



A substantial tree seat, created within a sweet bay tree, *Laurus nobilis*. Seats such as this allowed medieval ladies to sit in the shade, ensuring their complexions remained fashionably pale.

three servants and a chaplain, his will mentions his copy of the early 14th century medical book, *Lilium Medicinæ*. He would have known all the plants in the herber named after him, and probably used them regularly.

A third herber was inspired by a visit to the Cluny Museum in Paris. “We saw a painting there, The Virgin and Child with St Madeleine, dated 1475,” says Jane. “We based our next design on this.”

Shady places and flowering plants

Pale complexions were valued by ladies in wealthy medieval households. This meant shady areas were always desirable in their gardens. At the Manor, there are several tree seats, their canopies shaped to provide shade and shelter. One is within a substantial sweet bay.

Another is set beneath the Glastonbury thorn bordering Henry, The Poet’s Garden. Inspiration for this came from a 13th century manuscript describing the garden belonging to the writer and Anglo-Norman historian, Henry of Huntingdon. Living from circa 1088-1157, he was raised in the wealthy court of Robert Bloet, Bishop of Lincoln. Henry succeeded his father as the second Archdeacon of Huntingdon, approximately 25 miles from Nassington.

Foxgloves, *Digitalis purpurea*, poppies including *Papaver rhoeas* and *P. somniferum*, varieties of geranium, echium and campion all flourish in Henry, The Poet’s Garden. This is based on a 13th century manuscript describing the Square Garden belonging to the 12th century poet, Henry of Huntingdon.

