



Vista from the topiary Chess Garden through the Long Rose Garden, Foliage Garden and a *clair-voyée* to the rape in flower.
(Below) Hooded seat in an eight-year-old alcove of clipped yew on the Great Lawn

of *Myosotis* Bluebell accompanied the tulips.

The formal bedding occupies only the beginning of the borders. Most of their length is given over to species roses. They pass behind an impressive formal pool and fountain, enclosed within a U-shaped, hedged and gravelled enclosure with a curving stone seat at its apex. To either side of the pool's enclosing hedges, grass walks are punctuated by Skyrocket junipers. Within box-edged borders, pansies create patchworks of colour.

Summer brings further floral colour in side borders backing onto the Foliage and Long Rose Gardens, and the gardens on the opposite side of the Great Lawn. Peonies, lupins, hemerocallis, delphiniums and such-like play traditional herbaceous-border roles. Countless more perennials command a grander summertime show in the Wide Borders on the north side of the lawn.

This enclosure may be entered via the north end of the Species Rose Walk, where a classical urn acts as eye-stopper. Beyond, in a cross axis, another urn stands aligned in answering style on a plinth.

One of the four paths from this point passes housewards into an informal grassy orchard of bush fruit trees, around which



daffodils are naturalised. The unexpectedness of such wildness in an otherwise strictly controlled design comes as a pleasant shock if the orchard is entered from the west. There, nothing could appear more orderly than the squared beds of a Rose Garden.

From this Rose Garden the pergola walk returns to the Courtyard Garden of the Dower House. A full circuit of this east area would also encompass the North Beech Walk, with its bold splashes of magenta crimson *Geranium grandiflora*.

Only a cursory glimpse of what Hazelbury's gardens can offer has been described. A visitor could go on to see Mr Pollard's new double avenue of sweet chestnuts, the spiralled double helix, fashioned around a mound which reflects the shape of the adjacent valleys and an astrological clock, implanted upon the landscape. There seems no end to Mr Pollard's ingenuity. Clearly it is a garden in which every minute is one of fascination and delight.

The gardens of Hazelbury Manor, off the A365 from Box to Melksham, left onto B3109, left again at Chapel Plaister, and up the drive to the right, are open on May 5, 6, 26 and 27, July 6, 7, 13 and 14, from 2pm until 6pm.

Photographs: Michael Boys.