

A lush garden scene featuring a central lawn, flower beds with various plants like purple and pink flowers, and a background of tall trees and a wooden bench. The text "THE GARDENS" is overlaid in the center.

# THE GARDENS





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## A WORD FROM JANE, OUR HEAD GARDENER

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One of the best things about The Bath Priory is its setting. We like to think that The Priory is something of a country house hotel on the edge of the city of Bath, a beautiful place in its own right.

Over the past 16 years, I've developed the gardens for as much all year round interest as possible, indulging my passion for colour in the form of bulbs, perennials and annuals such as tulips, dahlias and asters. I aim to make sure there is always something to see whatever the time of year, starting with snowdrops in January and finishing with autumn colour and brilliant bark in November and December.

We've opened under the Yellow Book or National Garden Scheme for the past decade or so, raising thousands for charity and serving a lot of tea and cake. The garden regularly wins Bath in Bloom and we've also received the Relais & Chateaux International Garden Trophy in 2014.

I'm lucky to have inherited mature trees such as the magnificent Cedar of Lebanon and have been busy planting our own specimens of the future including Liquidambar, Chinese pink barked birches and Japanese cherries. Our National Collection of Smokebush or Cotinus colours beautifully in the autumn providing a brilliant backdrop to borders filled with late summer colour.

I hope you will enjoy the gardens and treat them as your own in the time that you're with us. Please have a game of croquet, pick a few strawberries or simply sit about with a book and soak up the birdsong.

*Jane Moore*

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## JANE MOORE, HEAD GARDENER

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Our Head Gardener has a wider role at Andrew Brownsword Hotels. Jane is developing and redesigning several of our hotel gardens to bring them up to the same high standards as The Bath Priory where she has worked as Head Gardener since 2003. The gardens are an integral feature of The Bath Priory, with four acres of billowing borders, meadow and lawns which she has developed with her trademark passion, enthusiasm and experience.

In a horticultural career spanning 30 years, Jane has been a head gardener at Benedictine Abbey, a writer for national gardening magazines and newspapers, a researcher on BBC gardening programmes and a TV presenter on BBC Gardeners' World.

Among her many accolades are a Chelsea Flower Show medal, IPC Magazine's Practical Writer Award and awards from the Garden Media Guild including Journalist of the Year in 2007, runner-up Columnist of the Year in 2015 and finalist for Practical Journalist of the Year in 2016. Recently she has been filming with the BBC as a guest presenter on Gardeners' World and appearing on stage at BBC Countryfile Live.

Winning the Relais & Chateaux International Garden Trophy in 2014 for The Bath Priory proved the ultimate accolade after years of developing the gardens. Her tenure at The Priory has seen the gardens become nationally recognised and a longstanding partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society sees Jane hosting seasonal tours and lunches, as well as giving talks as a member of the RHS Speakers List. For the past 13 years, The Priory gardens have also opened regularly as part of the National Garden Scheme or Yellow Book raising thousands of pounds for charitable causes.







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## OUR TREES

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The Bath Priory is home to a number of spectacular specimen trees, many of which are more than a century old. It's quite a responsibility to safeguard these old characters but they add to the history and sense of place that makes The Bath Priory so special. Jane and her team have also been planting new trees which will become the specimens of the future, adding to the richness and diversity of the garden.

### CEDAR OF LEBANON

This ancient tree is the centrepiece of the garden and is one of the finest specimens in Bath and the surrounding area.

### OLD AND YOUNG MULBERRIES

We are lucky to have a mulberry in each of the gardens, with Linden boasting the ancient fallen specimen redolent with character and wrinkled bark. Both trees bear fruit every summer without fail which the chefs, guests and gardeners all enjoy.

### LAWSON'S CYPRESS

The unusual circular shape of this little copse looks more like a collection of several trees but look closely and you will see that all stem from the single central tree.

### COASTAL REDWOOD

Commonly called the Punch tree because of its soft bark, these trees often reach gargantuan proportions in their native North America. Ours has a long way to go!



#### BHUTAN CYPRESS

This is an unusual tree which is sacred in Bhutan and often planted near monasteries. It's a resilient species with wonderful striated bark and a rugged appearance.

#### WALNUT

The black walnut is a slow maturing tree with huge leaves and increasingly characterful good looks as it ages. Often found in gardens of note where they can reach several hundred years of age. Ours may be a youngster by comparison but it is still a tree of substance.

#### DAWN REDWOOD

This beautiful tree was thought extinct until 1941 when a few specimens were discovered growing wild in a Himalayan valley. Prior to being brought back into cultivation it only existed in fossil form. It's also one of the few deciduous conifers and it turns the loveliest colour as it drops its leaves in the autumn.

#### BLACK RIVER BIRCH

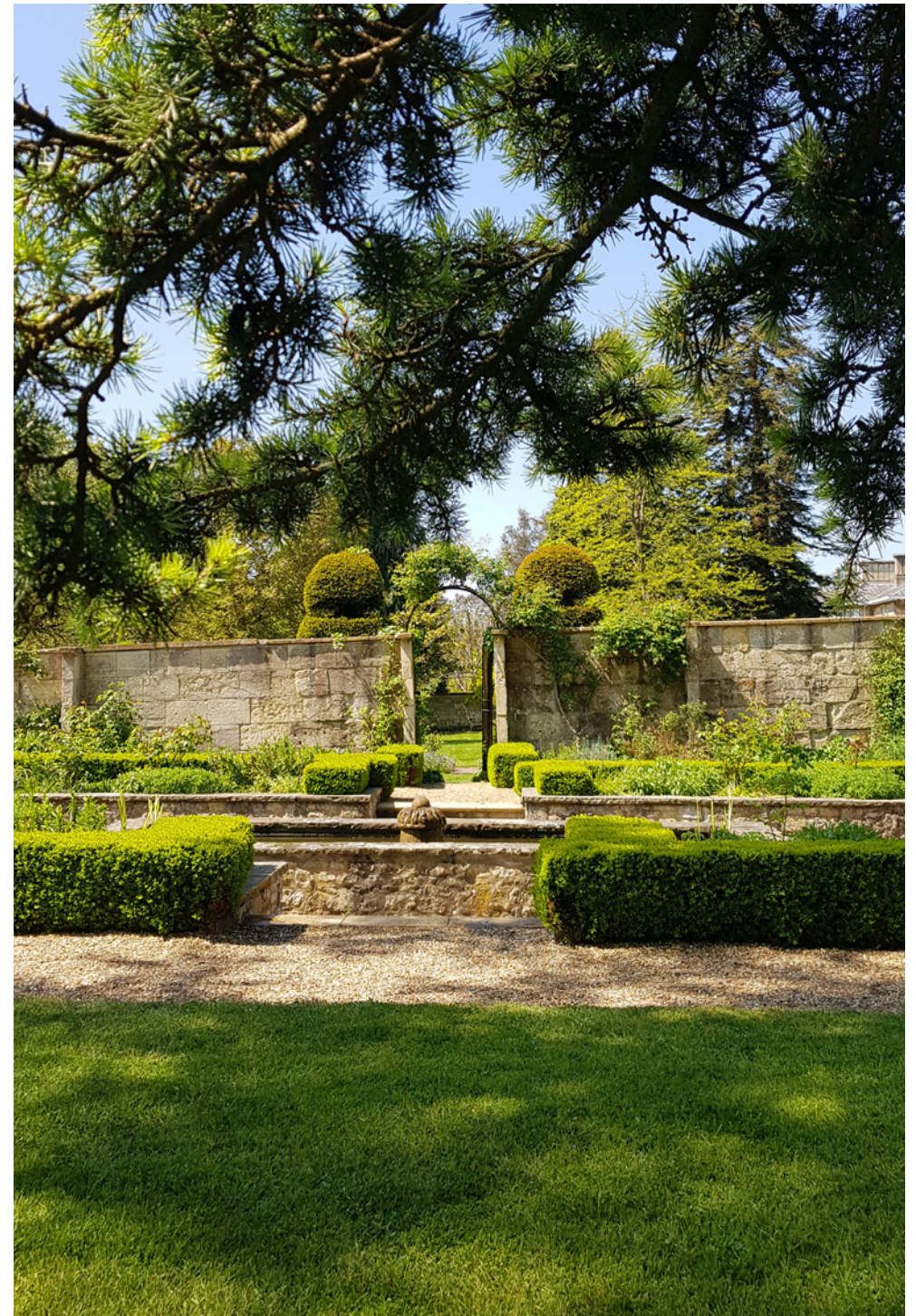
A lovely North American birch with gnarly peeling bark and that characteristically graceful wafting shape which is reminiscent of our native Silver Birch.

#### HIMALAYAN BIRCH

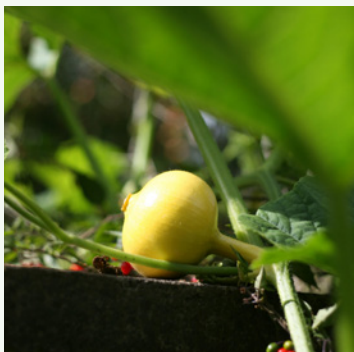
The whitest bark of all the birch trees makes this a must have for many gardens. It will become a large, spreading tree given time and looks great in almost any garden setting whether formal or more natural.

#### CHINESE PINK BIRCH

While most birches are notable for their gleaming white bark, this variety has dusky pink peeling bark which is beautiful in its own, more subtle, fashion. Combine that with a graceful shape and dainty leaves and you have a tree of unusual interest.







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## THE KITCHEN GARDEN

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Our kitchen garden may be compact, but it is beautifully designed and, with its raised beds and gravel paths, easily accessible. It's also a valuable resource for the chefs and an area of great interest to our guests. Jane, Dominic and Anna grow a wide variety of fruit and vegetables including an array of edible flowers.

### FRUITS

Espalier and fan trained apple, peach and quince trees line the walls, along with fruits such as blackberries and tayberries.

### VEGETABLES

From Florence fennel to mangetout peas, the raised beds play host to all kinds of vegetables. Many varieties are those that are not commonly found at the greengrocers including unusual potatoes, sweet French peas and vibrant Bright Lights chard. Alongside these are the more usual varieties such as Cavolo Nero kale, butternut squash and French beans and there are always a few beds devoted to Jane's favourite crop of Cinderella style pumpkins.

### HERBS

The kitchen and restaurant make good use of fresh herbs for adding to food and drinks. Regular favourites include mint, rosemary and sage but the garden also contains more unusual herbs such as lemon verbena, ginger mint and sorrel.

### EDIBLE FLOWERS

Our chef and sommelier love to use edible flowers to add colour and interest to food and drink. We regularly grow Violas, Calendula and Borage simply for their culinary use, but they also give a nice floral lift to the Kitchen Garden as well as attracting lots of lovely pollinating bees into the garden.





TERRACE

LINDEN

POND

ROCK GARDEN

CROQUET  
LAWN

SUNKEN  
POOL

LAWSON'S  
CYPRESS

WALNUT

CEDAR  
OF LEBANON

OLD  
MULBERRY

SWIMMING  
POOL

YOUNG  
MULBERRY

KITCHEN GARDEN

THE DELLS

SCOTS  
PINES

CONIFER HEDGE

GARDEN PLAN







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## THROUGH THE SEASONS

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Jane and her team do their utmost to make sure the garden is always putting on a show whatever the time of year. These are just a few of the seasonal highlights:

### SPRING

The Bath Priory gardens team prides itself on our displays of spring bulbs and flowers. As well as pots and borders full of sunny daffodils in several varieties, there are clusters of tulips in jewel-like colours and early flowering herbaceous plants. Magnolia trees begin the season in early March while Japanese cherries scatter their confetti-like blossom in April.

### SUMMER

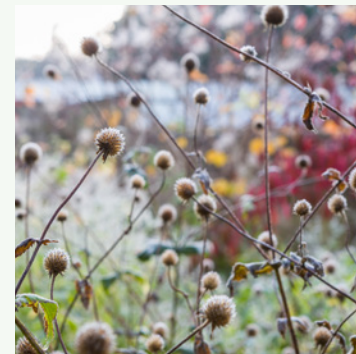
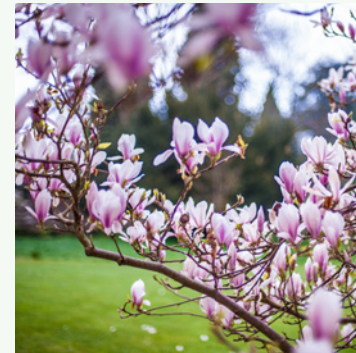
A wealth of flowering plants sees the garden through the summer months starting with hardy Geraniums and Iris and drawing to a close in late September with Asters, Rudbeckia and grasses. In the height of the summer our meadow is a wonderland of wild plants and creatures including many species of butterfly and moth.

### AUTUMN

This lovely season sees the Kitchen Garden come to the fore with ripening fruits and berries along with the last of the harvests. Elsewhere in the garden, the autumn colours abound on the cherry trees and smoke bush shrubs especially. Look out for the spectacular berries on many of our shrubs and trees in a wide range of colours including white and purple.

### WINTER

Winter is all about interesting bark on many of our trees and the brilliantly coloured stems of the dogwoods. Add to that swathes of early flowering hellebores and clusters of snowdrops, some of which begin flowering just after New Year, and The Priory becomes a winter wonderland.





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## OUR GARDEN EVENTS

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Jane hosts regular garden events throughout the season, where you can learn more about the garden and its plants as well as enjoying an outstanding lunch or dinner. Please visit [www.thebathpriory.co.uk/events-diary](http://www.thebathpriory.co.uk/events-diary) for dates and details of upcoming events.

### ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDEN TOUR & LUNCH

Meet our award-winning Head Gardener, Jane Moore for an introduction over tea, coffee and homemade biscuits followed by an in-depth tour of the award-winning gardens, highlighting seasonal treasures and feature plants. A three-course lunch will be served in the restaurant, accompanied by a glass of wine with coffee and petits fours.

### NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME AFTERNOONS

Join Jane and her team in supporting the myriad of Yellow Book charities with an afternoon garden visit, tea and cake. The Bath Priory has been supporting the NGS through garden openings for the past fifteen years and has raised thousands of pounds for good causes over the years.

### PERENNIAL GARDEN TOUR & LUNCH

The Bath Priory is proud to support the charity for professional gardeners with these garden tours which can be booked directly through the Perennial website.

### FLOWER ARRANGING MASTERCLASS

Head Gardener, Jane Moore and local florist, Deb England host a special flower arranging masterclasses, demonstrating how to put together stunning floral creations using flowers from our beautiful garden. Enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea before taking home your flower arrangements.

### CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING MASTERCLASS

Join Jane and Deb in creating a beautiful seasonal wreath to adorn your front door using foliage and flowers from the garden. Alternatively, you can create a fabulous Christmas table centrepiece to enjoy throughout the festive season. Mulled wine and afternoon tea will keep you fortified.





ANDREW BROWNSWORD HOTELS



# The Bath Priory

 RELAIS & CHATEAUX

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