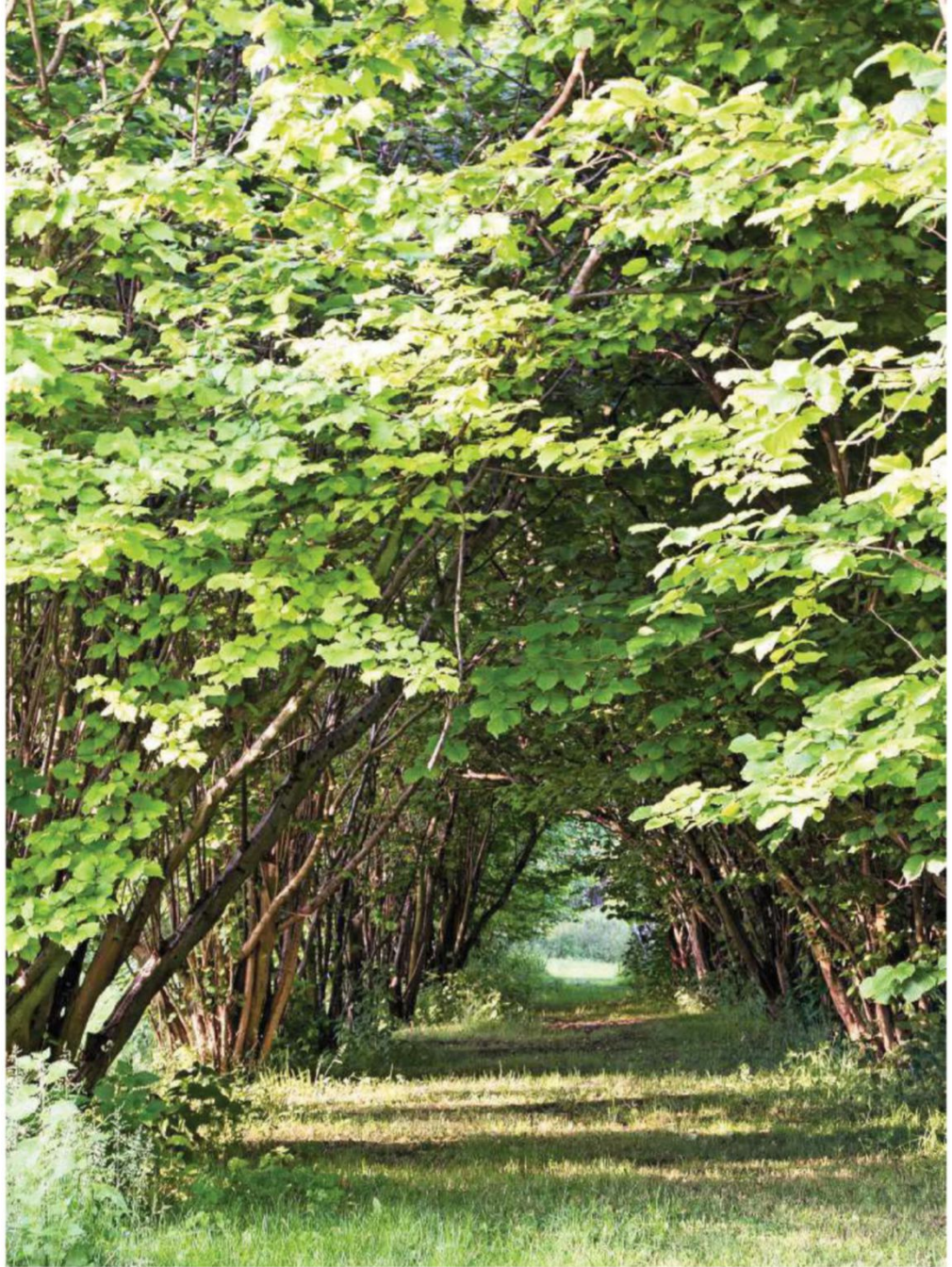


Plums forming on one of the fruit trees in the orchard.



The early sun lights the green sward of the Pleasure Park.



Pale complexions were a mark of status in the medieval period, so shady walks like this one at the Manor were ideal to protect high-born ladies from the effects of the sun.

brewing. The Nut Walk makes a shady tunnel, leading down to two ponds with lots of fish, “probably tench” suggests Jane.

The park is home to many established trees, flowering hedges and more fruit trees. These include blackthorn, crab apple, cherry, pear, quince and medlar. There is also a gaggle of geese, which wander at liberty when there are no visitors.

Vines were comparatively common in the Middle Ages, when the climate was slightly warmer. Jane’s vineyard is set on the south-facing slope of the park. Here, it backs onto the heat-retaining wall of the garden near the Tithe Barn.

A journey in time

Visiting the Prebendal Manor and garden provides an insight into life 600 years ago. The Tithe Barn is home to a display of photographs and information about the history of the site. Jane and Michael have combined authenticity with accessibility, and a

visit opens up the medieval way of life to everyone.

“It’s a very high-maintenance garden, especially the constant repairs to the wooden structures and the weeding, and so forth,” says Jane. “It really needs three full-time gardeners, and I don’t have them. But the garden is a great delight for me and for the visitors.” ■

• Words and photography: Helen Harrison

CONTACT

The Prebendal Manor and Gardens, and the Tithe Barn Museum, Nassington, are open by appointment for groups
www.prebendal-manor.co.uk