitchen garden at Pylewell in 1968, invited there by Billy, the third William Ingham Whitaker. He still kept the house, gardens and estate in a fairly grand style – not as grand as his father and grandfather before him, but grand enough to keep a butler-cum-chauffeur, a cook, two maids and four gardeners as well as a carpenter-cum-woodman and a gamekeeper.

Billy gave wonderful dinner parties. His guests were served with fish fresh from the sea that formed the southern boundary of the estate, and with game from his coverts, fields and ponds. These delights were accompanied by the freshest, most delicate salads, herbs

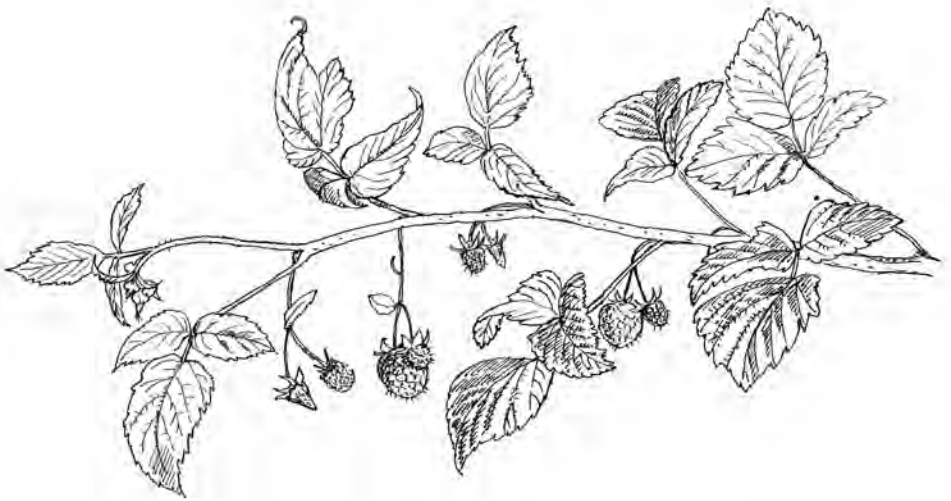
and vegetables from the kitchen garden. The meal would end with plums and pears from the garden walls; apples and nuts from the orchard; peaches, figs and grapes from the glasshouses; strawberries from the cold frames; or sorbets and fools made from the raspberries, gooseberries and currants in the fruit cage.

And the house itself was full of flowers. In the principal rooms planters and jardinières were filled all the year round, according to season, with forced bulbs, azaleas, orchids, mimosa, gardenias, pelargoniums and lilies. Weekend guests would find their bedside tables adorned with posies made from camellias picked in the shrubberies, carnations from one of the glasshouses, or flowers grown purely for cutting – all still available in the kitchen garden.

But by the end of the 1970s Billy could see that economies must be made if he was to leave enough money for his heir, a nephew with ten children, to run the place. Once again he had to cut down, letting out the home farm and the shooting, dispensing with his flat in London and keeping only two gardeners. He died in 1988, a year after the terrible hurricane that wrecked the park and the rhododendron woods.

Since then, the tidying up of the park has taken place, the kitchen garden is now a wholesale nursery for herbaceous plants, and the lawns and paths are kept tidy.

I have been visiting old kitchen gardens and glasshouses for twenty years now in my quest to discover the secrets of that branch of gardening. Some of them go right back to the time when kitchen gardening began. This book is about these secrets. Pylewell's was the first of some four hundred kitchen gardens which I have since recorded, and as such it forms the template for this history.



# SITUATIONS & SHAPES for early 18th C. KITCHEN GARDENS