

THE SPADE

WHERE MILTON WROTE
PARADISE LOST

THE FATHER OF THE
COMPANY CELEBRATES



Dates for your diary
Trips to Hampshire and Exbury

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THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Welcome to the Autumn Spade, the second in our new format. From now on we will be publishing four such 12-page issues a year. This means more pages in which to report on Company events and matters of interest to members.

Written contributions, ideas for articles and help in gathering material and preparing it for publication are all very welcome.

Most of the items in this issue are available at greater length and with more photographs on the Company website. The public page of the website also features a steady stream of news items about events in the City.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13th November

Linnean Society, Lecture and optional Supper. Visit to the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF. An opportunity to delve into the archives and see some of Linnaeus' original work and specimens as well as attend a talk by Mike Gunton. Mike is an Executive Producer at the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol. You will readily recognise his programmes. To use a shortcut which really doesn't do justice to the series, many will remember the Emperor Penguins in Dynasties and the role the team played in cutting steps in the ice to allow them to escape from a gulley.

16th November

Red Cross Fair Workshop at Rochford's Nursery Workshop. An opportunity to help make articles to be sold as part of our contribution to the Red Cross Fair – a biannual event opening on the 25th November in the Guildhall.

4th December

Christmas at Kew. Kew in winter with the dramatic lighting of the trees. Followed by supper. Kew Gardens, Richmond, London, TW9 3AE.

19th December

Carol Service at St Stephen, Walbrook, London EC4N 8BN. Join us for our annual Carol Service in this beautiful candle-lit church, in the late afternoon. Light refreshments after the service. Children very welcome.

21st February 2020

Mansion House Banquet, The Mansion House, Walbrook, London EC4N 8BH. The highlight of the Company's year. A privilege to entertain family and guests in the splendour of the Lord Mayor's home.

14th March 2020

Woodland Archaeology, Piggots Wood, Piggots Hill North Dean, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 4NF. John Morris of the Chilterns area Project will guide us round this ancient area to show us the clues that tell of the past use of the woodland.

2nd April 2020

Spring Court Dinner at Barber Surgeons' Hall, Monkwell Square, Wood St, Barbican, London EC2Y 5BL. The Prince Edward Award for horticultural excellence will be presented at this lunch.

3rd April 2020

Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 4HS. Coffee followed by an introduction from Liveryman Sue Medway, the Director of the garden, and a guided tour. Lunch in the restaurant and then an option to cross the river and visit the Thrive gardens in the afternoon.

15th April 2020

Buckingham Palace Garden. A guided tour by Liveryman Mark Lane, Gardens Manager for the Royal Family's London gardens.

20th - 24th April 2020

Florence trip. Tour of gardens and more.

5th May 2020

Guided tour of Physic Garden at the Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LE.

14th - 15th May 2020

Chantilly Flower Show. The Master will present the Gardeners' Company Trophy at this unique French flower show.

19th May 2020

Chelsea Supper at the Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. For those of the Company associated with the Chelsea Flower Show.

2nd June 2020

Fairchild Lecture St Giles' Cripplegate Church, Fore Street, London EC2Y 8DA. Lecture to be given by Sir Roy Strong. Supper, tbc

8-12th June 2020.

York and Yorkshire. Tour of gardens and more. Staying in York.

18th June 2020

Visit to Hatfield House. An opportunity to be shown round the gardens by Lady Salisbury and her Head Gardener followed by a drinks reception.

DAVID'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Father of the Company David Longman celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year at a special luncheon at the RAC Club in Pall Mall surrounded by the Master, members of the Court and guests.

Clothed in the Livery in 1953, he became Master in 1975-76 at the relatively young age of 46.

Master Margaret Holland Prior described his year as a particularly successful one. "There were visits to Holland, Leonardslee, the Spalding Tulip Parade and Wisley, as well as the traditional dinners," she said.

Thanking his friends around the table for their hospitality and good wishes, SPM Longman described his year as Upper Warden as "slightly traumatic". This was the time when the Gardeners' Company led the way among Livery companies by admitting women to the Livery.

"At much length," he said, "we debated the admission of ladies as Liverymen. Up to that point ladies could only become Freeman and were known as Free Sisters – not a very flattering term!

"There was quite a lot of opposition to the proposal both below and above the chair. I was given the task by the Master, Arthur Carton, of lunching a number of them to make them change their mind.

"In those days all admissions were voted on by the Court and one black ball in the ballot box was decisive. But all was well, the first lady admitted was the Dowager Duchess of Gloucester, followed by Lady Mary Donaldson who went on to become the first female Lord Mayor". David said he was apprenticed to his father in the mid 1940s. "I took my Livery in 1953 at the Grocers' Hall. My father used to joke that

there were now three Gardeners connected to the horticultural trade – the other one being a potato merchant at Kings Cross. How different from today!"

Senior Past Master Longman went on to praise the work of the Future Gardeners project. "My only regret," he said, "is that we have lost our links with our friends in Belgium. This dated back to just after the Great War when the Company helped the horticultural industry there to recover financially from the ravages of war. It would be good if this contact could be renewed".

In 2013 David gave Her Majesty the Queen a replica of the bouquet his company presented at her Coronation 60 years earlier. He is seen here with the Queen, the bouquet and his daughter Lottie who made it.



MILTON'S COTTAGE AND CHENIES MANOR

The sun shone brightly on new Master Heather Barrett-Mold as some 42 Liverymen and guests joined her for the first visit of her year. This event owed much to John Dugdale-Bradley who as well as being one of our livery is a trustee of Milton's Cottage.

Milton's Cottage, Chalfont St Giles, a Grade 1 listed property built in 1580, was the first destination of the day. Inside and outside, the cottage, the only surviving home of Milton, offered much history and garden history. Kelly Welch explained the use of the house and the history of some rare artefacts and publications.

This was the place where the poet completed Paradise Lost and where he wrote the sequel Paradise Regained. The garden of the cottage is tended with great care and horticultural excellence by Andrew Still and a team of volunteers.

Following restoration in 1957 it is planted with trees, shrubs, and herbaceous material that Milton would have known.

From Milton's Cottage we sped to nearby Chenies Manor House and Garden, Chenies, for a similar interior and exterior visit.

During its long history this 15-16th Century brick manor house has been visited by royalty but has only been in the ownership of three families.

The current owner Charles Macleod Matthews explained how it came into his family, giving us a preview of the history that we would learn from our afternoon tours. When his parents Colonel and Mrs Macleod Matthews bought the house in 1956 it was in a parlous state. Now it is run with great style by Charles and his wife Boo as a wedding venue, a place for afternoon tea

twice a week, and if you purchase a membership you have unlimited entrance to stroll in the garden or go on house tours, during its annual open seasons.

The gardens are substantial. Elizabeth Macleod Matthews built on the Tudor layout and created a series of romantic plantings. The resulting banks of perennials in borders, themed areas such as the white garden and the rose lawn, offered us so much to enjoy before and after the house tours.

Dianne Prutton, Senior Gardener led us on a tour of the garden and explained how she and her garden team, with volunteers, kept this garden at its best through the seasons.

**Outside Milton's Cottage
The Meditation Turf Maze at Chenies**



REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARBARA SEGALL

DAVID LONGMAN, A LIVERYMAN SINCE 1953.

THE BIG PICTURE

At Charles Stanley, we expect moderate global economic growth over the next 12 months. Broadly speaking, consumers are in good shape, supported by rising real income growth and falling unemployment, but the business cycle has lost a considerable amount of momentum, reflecting the legacy of the US-China trade war which has weakened business investment. As a consequence, the risks to growth over the next few months are tilted to the downside.

US economic growth has slowed during this year, but we expect further interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve to reduce the downside risk to the economy from slowing global trade and weaker manufacturing.

We would expect a modest lift in economic activity if the US and China agree a trade deal that eases tariffs, but a comprehensive

agreement involving intellectual property rights and technology transfer is a long way off.

The Eurozone economy faces headwinds from the marked downshift in global manufacturing which has hit the region's export-led growth model particularly hard. EU diesel emissions restrictions have been a particular problem for the German auto industry.

At its September policy meeting, the European Central Bank announced a comprehensive set of monetary policy easing measures to address weak economic activity and persistently low inflation. Mario Draghi, the outgoing ECB president, was somewhat downbeat about what further monetary easing could achieve and has effectively thrown the gauntlet down to policymakers to encourage fiscal easing and structural reform.

If there is a moderate pickup in global growth by end-year we could see slightly better export-led Eurozone growth in 2020, but there remains the risk that, even if the US agrees a (modest) trade deal with China, Donald Trump turns his attention on the vulnerable European auto sector.

We expect sluggish UK economic growth in the months ahead, but uncertainty around potential Brexit outcomes makes it difficult to have a high level of confidence. UK public finances have improved and fiscal easing is in the pipeline, whatever the Brexit outcome if necessary.

Elsewhere, in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit, there is scope for the Bank of England to provide monetary policy support in much the same way as it did after the 2016 EU referendum.

YOUR CHANCE TO HELP

Please sign up to the Volunteering Platform to help young people in schools find Gardening Careers.

The Gardeners have partnered with the Volunteering Platform to help provide you with opportunities to volunteer in local schools.

As you know, young people in schools struggle to find careers in which they are interested. As experienced business people, we can help by going into schools with the aim of inspiring them to explore our career paths.

Are you interested in helping with: **Motivational Career Talks** that inspire the next generation? Would you like to give a talk to a class or an

entire year group on topics such as how you moved from education into work and share your unique career insights and advice?

Supporting Career Days at a school? This would mean having café conversations/speed networking in small groups, mock interviews and providing CV tips and advice.

School Clubs: from gardening clubs to reading clubs, chess clubs to future scientist clubs. Help support school clubs either ad-hoc or on a regular basis.

Becoming a Governor: you can also find out about governor roles and how to get involved. Once you have registered, you can specify how

you can help and the Volunteering Platform will then notify you when matching opportunities become available.

We see this is an excellent initiative and would positively encourage your support. It's all about giving back and we all know that just a few hours a year can make all the difference.

To sign up, please use the following link: <https://gardeners.thevp.org.uk>

THE THOMAS FAIRCHILD LECTURE



On a wet and windy late afternoon in early June members of the Company and their guests made their way to St Giles' Church, Cripplegate to hear the latest in an historically long line of sermons.

We were warmly welcomed by the Reverend Katharine Rumens to this beautiful church. Our Hon. Chaplain, Peter Delaney led the service. The sermon was given by the Reverend Dr William Beaver who was formerly a US Army officer. At one point in his career he was speech writer to eight Lord Mayors of London which is where his link to the Gardeners' Company began. Reverend Beaver is currently Chaplain of the Light Cavalry of the Honourable Artillery Company.

Dr Beaver recalled being rescued by SPM the late Janet Owen from a bullying individual at Mansion House. The Fairchild Lecture, he said, was a thank you to her memory and to we "extraordinary lot of Gardeners".

His wife's family spend time, energy and money on gardening and like us find it "one of the most civilized restorative activities known to mankind". The world, he said "may be going to hell in a wheelbarrow" and life can be overwhelming until you go into your garden, be it March or May, when you are transformed into "an active agent in the miracle of creation, partners with God in the creation of beauty".

Fairchild knew that as a gardener you answered Jesus' call to make the world a better place and to cast beauty into the arms and minds of others.

The 20 shillings given to the speaker was ceremoniously handed over in a little bag by our Master to Dr Beaver who was allowed to hold it for a few moments before reluctantly having to hand it back. A token gesture nowadays of thanks as initiated by Thomas Fairchild.

Following the service, the supper was held at Osteria restaurant in the Barbican Centre. The Master, Mrs Margaret Holland Prior, warmly thanked Dr Beaver for his address and spoke movingly about her year now drawing to its close, this being her last formal event.

Finally, Dr Beaver said:

“

As God has made you one with Him in valuing nature and sharing with Him the miracle of bringing about beauty, so let us all thank Gardener Fairchild for his perennial gift, reminding us of the glory of God gleaming out of the mystery of the title he set before us: the wonderful works of God in the creation and your part in it. Amen

THE GARDENS OF HAMPSHIRE

With only three days until Midsummer Day and after weeks of unseasonably cool weather, summer it seemed had arrived at last as 45 Gardeners accompanied by Master Margaret Holland Prior gathered at Houghton Lodge Gardens, near Stockbridge in the heart of rural Hampshire.

Described as 'the jewel of the Test Valley' this Grade 2 fishing lodge in the cottage orné style has been in the ownership of the Busk family for over a century. We were welcomed by Sophie Busk who described how the garden had undergone extensive restoration since 1977 after which we were free to explore the many delights of the extensive estate.

This included a collection of Kelways peonies in full flower and a heritage orchard, with a 56' espalier of rare varieties, set with an ornamental

vegetable garden in a traditional chalk cob-walled garden. Beyond the borders and topiary garden extended tranquil water meadows leading down to the Test.

Some of us found time to be treated to fascinating and valuable tips on the successful growing and showing of sweet peas at a talk. This was followed by a demonstration of how to arrange a perfect show display by expert Jim McDonald of the Sweet Pea Society and his wife.

After lunch we headed off to the charming village of Crawley to the lovely cottage garden of Mrs. Patricia Elkington. With beautiful wide borders in harmonious colours, a vegetable garden and hidden corners, where her hens potted freely, this three-acre garden had something to delight everyone.

Then it was a short walk across the road to Tara Holland Prior's new home where, after only three years, an enormous amount has been done to transform the previously weedy site into a very decorative and well designed garden full of healthy and interestingly varied plants and shrubs.

Tea in the nearby Village Hall rounded off our thoroughly enjoyable day. It was a grand finale for our Master in terms of the public visits she had arranged for her fellow Gardeners during a most varied and successful year.

The Master with Jim McDonald of the Sweet Pea Society and his wife.



THE IPM REFLECTS ON HER YEAR AS MASTER

When planning for my Year, I wished to share my particular horticultural and life interests with the Company. As my Year included the Anniversary of the Armistice, the speakers at Harvest and Fairchild had a Service background and this reflected another interest of supporting ex Service personnel achieving land based careers

As many of you know, my gardening interests are orchids, camellias, forests and my allotment. My life interests include the City of London, my three Livery Companies, ex Service, forests, animal welfare and the environment.

Underlying my thoughts for this Armistice Anniversary Year was my long standing wish to create a conversation and then links with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Gardeners' Company, unlike the majority of City Liveries, does not actively support the Services. I felt the Commission, with its 860 gardeners and endless subcontractors to care for the beautiful and peaceful gardens, was the correct link to support the Company's Services connections.

To this end, Lt General Sir William (Bill) Rollo, KCB, CBE, Commissioner, CWGC, addressed the Company at the Harvest Festival Service held at St Vedast alias Foster. We learnt the Commission cares for 1.7 million memorials in 23,000 locations in 150 countries, in perpetuity.

Our conversations have continued and the Commission has generously offered the Prince of Wales Trophy winner the opportunity to visit one of their work sites in France or Belgium for a five day stay.

The Gardeners' Company has agreed to present an award to one of the CWGC gardeners, to be judged by one of our Liverymen, David Richardson, Horticulture Director, CWGC.

A group of 20 of us spent the morning of 11th November 2018 on the river Thames where we held a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, led by former US Officer, The Rev Bill Beaver and we cast wreaths upon the water. Bill was also the Preacher at Fairchild where he gave a rousing Lecture.

Mansion House Banquet was a Company highlight when Liveryman Charlotte de Rothschild sang beautiful Japanese songs. Lord Mayor Locum Tenens Roger Gifford spoke of the City's work in supporting young people.

I responded by talking about the Company's work with our scheme, Future Gardeners and the immense importance of the Company's charity. I emphasised that it was everyone's duty to pay the charity dues that enable the Company to help and train others. Without the charity monies, we achieve little.

I took the Company on visits to Basel, Jersey and Galicia and I thank you all for your friendship and support during my Year as your Master.



IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER, MARGIE HOLLAND PRIOR, JP | PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL WARREN

SUMMER COLOUR

Results of Flowers in the City's Summer Competition were announced at the Mansion House in October. The winners were:

Best Small Display: Beaumont Bridge House, 181 Queen Victoria Street EC4V 4EG.

Best Medium Display: Shaws Booksellers, 31-34 St Andrew's Hill EC4V 5DE.

Best Large Display: 60 New Broad Street EC2M 1JJ.

Best Enclosed Courtyard: Falcon Chambers, Falcon Court Temple EC4Y 1AA.

Best Small Garden: Elm Court Garden, 1 Pump Court Temple EC4Y 7AS.

Howard Trophy Best Large Garden: Inner Temple Garden EC4Y 7HL.

James Miller Trophy: not awarded.

Edward Wright Trophy for Best Floral Street: Temple Avenue EC4Y 0HA.

Master's Special Award: Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill EC4R 2YA.

Livery Hall Trophy: Drapers' Hall Garden, Throgmorton Avenue EC2N 2DQ.

Dick Balfour Trophy: Wax Chandlers' Hall, 6 Gresham Street EC2V 7AD.

Reception Area Trophy: not awarded.

Luder Trophy: Aldgate Square and St. Botolph's Without, Aldgate High Street EC3N 1AF.

Skyline Trophy: The Garden at 120 Fenchurch Street EC3M 5BA.

Best Indoor Garden: Sky Garden, 20 Fenchurch Street EC3M 8AF.

The roof garden at Cannon Bridge House, winner of the Master's Special Award



HOW PEOPLE PAY FOR COMPANY EVENTS

A review of the Office operations has shown that the Clerk has to deal with as many as nine different means of payment for each event that the Company puts on.

These are payments by:

1. Direct Debit - the preferred means as the italicised note below, taken from the Company website, makes clear. This includes GoCardless
2. BACS with a reference
3. BACS with no reference at all
4. Standing Order
5. Cheque plus application form, which is totally acceptable for those who do not use the Internet for banking
6. Cheque accompanied by a scrap of paper/Post-it note to indicate which event it is or may be for. Often these are not clear

7. Cheque without any indication what it is for
8. Cheque handed to the Clerk at the event
9. Cash handed to the Clerk at the event

All of these different payment methods mean that the office has a huge amount of unnecessary work and that the accounting for each event becomes a nightmare.

This then is a plea by me, as the Chairman of F&GP, to help us simplify things by either using the Direct Debit system, which gives you a discount, or send a cheque with the proper booking form. I am sure you will agree that turning up with cash on the day is not sensible, and

it is really silly to send a cheque or a BACS payment without saying what it is for.

"Paying by direct debit is easier for you and you only have to provide your direct debit details once. After that, you just click once to arrange a payment. You also get a £3 discount on the quoted price per person per event. This is because payment by direct debit rather than by cheque or BACS reduces the burden on the office considerably. A double benefit!"

I very much hope that when I have another look at this next year things have improved considerably and thank you in advance for your help in achieving this.

CALLING ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS

Katy Rochford writes: The Worshipful Company of Gardeners has long held the honour of arranging a pedestal of flowers in St Dunstan's chapel, St Paul's. Would you like to join the rota? Volunteers are urgently needed.

"If you think squash is a competitive activity, try flower arranging."

Alan Bennett's words may hold a grain of truth in the outside world, but St Dunstan's chapel is a haven of peace and a place for quiet reflection amidst the bustle of visitors to St Paul's cathedral. Arranging a pedestal of flowers beside the beautiful altar is a privilege and a sense of competition struggles to flourish in such surroundings.

Whether you are a seasoned flower arranger or a beginner who would like to learn the craft, please consider joining the rota for St Dunstan's chapel. You would be called upon once or twice a year and, in return for your efforts, you will be rewarded with a chance to be part of one of our greatest buildings. It is great fun to be given a key to the vestry and to be allowed to enter parts of the cathedral not open to the public.

I was a complete novice when I first joined the rota and am lucky to be able to bring a very clever friend who guides and teaches me. If you would like to share the work or are happy working on your own, it is a wonderful thing to do.

For more information contact Assistant Ron Froud

01580 241523,
ronwfroud@aol.com

He organises the rota for the flower display (which is done once a fortnight) in St Dunstan's Chapel. He is short of volunteers for 2020. The work requires giving up time, twice a year, to go to St Paul's Cathedral to do the arranging in the Chapel. Travel and flower expenses can be claimed. You may take someone with you, for free, to look around St Paul's. Ron will also arrange to meet you at St Paul's and will show you the procedure.



MAGNIFICENT EXBURY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

In May over 100 Gardeners and their guests, including members of the International Camellia Society, the Master Fruiterer and a representative of the Basel Gardeners Guild, enjoyed a fabulous sunny warm afternoon at Exbury Gardens, courtesy of Liveryman Charlotte de Rothschild.

The Court and special guests were treated to lunch in Exbury House. After Charlotte's welcome to everyone, we were split into four groups each one expertly led by one of Charlotte herself, her sister Kate, her brother-in-law Marcus, and Head Gardener Tom.

The history from the original purchase in 1919 by Lionel de Rothschild, who could see the potential of the over 200-acre property, leading to his almost obsessive development of the garden into today's magnificence was well explained as each group strolled around in the sunshine.

Soil improvement: this is how to do it – 150 labourers dug in various composts for 10 years. Over 70 gardeners then followed

planting one million specimen rhododendrons, azaleas, maples, rare trees and much more. Today only nine gardeners manage the estate, albeit with modern machinery. Numerous anecdotes from and about Lionel abounded.

Exbury Gardens is unquestionably one of the leading spring gardens. Everywhere we looked it was a riot of colour, particularly many shades of red, pink, cream and white as well as yellow. Lionel de Rothschild was a specialist in creating hybrids and the complexities of naming them was among the fascinating anecdotes told to us by our guides.

Amongst the highlights were scented rhododendrons, one with a velvet underside leaf to absorb water, an oriental plane tree, whose roots have become a feature in their own right (the so-called Wiggly Tree), endless colour variations including a blue azalea and the Daffodil Meadow looking over the Solent, albeit the flowers were now over. A spectacular sight was the magnificent light purple wisteria as a pergola along the front of a quite large Greek-style temple structure.

The Garden continues to develop. This year marks its centenary, and the Centenary Garden now replaces an old tennis court. Designed by Marie-Louise Agius, RHS Gold medal award winning designer and great grand-daughter of Lionel de Rothschild, this features the Rothschild five arrow crest in stone in the middle, which is then surrounded by beds of grasses as well as specimen trees.

At the top an attractive curved wooden seat is backed by a pink azalea wall. It is designed to be at its best in the summer when the rhododendrons and azaleas are over. Surrounded by old high yew hedges, you can look out at a vista of a wide range of trees.

All of the groups came together at Exbury Central to board the narrow gauge steam railway. It has clearly been extended recently and the next stop was Exbury North, for some final anecdotes from Charlotte standing beside the Pocket Handkerchief Tree and beyond that the tallest tree in the garden.