

THE SPADE

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS

WINTER 2018 - ISSUE 43 - MINI VERSION

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

15th February Mansion House Banquet. The highlight of the Company's social year. We are privileged to entertain our partners and guests in the splendour of the Lord Mayor's London home. The wonderful Egyptian Hall provides the perfect setting for an entertaining evening. A wonderful event, not to be missed.

14th March Evensong and Dinner, Temple Church and Middle Temple Hall. Sublime Evensong in the beautiful Temple Church, followed by a reception and Amity Dinner in the historic Middle Temple Hall, hosted by the Treasurer, Sir Paul Jenkins QC and the Master.

The late 12th Century Temple Church was built by the Knights Templar as their English headquarters. During the reign of King John (1199–1216) it served as the royal treasury, supported by the role of the Knights Templar as proto-international bankers. It is jointly owned by the Inner Temple and Middle Temple Inns of Court, bases of the English legal profession. It is famous for being a round church, a common design feature for Knights Templar churches, and for its 13th and 14th Century stone effigies.

Construction of Middle Temple Hall began in 1562 and was completed in 1572, although it was officially opened in 1576, by Queen Elizabeth I. Its hammerbeam roof has been said to be the best in London. One of the tables at the end of the hall is made from the timbers of the Golden Hinde, the ship used by Sir Francis Drake to circumnavigate the world.

Above the table is a massive painting of King Charles I by Anthony van Dyck, and also portraits of Charles II, James II, William III, Elizabeth I, Queen Anne, George I and George II.

16th March United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral. This year marks the 76th 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.

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.

3rd April Spring Court Dinner, Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2V 6BN. The Prince Edward Award for Horticultural Excellence will be presented at the black tie dinner.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2018

13th February Diamond Evening, Davril Jewels, 6 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8AA. An educational evening learning the mysteries of the diamond, courtesy of SPM Daniel Caspi.

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26th April Court Lunch, Innholders' Hall, 30 College Street, London EC4R 2RH (Court only).

30th April Company Golf Day, Harewood Downs Golf Club, Cokes Lane, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4TA.

4th May Royal Parks Nursery visit. A tour of the new nursery in Hyde Park.

15th May The Fairchild Lecture, St Giles Cripplegate, Fore Street, London EC2Y 8DA.

18-20th May Chantilly Flower Show (invited guests only).

22nd May Chelsea Supper, Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL (for members associated with the Chelsea Flower Show).

4-8th June Visit to North Norfolk. The Master will lead a trip visiting the area's stunning coastal gardens.

22nd June Riverboat visit to Kew. The cruise will be followed by lunch and a tour of the Director's private garden.

5th July Installation Court Dinner, Carpenters' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2JJ.



Posies ready for the procession by the Master and his principal guests.

THE MASTER WELCOMES LEGAL EAGLES TO AUTUMN COURT DINNER

The Autumn Court Dinner took place on the 1st November in the beautiful contemporary Haberdashers' Hall. The Master and Wardens welcomed some 170 Freemen, Liverymen and their guests in the traditional manner before the start of more formal proceedings.

As dinner was being served the Master had the pleasure of welcoming two new Liverymen, Mrs Susan Lousada and Mr John Lewis, and one new Freeman, Mr Jonathan Matheson. All had been robed during the afternoon's Court meeting.

After an excellent dinner and much imbibing, Assistant Mrs Paula Tomlinson welcomed the many guests with particular reference to three gentlemen with close ties to the Master in his professional capacity: Sir Paul Jenkins KCB QC; the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Garnier PC KB QC and Mr Simon Duckworth OBE DL CC. Also welcomed were Mr Joff Hamilton, Master of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, and the Masters of five other Livery Companies.

Sir Paul Jenkins responded on behalf of the guests with a very amusing speech with many anecdotes drawn from his experiences in the legal profession. Sir Paul was the United Kingdom Government's most senior legal official and Permanent Secretary to the Attorney General from 2006 to 2014. He now acts as an independent advisor to Government tasked with trying to keep ministers out of trouble. This raised considerable hilarity considering recent events.



Senior Past Master Tom Gough plays the piano for his supper.



One of the magnificent table settings at Haberdashers' Hall.

One of the most pleasant duties of the Master was to present this year's awards to students who had shone in their own particular fields within Horticulture. Colleges from Kew, Capel Manor, Wisley and Writtle were represented, with two students from each college collecting awards, supported by their tutors.

The recipients were:

Kew: Mr Thomas Pickering, Miss Solene Dequiret, Ms Kate Dixon (tutor).

Capel Manor: Mrs Michele Cornell, Mr Ian Painter, Mrs Susan Urpeth (tutor).

Wisley: Miss Jessica Jansdotter, Miss Ingrid Hartnett Ms Andrea Fowler (tutor).

Writtle: Mr James Mitchell, Mr George Laws, Dr Anya Perera (tutor).

This year's recipient of the George Cook Award was Miss Verity Joyner who is studying with the Royal Parks under the stewardship of Assistant Mike Fitt.

Finally, this year's Prince of Wales Perpetual Challenge Award went to Dr Tom White with his tutor Mr Paul Flynn in attendance, both from Newton Rigg College which is part of Askham Bryan College.

After a very enjoyable evening, the Master conveyed thanks to Stephen Crisp and Ron Froud for their wonderful flower arrangements and invited everyone to join him for a stirrup cup. **Report by Martin Panter. Photographs by Michael Warren**



Liverymen and their guests enjoy the pre-dinner reception.



Auctioneer David Domoney inspires the room and raises £30,000 for Future Gardeners.

CHARITY DINNER HELPS TO GROW PEOPLE

After clearing the hoops of modern-day security, we walked through the vast Westminster Hall, dodging the scaffolding, and entered the Palace of Westminster to admire Pugin's decoration and the statues of the great and good. We were welcomed with a glass of tasty prosecco and had the opportunity of buying an envelope from the Tree of Life.

The dinner, in aid of Future Gardeners and sponsored by the Lord Tope, was held on 19th January in the Peers' Dining Room and was attended by 120 guests. The meal was very tasty although slightly 'unusual', finishing with a croissant ice cream!

Master David Green welcomed us and introduced Tim Wood, chair of the Trustees of Bankside Open Spaces Trust who told us the importance of working with people who for a variety of reasons are not in education or training, often in long term unemployment and who cannot afford to pay for horticultural training.

Tim went on to introduce Louisa Mansfield, project manager for Future Gardeners, and student Sara Barnes. Louisa told us how the projects work; they are now on their third intake, working with groups of 10, young and old, but mostly young. They arrange for work experience and Louisa appealed to the Gardeners in the room to offer this. They also help with practical advice such as CV writing and job seeking. Sara said how grateful she was for the opportunity to join the scheme and thanked the horticultural industry for their interest; she is now running a small garden maintenance business.

After the dinner Liveryman David Domoney conducted an auction, Gardeners bagged several holidays and outings, and one extremely lucky [and generous] bidder paid over £5,000 for a trip in a Spitfire. The programme stated that the auction would finish at 22.05 and, somehow, David managed to bring his gavel down for the last time at that precise moment. The provisional total raised is £30,000.

Congratulations to the team who organised the event. Gardening is not only about growing flowers; it is about growing people too. **Report by Wendy Bentall**



Project Manager Louisa Mansfield appealed to Gardeners to offer work experience to her students.

WINE-MAKING ON THE SOUTH DOWNS

The visit to Denbies Vineyard on the South Downs on 20th October 2017 was an eye-opener.

We started with a train ride around the estate and learnt that before being converted into a vineyard the land had been used largely for pig and cattle farming. The steepness of the sloping ground made arable farming very difficult. However, when Adrian White bought the estate in 1984 he realised that these slopes, far from being a hindrance, would help the estate to produce good quality wines.

Indeed the site possessed the geology and hence soil conditions similar to the Champagne district. The topography is, as our guide was keen to point out, ideally suited, with well drained chalk-based southerly and south easterly slopes that are protected from prevailing westerly winds by a projecting headland.

Denbies now has 265 acres of vineyard, 15 different grape varieties and on average produces 400,000 bottles a year. The year 2017 was a difficult one for most growers because of the severe frosts in April. We learnt that Denbies lost 75% of its first growth and 10% of all its vines, but avoided much of the immediate impact of the frost damage by achieving a good secondary growth.

We then had some fascinating explanations and films about the wine production process, from planting the vines to filling, corking, wiring, washing, drying and packing the bottles. We were left in no doubt about the difficult judgement calls involved in most of the stages of the wine making process, but particularly in the vital decision as to when to harvest the grapes.

We then sampled three of Denbies' still white wines. The favourite of these was, many of us thought, Denbies Surrey Gold, but most of us could not resist buying Denbies' award-winning sparkling white wine, Greenfields.

It came as no surprise that Denbies have won over 33 industry awards in the 30 years in which they have been producing wine. Almost all of its production is sold to the UK market – a loss for those elsewhere!. **Report by Cindy Peck**

CAROLS AND COMMUNICATION

We departed from a cold snow-bound town on the dull afternoon of 12th December to arrive at a bright and warm oasis in the City of London.

The Church of St. Stephen Walbrook had been beautifully decorated, from the first step at the entrance, by Ron Froud and Stephen Crisp to give us a wonderful welcome. The interior was a blaze of colour with flickering candles and large circular floral Christmas arrangements on each pillar.

The Hon. Chaplain, the Venerable Peter Delaney, began the service with friendly greetings and announced the first Carol, 'Once in Royal David's City' which, despite fewer attendees than usual, managed to raise the roof a little!

The Christmas story was read in five lessons from the Bible by the Master David Green, the Upper Warden Margaret Prior, the Renter Warden Dr Heather Barrett-Mold, the Spadebearer Peter Waine and the Clerk, Major Jeremy Herrtage.

Carols were sung between each reading including the annual competition for the best group rendition of a verse of 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'. The Hon. Chaplain, with great subtlety, came to the conclusion that each group had their own merits so a draw was declared!

He then spoke to us on the theme 'Communication is the heart of life', offering many examples which all came to the same conclusion that we should Look, Learn and Listen.

The Organist for this very pleasant occasion was Dr Andrew Earis who, prior to the service, treated us to the organ recital of Choral Prelude on this Endris Night, accompanied the carols and finally played the Toccata in F by Widor. All were greatly appreciated.

We then retired to fulfill our instructions with vigour as we communicated with fellow gardeners, mulled wine and mince pies. **Report by Jenny Dungey**



Paul Gooding, admitted at Installation Court 2017.



Susan Lousada, admitted at Autumn Court 2017.

WELCOME TO TWO NEW LIVERYMEN

PAUL GOODING

After Qualifying as a Chartered Management Accountant and working in Germany, I joined our family horticultural manufacturing business, Synchemicals Limited, in 1980.

Working alongside my father and my uncle Douglas (who was a Liveryman of the Company) I became Chairman in 1992. With the support of my aunt, Liveryman Victoria Gooding, Synchemicals Limited has grown over this time to become a broad-based horticultural group serving the diverse markets of professional horticulture, agriculture, amenity sports turf and Vitax home and garden in both the UK and overseas.

I'm married with three children and six grandchildren. My hobbies include gardening, languages, stamp collecting, travel, art, and charity work.

SUSAN LOUSADA

Brought up in a family where the garden was used to grow vegetables for use in the kitchen and where flowers were grown only for local shows, I learnt how to remove the side shoots from a tomato plant before I could count to 10! That was the end of my horticultural training, but my love of gardening grew from there.

My husband, Simon and I moved to our home in 2009 and although the house and garden are important historically, little had changed for many years. With a stunning river frontage, that was once widened by hand to improve the view from the house, it has taken me much courage to implement a plan to update and, hopefully, enhance the garden.

I am a Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, sit as a Member in the First Tier Tax Tribunal and am Vice Chair of a Research Ethics Committee. I actively support a number of local and national charities.

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Master

David Green

Upper Warden

Margaret Prior

Renter Warden

Heather Barrett-Mold

Spadebearer

Peter Waine

The Spade Editor

John Gilbert

Clerk - Jeremy Herrtage

01730 815325

clerk@gardenerscompany.org.uk

The Gardeners' Company
Ingram's Green,
Midhurst,
West Sussex,
GU29 0LJ