

Jean McDonnell was born in Belvoir, her father was the caretaker of the Belvoir Estate in the 1920s and she has many happy memories of her childhood there:



*“My father, Charles Darling, was a plumber but had the house free because he looked after the place; he would see if there were any trespassers and would open the gates to let in cattle to the different fields. All the fields were let out. This was in the late 1920s, when the big house was empty. The estate belonged to Lord Deramore and later Stewart and Partners. I remember the ink pot gate lodges. There were the ruins of a small house at the top of the orchard; you can still see it by a wall. There were the remains of another little old house in the woods in the south of the estate that I think was called Mr Byers’ house. I was in the big house but it was just empty, all was quiet there. I remember the old orchard very well. I lived on the fruit! There was every fruit you could mention there. Apple trees, pear trees, plums. I remember there were kemp apples, they have a different taste. At the top of the orchard there was a big cherry tree and red currants, black currants, gooseberries. There were old greenhouses in the gardens at Belvoir, but they were all tumbled down”*

*Jean McDonnell*

Draw the fruit that Jean collected.

Draw what you think the estate must have looked like based on Jean’s memory.