About the cover

The Herb Garden at Cranborne Manor, Dorset

Cranborne Manor, once a hunting lodge for King John, was acquired by Robert Cecil, chief minister to Elizabeth I, and is now owned by his descendant, the Marquess of Salisbury. First laid out by John Tradescant and Mounten Jennings at the start of the 17th century, the gardens were enlarged and embellished in the 20th century by the Salisbury family, in a style that perfectly complements the house. Tall, clipped yew hedges or walls divide the gardens into a series of individual areas, among them the mount garden, the white garden, the wild garden with its orchard of crab apples, the kitchen garden and the herb garden, each with its own distinctive beauty.

Cranborne Manor Garden is open to the public every Wednesday from mid-March to September. Tickets can be bought at Cranborne Manor Garden Centre, situated in the old walled garden of the Manor. The Garden Centre is an excellent source of old-fashioned roses, clematis, shrubs and herbaceous plants, and light meals are available at the tea room.