



• Gardening: Ornamental, Productive & Wildlife • Woodlands • Ponds &c. • Livestock •
 • Grounds Maintenance, Design, Renovation & Development • House & Building
 Maintenance, Repairs & Decorating • Project Planning & Implementation •

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Education

Whilst at school, I acquired work experience at *Penwood Nursery* and *Charles Flower's Wildflower Farm* (Berks) and in private gardens and arboretums in Hants and Lancs.

After A-levels in Biology, Chemistry & English Lit., I apprenticed at *Oxford University Botanic Garden*, outside in the family and geographical beds and under glass in the Conservatory; Propagation; Palm; Orchid; Fern; Cactus & Succulent and; Alpine Houses, followed by work and study at *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*, working in the Temperate

Nursery; Palm & Tropical Waterlily Houses, Princess of Wales Conservatory and at *Wakehurst*, in the Winter Garden and woodlands: receiving instruction and gaining experience in all aspects of horticulture.

From Kew, I went to work at *Konza Prairie*, an 8,600-acre preserve in Kansas, USA, there engaged in Bison husbandry, prescribed burning, ecological surveying and fence and road construction and maintenance.

Sole Gardener/Handyman/House & Grounds Management, nr. Cheltenham

A 3-storey Georgian villa with c. 7-acres gardens and grounds which included lawns; hedges; topiary; herbaceous borders; shrubberies; specimen trees; a newt pond garden; wooded area; meadow with springs and ridge & furrow archaeology; tennis court and; outbuildings.

Over c. 5 years, I maintained, renovated and developed the garden and grounds and maintained and worked in the house:

- Equipping the garden with tools and machinery.
- Completely renovating mossy, weedy lawns: scarifying, aerating, levelling, reseeding and irrigating.
- Renovating overgrown and neglected areas: clearing, designing plans, obtaining plants from specialist nurseries and replanting.
- Designing & implementing drainage schemes, stopping flooding of tennis court, garden and cellar.
- Establishing a proper mowing regimen for the wildflower meadow.

• Maintenance, repairs and decorating, inside and out the house and buildings.

• Overseeing and assisting with major remodelling of the Coach House.

• Arranging and overseeing tradesmen, craftsmen and contractors e.g., builders and associated trades, security technicians, tree surgeons, chimneysweep etc.

• Taking responsibility for the security of the house and grounds and the care of the cats when my employers were away.

• Care of classic car collection of British marques including *Bentley, Daimler, Aston Martin, Jensen &c.* Under the guidance of Tim Millbank of *Pride & Joy Classic Cars* of Essex.

• Driving.

• My wife, Bridget, was employed as Housekeeper, keeping the house clean and organised, sharing responsibility for security and helping in the garden.

Market Gardening

I planned, established and ran two certified organic market gardens, growing from seed a comprehensive range of vegetables, salads, herbs and cut flowers as well as soft fruit. Cropping and succession was extended with glasshouses and cloches.

The first garden, c. ½-acre, worked by hand, in County Carlow, Ireland, on an 80-acre farm; the second in Wilts, of c.2-acres, largely mechanized, on a 1,200-acre mixed arable and beef farm. I also assisted on the farms with fencing, arable work, livestock husbandry and general maintenance.



Smallholding

I purchased a parcel of land in Mid Devon consisting of 5-acres permanent pasture; 3-acre arable field; 5-acre copse of coppice with standards; small marsh and river. I undertook the following work to develop it into a smallholding:

- **Design & construction of a green timber, framed barn using mortice and tenon, pegged construction** to house livestock and machinery, with attached pit glasshouse for vegetable propagation. A track to the byway and a cut-and-fill site were excavated for access and a level building site.

- **Resuming management of neglected hedging and overstood coppice.**
- **Stabilizing the riverbank** with spilings and planting basket Willows from the government national collection.
- **Growing vegetables and cut flowers for market.**
- **Planting an Orchard.**
- **Drainage:** digging sluiced ditches to intercept and manage surface runoff and develop part of the marsh into a duck and wildlife pond.
- **Drilling a borehole** to supply water.



Texas Ranch Foreman & Caretaker

Private home and 765-acre wildlife ranch on the Little Blanco River in the Texas Hill Country. For c. 7 years, I undertook all aspects of maintenance and security for the absentee owner's home and contents and land restoration and game management on the ranch:

- **Renovating landscaped areas around the main house:** designing and implementing new landscaping to reduce water use and improve the neglected gardens.
- **Maintenance and repairs of all buildings.**
- **Maintenance** of ranch roads, buildings, fences, windmills, wells etc.
- **Upkeep of Classic Land Rovers:** maintenance, arranging and overseeing full off-chassis restoration.
- **Operation, maintenance & minor repair of machinery and plant.** Bulldozer, tractors, skid loader, backhoe, offroad recreational vehicles etc.
- **Livestock husbandry.** I introduced Charolais x Brahman cattle, Red Wattle pigs and Brown Leghorn chickens.
- **Restoring land** to savannah: brush and woodland clearing; invasive exotic removal; native grass and wildflower reseeding; prescribed burning.

- **Game conservation & management:** Deer, Turkey, Quail & Dove. Census-taking, harvest and recording. Halving deer herd to sustainable numbers.
- **Budget management.** Effecting a 40%+ reduction in annual non-capital budget. Securing reduced property taxes by writing wildlife management plans & reports, liaising with gov't tax and wildlife officials.
- **Hiring & managing ranch hands & housekeeper.**
- **Researching & Planning Projects:** e.g. vine cultivation; renovating staff housing, prescribed range burning; electricity generators. Engaging consultants when needed, acquiring training and Certifications (e.g. prescribed burn school).
- **Executing Projects** personally and managing contractors: soliciting, engaging and overseeing e.g. builders, trades, air conditioning engineers, waterwell technicians, prescribed burn boss, wood floor refinishers &c. Fulfilling role of general contractor for staff housing remodelling.
- **Repairing the abandoned natural, spring-fed swimming pool:** dredging, repairing the dam, restocking with native fish and managing for recreation, Otter, Beaver and Waterfowl habitat.



Landscape Design

Successfully self-employed for 7 years, providing consultation, design, implementation & maintenance for native-species landscaping in the Texas Hill Country to private and commercial clients. Knot gardens to naturalized plantings; hard landscaping such as paving, steps

& walls; small-scale erosion & drainage control and; land restoration. The TX Hill Country is an interesting region, rich in springs, fossils and Indian artefacts, with a diverse flora and fauna due to its position at the convergence of the Great Plains, Eastern Forests and Mexican Warm Deserts.



Miscellaneous

I have worked in various gardens, employed and freelance, attending to areas such as lawns; herbaceous borders; rose gardens; hedges; specimen trees; shrubberies; Winter gardens; bog & water gardens; exotic gardens; herb gardens; kitchen & cutting gardens; wall fruit; soft fruit cages; glasshouses for propagation, vegetables, fruit, flowers and houseplants; orchards; formal and informal ponds and; woodlands.

I have held positions **organizing a large private library** for Robert Jackson, M.P. (ret.), Oxon; as an **Oxford University Bodleian Library Porter** (light security); as **roustabout for Transocean Offshore Inc.**, in the Gulf of Mexico on the drillship *Deepwater Inspiration*, (crane crew duties, mixing drilling mud, assisting engineer in engine room, firefighting readiness drills.)



Personal

Born in Berks in 1976, I am a British subject and a US citizen. I am married and have two grown children from my first marriage. My wife, Bridget, has worked with special needs children and adults and as the kennels manager at a stray dog shelter. As well as lifelong interests in gardening, farming and natural history

generally, I have particular interests in ponds, fishes, amphibians and keeping unheated freshwater aquaria; Winter gardens; glasshouses; native British plants as ornamentals; woodlands; architecture and building; art; heraldry and; restoring traditional lead toy soldiers.



References and further information available upon request.