

THE SPADE

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS

WINTER 2016 - ISSUE 35 - MINI VERSION

THE NEW MINI SPADE

Welcome to the first Mini Spade! Two of these editions will appear each year, one in January and one in July, sandwiched between the regular Spring and Autumn issues. The idea is to bring you even more news of the Company, to highlight forthcoming events to help you plan your own participation in the life of the Gardeners, and to create more space to record the activities and fortunes of individual members.

John Gilbert, Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016

12th February	Mansion House Banquet
18th February	Snowdrops of Welford Park
5th March	Capel Manor workshop
11th March	United Guilds Service
18th March	Gilbert and Sullivan Evening
7th April	Spring Court and Dinner
9th April	Capel Manor workshop
19 - 22nd April	Eden Project
29th April	Trip to Hertfordshire Gardens
9th May	Company Golf Day
14th May	Capel Manor workshop
17th May	Fairchild Court, Lecture & Supper
19 - 21st May	Courson/Chantilly
24th May	Chelsea Supper
2-7th June	Visit to Slovenia
14th June	Trip to Kelmarsh Hall Garden
25th June	Garden Party

WINTER AND SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Mansion House Banquet, this year on the 12th February, is always a high point in the Gardeners' calendar. The splendid Egyptian Hall provides the perfect setting for an entertaining evening. A wonderful event, not to be missed.
- Calling all galanthophiles! Snowdrops are the object of the Master's visit to Welford Park near Newbury on the 18th February. Famous for its five-acre beechwood full of *Galanthus nivalis* and for being the venue for the past two years of BBC Television's the Great British Bake-off, the Queen Anne house also has formal gardens where rarer *Galanthus* species and cultivars can be found. The grounds have been opened for snowdrop lovers every February for more than 50 years.
- The popular Capel Manor Workshops resume on 5th March with a Willow Day. Learn how to make willow sculptures, garden wigwams and animal structures and take the results of your hard work home with you at the end of the day. See separate item on page 4 for details of this and two other spring workshops.
- The 11th March will see the 74th annual Service of the United Guilds of the City of London in St Paul's, when representatives of the Livery Companies will pack the Cathedral to capacity and show off an astonishing display of ceremonial robes and golden regalia.
- The United Guilds Service was first held in 1943 to remember the religious origins of the Guilds. It also arose from the desire of the companies to unite and help solve the problems facing the bomb-damaged City.

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Progress continues to be made in setting up the Future Gardeners project, launched at the Lord Mayor's Show last November where our floats were enthusiastically supported by young people (see right) from the Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST). The Company has paid the first tranche of money to BOST in order to recruit a project manager with a view to having the scheme up and running by the beginning of April.

Meanwhile the Master has announced a Charity Dinner to be held on the 10th May at Carpenters' Hall to help generate funds for the venture which is expected to require the Company to raise £26,000 per annum over the next five years.



LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2015

< *Continued from cover*

- Liverymen of all companies will join the Lord Mayor and Aldermen in a magnificent ceremony which includes beautiful music and an address by the Bishop of London.

- "I am the very model of a modern Major-General..." On the 18th March G&S fans can enjoy dinner and a private performance of The Pirates of Penzance at Grim's Dyke Hotel, Old Redding, the home of W.S. Gilbert from 1890 until his death in 1911.

- Gilbert wrote his last 10 works from an armchair in his library overlooking the croquet lawn. He died attempting to rescue a girl who got into difficulties swimming in his lake. There are 40 acres of beautiful gardens and woodland; guests not wishing to travel home at the end of the evening may book a room overnight.

- The Spring Court Dinner, on the 7th April, will be held at the magnificent Vintners' Hall which dates from the 1670s - its predecessor having burned to the ground in the Great Fire of 1666. The Vintners' Company, with its first Charter in 1363, is one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London and in 2013 celebrated its 650th anniversary.

- Also in April is the Master's four-day trip to Cornwall, from the 19th to the 22nd. Edible plant foraging will be combined with visits to two very famous garden destinations: the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan.

FLOWERS IN THE CITY SUMMER WINNERS

The Lady Mayoress, Gilly Yarrow, presented trophies to winning displays and gardens at a special ceremony at the Mansion House on 6th October last year. She praised all those who make them happen. "They are hugely appreciated by everyone who lives and works in the City," she said.

Flowers in the City Chairman Louise Robinson announced the winners and the Master thanked the Lord Mayor and Mayoress for their continuing support for the Campaign. He went on to call on planners and developers to incorporate more green spaces into the City.

The following trophies were awarded:

- Best Small Display: Tower 42, 25 Old Broad Street EC2N
- Best Medium Display: Token House, 4 Moorgate EC2R
- Best Large Display: Santander House, 100 Ludgate Hill EC4M
- Best Enclosed Courtyard: 10 Fleet Place, 10 Fleet Place EC4M
- Best Small Garden: 7A Laurence Pountney EC4R
- Best Large Garden: Inner Temple, Crown Office Row EC4Y
- The James Miller Trophy: 24 Martin Lane EC4R
- Best Floral Street: Temple Chambers, 3-7 Temple Avenue EC4Y
- The Master's Special Award: Cannon Bridge Roof Garden, 25 Dowgate Hill EC3R
- The Livery Hall Trophy: Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane EC2Y
- Best Reception Area: Montcalm Hotel, 52 Chiswell Street EC1Y
- Dick Balfour Trophy: Saddlers' Hall, 44 Gutter Lane EC2
- Luder Trophy: St. Dunstan's in the East, Dunstan's Hill EC3R
- Skyline Trophy: Nomura, 1 Angel Street EC4R



BEST SMALL DISPLAY:
GORGEOUS SUMMER COLOUR AT
TOWER 42, 25 OLD BROAD
STREET EC2N.



ROBERT HOWARD:
UNBROKEN RUN.



COLIN SQUIRE:
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION.



HONOURED:
JOHN BRUNEL-COHEN.

ALDERMANIC RECORD

The recent election of Assistant Robert Howard as Alderman in Cornhill constitutes a remarkable example of continuous family aldermanic service. Robert scored a decisive victory over his opponent in an election called following the retirement, after 30 years' service, of his father SPM Sir David Howard from the same position.

Sir David, Master of the Gardeners' Company in 1990-91 said: "So far we have had an unbroken run of Aldermen in the family for more than 70 years, of which I did 30. And the Gardeners have produced a Lord Mayor on average every 11 years since our re-birth in 1891".

The Howard family is in fact the first to have had three successive generations serve as Lord Mayor. Sir David was Lord Mayor of London in 2000-01. Robert's grandfather Sir Edward was Lord Mayor in 1971-72 and his great grandfather Sir Seymour held the same office in 1954-55.

GARDENERS GO GOLFING IN THE SUN

On a beautiful sunny day in May members of the Gardeners' Company and guests met once again at the Hazlemere Golf Club in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire for their annual golf match.

The day began in the Club House where we assembled for some well received coffee and burgers. This was followed by our organiser, Liveryman David Balfour, instructing us on the rules for the competition. There were 22 players and we were divided into six groups: four groups of four and two groups of three. The "not so good" players were allowed more shots per hole. The golf was very enjoyable (if a little frustrating for some of us!) but as usual the red kites graced us with their presence in the skies above the fairways.

After the match, the Master and several others joined us for an excellent lunch and the presentation of prizes.

This year's Golf Day will be held at West Herts Golf Club, Cassiobury Park, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, WD3 3GG on Monday 9th May. To all the golfers who haven't as yet managed to participate in this annual event, do come along – it is a very relaxed and enjoyable affair!

Report by Assistant Ron Froud

INDUSTRY HONOUR

Liveryman Colin Squire, chairman of the Squire's Garden Centre chain, has been awarded one of the highest honours of the gardening industry: the Horticulture Trades Association Pearson Memorial Medal.

Presenting the award, HTA Chief Executive Carol Paris said: "I am delighted to present the Pearson Memorial Medal to Colin for his outstanding contribution to the horticultural industry – it is well and truly deserved. A much respected figure, his boundless enthusiasm, forward thinking and high business standards are an example to us all".

Colin replied: "I am truly honoured to receive this prestigious horticultural award. I have so enjoyed my life in the horticultural industry and have met so many wonderful people over the years who have inspired me in my passion for gardening".

JOHN'S NEW MEDAL

SPM John Brunel-Cohen has been presented with the Legion d'Honneur by French Veterans Minister Jean-Marc Todeschini. The ceremony took place in October of last year at the French Ambassador's residence in Kensington.

President Hollande announced some time ago that all surviving veterans of the Liberation of France would receive the Legion d'Honneur: In July 2014 the French Government told the UK Ministry of Defence that it wished to recognise the selfless acts of heroism and determination displayed by all surviving veterans of the Normandy landings, and of the wider campaigns to liberate France in 1944.

This recognition extends beyond the troops who actually landed on and fought their way up the beaches more than 70 years ago, and includes Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel who operated in support of the landings.

On D Day John, who is now 93 years old and Number Two in terms of Gardeners' livery seniority, was a 21-year-old Lieutenant in the Royal Marines in charge of a back-up force of eight boats and 45 marines. "The boats were very slow," he said. "It took us 18 hours to get across the Channel from the coast near Chichester".

Delighted with the honour, he added that 2,000 veterans qualified under the President's decree but that 600 of those had died before receiving their award. John was present at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph last November where he wore his new medal with pride.



Plantsman Roy Lancaster tells his story at Fishmongers' Hall. Photograph by Michael Warren.

ROY LANCASTER: FROM STEAM ENGINES TO HORTICULTURE

Renowned plantsman Roy Lancaster revealed to Gardeners and guests at the Autumn Court Dinner that he had really wanted to be a steam engine driver when at the age of 16 he began his gardening life.

Proposing the traditional toast to the Company on behalf of the guests, he gave us an informative and amusing speech about his early interest in horticulture, his initial training as a gardener and his first job interview where he was told by his new boss, "...Jack Fishley, a snowy-haired man with a pipe, to start at 7.30 and bring your dinner!". From this humble beginning at Bolton Parks Department Roy's career in horticulture blossomed, encompassing broadcasting, writing, lecturing and visiting all parts of the world from the Himalayas to South America.

The Autumn Court Dinner was held in the magnificently constructed and decorated Fishmongers' Hall on London Bridge and was attended by more than 200 liverymen and guests.

Our Master, Bernard Williams, welcomed everybody as we sat down to enjoy a delightful dinner. Renter Warden David Green welcomed our principal guest, Roy

Lancaster, as well as Janez Fajfar and Eva Stravs Podlogar, personal friends of the Master from his business time in Slovenia, Roger Head, the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Michael McLaren, the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers, and the Masters of the Plumbers and Tin Plate Workers.

The Master presented Gardening Awards to Will BurrIDGE and Alex Hankey from Kew, Daniel Bright and Rosemary Kippen from Writtle, Lucy Conochie and Hannah Schlotter from Capel Manor, Alison Legg from RHS Wisley and Leon Charalambous from the Royal Parks.

Report by Graham Stevens

SPRING WORKSHOPS

Workshops will be held at Capel Manor College's Enfield site (Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield EN1 4RQ) and will run from 10.30am to 3.45pm including coffee and a light lunch with wine, tea and cake.

5th March: Willow Day. Award-winning Willowpool designers Steve and Simone Fuller will lead a practical, fun day creating sculptures, wigwams etc.

9th April: Lawn Day. A practical, hands-on event including spring maintenance, the use of a range of mowers, turfing, renovation and patching techniques. Top dressing, lawn seed, soil treatments and fertilisers will also be covered.

14th May: Enhancing Colour in the Garden. Learn how to create vibrant, colourful borders for the summer with tropical and sub-tropical plants and get the best from traditional annuals.

SURVEY RESULTS

The recent online feedback questionnaire proved most helpful and we are indeed grateful to the 43 who replied. It was clear that in general we are a contented livery! A third said they planned to attend more events next year and a similar percentage hoped to patronise the same number. Dinners were a clear favourite followed by day trips and church services. A few expressed disquiet about the cost of dinners, with most not attending frequently citing age or the pressure of work.

Gratifyingly, many offered their services; 13 had charitable skills, a few possessed financial skills, others computer skills. A few wanted better communications and we hope that the two extra editions of the Spade a year will help - highlighting future events rather than largely recording happy moments in the past!

Peter Waive, Chairman Communications and External Affairs

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



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