K kevhole bed

P pond

R rockery

H herb spiral B bench

C compost bin

L leafmold stack

T trellis climbers

(ornamental) **MP** mixed planting:

cuttable mulch

S shrubs

S1: buddleia

S2: lavatera

S6: skimmia

S7: viburnum

S8: artemisia

S9: mahonia S10: philadelphus

F1: blackcurrant

F3: apple (espalier)

F2: raspberries

F4: loganberry

F5: blackberry

F6: strawberries

woodchip path

bed edging

(chives or stones)

stone & shingle path

stepping stone

F fruit

S3: willow

PP perennial plants

LB legume/borage

SB shrub: broom

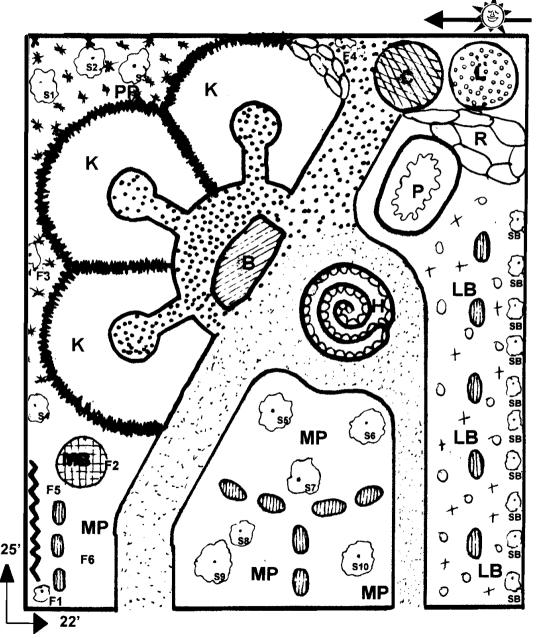
S4: winter jasmine S5: mahonia

MB mulch basket

The invention of the horse-drawn seed drill has left a legacy through people thinking that vegetables are best grown in rows as straight lines. So says the late Geoff Hamilton who had a fine eye for the absurd and a wonderful feel for what was natural. He recognised that the *field hoe* and *seed* drill were the driving force for agriculture to turn into the monoculture that we see today. Before that, ordinary people had grown their food amongst herbs and flowers in the cottage garden style. Even the farmers used to broadcast their seed in random fashion, throwing one way and then the next to create blocks, almost as if the plant was dispersing the seed and getting help from the wind in doing so.

Monoculture needs artificial chemicals to succeed. A field full of cabbages sends out a big message to every pest in the district to come eat me. While the cottage gardeners may not have fully understood it, their method of *mixing plants* together (companion planting) provided a *natural* means of *pest control*. Partly it was the *camouflage* from hiding away amongst the other plants, but it was also the *natural* balance that was created through the attraction of *pest predators* and the failure 25' of diseases to maintain a foothold.

Geoff took the idea of the cottage garden



one step further. While naturalists always recommend native plants as a draw for wildlife, Geoff recognised that his *ornamental gardens* didn't lack for *insects* or *birds*, and so he didn't have to limit himself to native species. Moreover, ornamental plants and vegetables were his twin passions and he couldn't see why he shouldn't mix the two together in a creative design, rather than hide all the vegetables away at the bottom of the garden. Thus he developed the idea of the *ornamental kitchen garden* as seen in his book and TV series.

The ornamental kitchen garden at Manor Heath was designed to be a **cornucopia** of garden features co-existing in an area probably **smaller** than many back gardens. Those familiar with Geoff ideas will appreciate the **aim** of the garden to be **productive** while at the same time delighting with **blossoms**, **scents**, and **colours**. Built in 1993, it has plantings of **scented shrubs**, **perennials**, and **climbers** with space and opportunity for **interplanting** with **vegetables**. The **informality** of the planting style attracts useful insects as **pest predators** into the garden with the aim of producing a **balanced** community. **Keyhole beds** and an **herb spiral** add innovations from **Permaculture**, while a pond, rockery, bench seat, compost bin, and leafmold heap represent the more orthodox.

The south border was filled with plants from just two families: the **Boraginaceae** (such as comfrey and borage) and the **Leguminosae** (nitrogen fixers). Originally intended to provide material for **cuttable mulch** and **liquid feeds**, it has developed into an extremely attractive border that brings in many **insects**. The early plantings of **perennial legumes**

such as lupins and goat's rue have been found *less able* to *compete* with the *bullies* of the *Boraginaceae*, leaving the more vigorous lucerne, crown vetch and perennial sweet pea to survive against the backdrop of

the brooms (cytisus). Among the borage family there is lungwort (Pulmonaria), green alkanet

(Pentaglottis) Trachystemon, and dwarf comfreys of various flower colours, as well as the tall Bocking comfrey.

Small gardens need careful **management** so that they don't **outgrow** their space. **Perennials** need occasional **lifting** and

r or or mane ricour cocacional mang and
dividing and the woody plantings (shrubs and trees) need a pruning
program. Sometimes, the <i>courage</i> has to be found to <i>remove</i> a
shrub and think carefully before replacing it.

SHRUBS	Variety	Flowering Period	Scent
ARTEMISIA	A. abotanum	-	✓
BUDDLEIA	B. davidii 'Border Beauty'	Jul - Sept	√ √
LAVATERA	L. olbia 'Rosea'	Jul - Oct	
MAHONIA	M. X media 'Winter Sun'	Nov - Jan	✓
	M. japonica 'Bealei'	Jan - Apr	///
PHILADELPHUS	P. 'Mont Blanc'	Jun - Jul	11
SKIMMIA	S. japonica 'Rubella'	Apr - May	//
VIBURNUM	V. X burkwoodii	Jan - May	✓
WILLOW	Salix alba 'Chermisina'	Mar	
WINTER JASMINE	J. nudiflorum	Nov - Feb	

FRUIT			
APPLE	James Grieves (D, espalier, PSF, M, SEPT)		
BLACKBERRY	Merton Thornless, Ribes fruiticosus (wild)		
LOGANBERRY	Thornless		
RASPBERRY	Malling Jewel		
STRAWBERRY	Cambridge Favourite		
BLACKCURRANT	Baldwin		

SEASONAL VEGETABLES			
KEY HOLE BE	SPOT PLANTING		
Potatoes			Roots/Onions
Duke of York	Broad Bean	Cabbages	Beetroot
Portland Black	Peas	Calabrese	Shallots
Pink Fir Apple	Dwarf beans	Curly Kale	Onion sets
Romano		-	Garlic

HERBS - in herb spiral			
Rosemary	Sages	Feverfew	
Thymes	Marjorams	Chives	

PERENNIAL FLOWERS			
Aquilegia		Hyacinth	
Golden rod	Lady's mantle	Telima	
Holly hock	Doronicum	Daffodil	
Sedum spectabile	Musk mallow	Helibore	
Veronica spicata		Lysimachia punctata	
Achillea millefolium	Chelone obliqua	Veronica teucrium	

THE LEGUME/BORAGE BORDER (cuttable mulch)			
Boraginaceae	Leguminosae		
Symphitum spp. (comfrey)	Lupin		
Pulmonaria spp. (lungwort)	Lucerne		
Trachystemon orientalis	Crown vetch		
Myosotis (forgetmenot)	Perennial sweatpea		
Pentaglottis semperviren	Essex Red clover		
Anchusa azurea	Galega officinalis		
Brunnera macrophylla	Cytisus spp. (brooms)		

POND and SURROUNDING AREA			
Mimulus	Elodea (pond weed)	Veronica gentiodes	Marsh marigold
Water lily	Water speedwell	Polygonum campanulatum	Pendulous sedge