

THE SPADE

THE CASTLE WITH
A WORLD GARDEN

FOOD
CHALLENGES
AHEAD

THE MASTER
AND HER FLOCK

FUTURE
GARDENERS:
ANOTHER
SUCCESS STORY



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
ROBERT HOWARD'S VIEW FROM THE CITY
AND MUCH MORE..

WINTER EDITION 2020 - ISSUE 50
GARDENERSCOMPANY.ORG.UK
ISSN 1473-091X





THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Welcome to the Winter Spade, the third in our new format. From now on we will be publishing four 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. Using your password, go to the Members' Area and click on the Noticeboard. From there you can also access the archive of photographs from dinners, trips and other events. The public or first page of the website also features a steady stream of news items about events in the City. Click on the News button.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21st February

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

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

2nd April

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

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

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

20 - 24th April

Florence trip. Tour of gardens and more.

5th May

Visit to Royal College of Physicians to be shown round their Physic Garden by Dr Henry Oakeley, FRCP, FLS, Garden Fellow, Royal College of Physicians, London.

14 - 15th May

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

19th May

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

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

8-12th June

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

18th June

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

2nd July

Installation Court Dinner, Draper's Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DQ. The installation of a new Master and the start of the Gardeners' year.

1-6th September

A Taste of Welsh Heritage: a tour of Welsh gardens organised by the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust.

The geography of Wales is complex with vistas of changing landscapes formed from the industrial mining of iron and coal in the south, the ruggedness and grandeur of Snowdonia, and the greyness and sharp angles of the slate industry in the north. In amongst all this, the topography can change to rolling hills with hidden valleys of beauty with castles, houses, parklands and gardens.

The tour begins in Usk in Monmouthshire with visits to a number of gardens and the partially ruined, romantic Usk Castle. Gardens of the Vale of Glamorgan are explored. Aberglasney in Carmarthenshire and Powis Castle near Welshpool follow.

Gwydir Castle, near Llanwrst in Conwy is next followed by the world renowned Bodnant Garden. A magnificent Grade 1 listed garden with some historic plant collections and amazing views of Snowdonia.

HORTICULTURE: SCIENCE ART AND TECHNOLOGY

The Autumn Court Dinner was an opportunity to welcome some of the best young and talented gardeners from the horticultural colleges. Winners of this year's Company awards came from RHS Wisley, Capel Manor College, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and University College Writtle.

Among the aims of the Company is support of young horticulturists at an important stage of their careers and this is one of the ways in which we do this.

The guest speaker was Professor Owen Doyle, a long-time fellow horticulturist with our Master. They are both members of the Council of the International Society for Horticultural Science. Professor Doyle represents Ireland and is based at the School of Agricultural and Food Science at University College Dublin where he studied, as well as at Cornell University.

He also teaches farther afield at the South China Agricultural University in Guanzhou, China. He gave a fascinating and entertaining after-dinner speech on the relationship between horticulture and gardens. Every garden is horticultural, but every horticultural environment is not necessarily a garden.

He regards horticulture as a science and art. It deals with the environment and is multinational. It covers food and non-food plants as well as landscape and lots of forests. He said that his involvement in China opened his eyes to the wider horticultural world.

He also focused on how horticulture can contribute to the mitigation of

climate change. He noted one of the adverse results of the latter is an increase in pests. He considered the role of horticulturists in relation to this and other features such as planting for flood protection.

He also commented on the need to reconnect with nature for the benefit of our individual health and well-being. He concluded that we should all remember horticulture as a medicine for which there is no need for a prescription and no limit on the dose! In conclusion: Horticulture: think outside. No box necessary!

Helen Knight ably introduced all of the principal guests beginning with Professor Doyle. Next was General Sir Bill Rollo, vice chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with whom we formed a close association during IPM Margie Holland Prior's year of office. The Commission has generously offered the winner of our Prince of Wales Trophy the opportunity to spend five days at one of the Commonwealth War Graves sites in France or Belgium.

We also presented an award to one of its gardeners for horticultural innovation in the Commission.

Helen also welcomed Tony Leach, chief executive of the charity Parks for London. Its mission is to ensure that London has a strong and thriving network of parks and green spaces and it works with those who manage, maintain and enjoy our parks with increasingly limited resources. His passion is to help make London a better place to live and work: a passion shared, of course, by the Gardeners' Company as a whole.

A total of 150 members of the Company and their guests shared their food passion during the evening with the Master Ironmonger John Biles and his excellent caterers.

Spadebearer Nicholas Woolf leads the procession to the top table, followed by the Master, Wardens and VIP guests.

The Master with her close friend and fellow scientist Professor Owen Doyle.

Gardeners and their guests enjoy a delightful evening in the Ironmongers' Hall. Upper Warden Peter Waine welcomes guests to the pre-dinner reception.



SLUGGISH 'MUDDLE THROUGH' GROWTH LIES AHEAD

The UK economy ended 2019 on a particularly weak footing but given the much reduced domestic political risk after the Conservative Party's victory in December's General Election, and what is likely to be a reflationary budget in March, we anticipate better domestic UK activity data in the months ahead.

This more favourable background should provide a tailwind to UK equities, which remain relatively under-owned and cheap compared with their international peers.

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.

US economic growth slowed during 2019, but with a 'phase one' trade deal agreed between the US and China, and a supportive monetary policy stance from the Federal Reserve, we expect a modest improvement in business sentiment

as we head through 2020, but our base case remains for sluggish, 'muddle through' growth.

Last year saw a modest decline in corporate earnings, reflecting slowing revenue growth and falling margins. Market estimates for 2020 are for a strong pickup in corporate earnings growth, driven by a return to above trend GDP growth which is expected to boost sales, more than offsetting the effects of narrowing margins.

However, our slightly more cautious view on the economy does pose some downside risk to corporate earnings growth which, combined with higher equity valuations, makes us anticipate much more modest investment returns this year relative to 2019.

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.

This has been taken on by the incoming ECB head, Christine Lagarde, in conjunction with her counterpart at the European Commission, who is actively aligning fiscal reflation with a strong green agenda. Whilst we do expect a slightly easier regional fiscal stance over the next 12-18 months, it is likely that the key Northern European countries will continue to pursue balanced budgets.

If there is a moderate pickup in global growth this year we should see slightly better export-led Eurozone growth as a result, but after striking a 'phase one' trade deal with China there remains the risk that Donald Trump turns his attention to the vulnerable European auto sector.

THE WORLD'S PLANTS, THE WORLD'S MEDICINES

This year's Harvest Festival took place in the historic church of St Michael Paternoster Royal on College Hill near the river Thames on 10th October.

The original site of the church was recorded in 1219 but that building was destroyed by the Great Fire in 1666 and rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren.

Richard 'Dick' Whittington, who was Lord Mayor of London four times, was laid to rest in the precinct of the church in 1423 but there is no

record of what happened to his tomb.

The church had been beautifully decorated by Ron Froud and his team in autumnal colours including sunflowers, chrysanthemums, apricot-coloured roses and hops. The sun shining through the stained glass windows, enhanced their vibrant colours.

The large congregation sang the harvest hymns lustily, accompanied by Sir Andrew Parmley on the organ. The Clerk, Major Jeremy

Herrtage, gave a reading from the Botanical Register for 1833.

The address was given by Dr Henry Oakeley, Garden Fellow, Royal College of Physicians, London entitled 'The World's Plants, the World's Medicines'. It was a fascinating talk on the intimate relationship between humans and the plant world.

The full text of Dr Oakeley's address is available on the website Noticeboard – see 11th October 2019.

REPORT BY ADRIENNE WATERFIELD

THE MASTER & HER FLOCK

On the 29th September Master Heather Barrett-Mold and a small group of members of the Company exercised their ancient right as Freeman of the City to drive sheep across London Bridge in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Woolmens' Charitable Trust.

This unique tradition created great curiosity with the many visitors and tourists on the bridge, especially the sight of representatives of the many Livery Companies in their regalia and others in sheep and shepherd related costumes.

The annual event also includes a livery fair at the base of the Monument, with several Livery Companies displaying their crafts and traditions. Ironically the Worshipful Company of Bakers were there selling freshly-baked bread and rolls (there wouldn't be a Monument without them!).



Ready for the off: the Master, sheep and supporters on London Bridge.

EAST MALLING AND THE FOOD CHALLENGES AHEAD

On arrival at East Malling Research Institute for a joint visit with the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers, we were greeted by Ross Newham, the Operations Director, supported by Richard Harrison the Gardeners' Nuffield scholar.

Ross welcomed us all on behalf of the Director Mario Caccamo. Briefly, he and Richard explained the history of the station which was established in 1913, in association with Wye College, as the UK's first Fruit Experimental Station.

They outlined some of the station's major contributions in the past, including developments on apple

rootstocks that now support around 75% of the global apple crop. Although huge improvements had been made in productivity over the past century, the challenges facing the industry in the future remained immense. Between 1950 and today, farmers produced some 262% more food.

Over the next 30 years we need to double food supply yet again. East Malling is working on ways to achieve this, developing new varieties to ease mechanisation, taking climate change into account and looking for ways of minimising water requirements, finding ways to combat diseases, and dealing with

declining insect populations.

The recognised need for innovation in food production overall is shown in the recent increase from eight PhD students to over 30. Questions asked by our party explored funding, which had also increased strongly in recent years, and how the Nuffield link helped research capability.

After lunch we were treated to some fascinating accounts of the work of five current researchers, ranging from work on brown rot on the cherry, through developing resistance via rootstocks, to soil treatments to combat Apple Replant Disease.

OVERJOYED TO BE WORKING

Gareth Catherall was long-term unemployed and struggling until he signed up for our Future Gardeners course. As part of the course he undertook work experience at property company Grosvenor Britain & Ireland and as a result has been offered an apprenticeship with their horticulture team, based in Belgravia.

The Future Gardeners programme, delivered in partnership with Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), is designed for people just like Gareth, those who have been out of work for a while or who struggle to access training or education. It now runs three times a year with great success; over three quarters of those who finish the course go on to employment in the industry.

Gareth says: "Future Gardeners has changed my life. I had been unemployed for a number of years

and fighting to get back to work. The course gave me the confidence and horticultural skills needed. I'm overjoyed to be working again".

Key to Future Gardeners' success are the partnerships the course has within the industry – the Gardeners' Company co-fund the scheme, Walworth Garden help to deliver classroom based study, enabling students to gain a Level 2 City and

Guilds Qualification, and many large organisations host work experience.

Gareth is presented with his graduation certificate by Elizabeth Green, Sheriff of the City of London, at the Red Cross Garden in July 2019. On the left is Louisa Mansfield, Future Gardeners Project Manager (photograph by Mary Trafford, BOST).



NEW RECRUITS

The following were admitted to the Livery at Autumn Court in November



Ann Anderson

Ann is a retired school teacher and dental nurse. She volunteers for the charity Perennial, arranges flowers for her local church and has been chairman of her local horticultural society for the last five years, organising three shows per year.

Ann's husband is a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Loriners; they have four children, all of whom are Loriners.



Simon Quinton Smith FRICS

Simon is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and has specialised in providing property advice to the garden centre and horticultural trade throughout the UK, for more than 30 years.

Simon is a passionate gardener designing and implementing his own garden and has also designed a fruit and vegetable garden for a monastery in Cambodia.



Cllr Julie Ann Mills JP

Julie is a Justice of the Peace at the City of London Magistrates' Court and past Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, 2011-2012. Since then, she has been chairman of the Brighter Kensington and Chelsea Gardening Scheme. Julie is an amateur gardener and helps to 'green' Kensington and Chelsea surroundings, residential, municipal and commercial.



Dr Timothy Cutler FRCP, FLS

Timothy is a retired consultant dermatologist physician and has just finished his year as Master Barber-Surgeon. He was on the advisory board at the Chelsea Physic Garden, 1994-2016, and is currently honorary curator of the Physic Garden at the Barber-Surgeons' Hall.

He shares many interests with fellow gardeners including botanical, horticultural, dendrological and medicinal aspects of gardening. He is passionate about the healing power of plants and gardening, especially for disabled people and veterans of the Armed Forces.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL WARREN

REPORT BY LIZ CASSIDY

PRIZE-GIVING AT CHANTILLY

The Master, accompanied by her Steward, Liveryman Tara Holland Prior, together with the Upper Warden and Freeman Barry Barrett-Mold and Senior Past Master Rodney Petty represented the Company at Les Journées des Plantes in May.

The Company has presented the Worshipful Company of Gardeners trophy since the inception of the show at Domaine de Courson in 1998, founded by the late Patrice Fustier and now held at Chantilly. The trophy is presented to those who have contributed to the development of Les Journées des Plantes.

Our party is invited to dinner along with members of the International Jury des Mérites on the night before the show which since moving to Chantilly has been held in the Chateau de Chantilly hosted by Prince Ayn Aga Khan, Honorary Freeman.

This year the dinner was held in the beautiful surroundings of the nearby Chateau des Aigles, the home of Dr. Susan Kendall, an American and Friend and sponsor of the Domaine de Chantilly.

Prince Ayn opened the proceedings with a welcoming speech including a tribute to the renowned horticulturist Roy Lancaster who had been a member of the International Jury from its early days, whose farewell it was.

Later in the evening and following a delicious meal, the Master in a thoughtful and inspiring speech, thanked Prince Ayn and our host. She announced the winner of the Gardeners' Company trophy, Abraham Rammeloo, with the

presentation of a scroll, read out by SPM Petty.

Abraham Rammeloo is Curator and Director of the Arboretum, Kalmthout in Belgium since 2000 and has presided over the steady growth of this renowned botanical garden which contains one of the most diverse plant collections in Europe. He is now Chairman of the Jury des Mérites and is determined to maintain the show's high reputation.

On the following day, the first day of the show open to the public, the prize-giving ceremony took place and our trophy was

presented to Abraham by the Master accompanied by a speech written by her in English, translated into French and delivered by her Steward in French.

The prize-giving was followed by a luncheon in a marquee, after which our party reluctantly had to leave to catch the Eurostar back to London and bid farewell for another year.

Abraham Rammeloo is presented with the Gardeners' Company trophy by Master Margaret Holland Prior. Photograph, Jean-Pierre Delagarde.



THE LATE CHARLES ELLIS TALBOT MBE 1931-2019

Charles was among my oldest friends in the Company and I feel very honoured to write this obituary. He was one of the 'elite' members of the Company who followed his father through the Master's chair in 1979. He had a very busy year and represented the Company at many events in and around the City.

He lead a splendid visit to Belgium to attend the Ghent Floralties where the Company had sponsored and organised for the first time an exhibit showing the best of British horticulture. He was also instrumental in setting up a Young Gardeners movement. He was justly proud that his son Christopher was a member of the Company.

Charles was educated at Shrewsbury School and then went to Cambridge to read law. He did his National service in the Army and joined the Intelligence Corps. Posted to Austria he quickly imbibed Austrian and German culture which he loved for the rest of his life. On returning to civilian life he joined the family law practice in Kidderminster.

As well as the law he involved himself very much in civil and social work in the town. He served on the Council from 1959 for over 15 years. He was the youngest Mayor elected in Kidderminster in 1965. He became Town Clerk in 1982 until 2016. He founded Kidderminster Youth Trust during his Mayoral year and it still exists and operates today. He also served as president of the local horticultural society.

He helped to set up twinning arrangements with Husum in north Germany and organised and lead youth exchanges over

many years. For this work he was awarded the prestigious Ring of Honour Husum in 2002. Only four of these awards have been made. He was instrumental in making the arrangements for refugees from Poland and Ukraine to be integrated into the town.

Perhaps his biggest achievement and memorial is the setting up and organising of the Carpet Museum in Kidderminster which gave him and Jean much pleasure. For all this work and much more he was very fittingly invested with MBE in the 2017 New Year honours.

Charles was a lovely man, full of good works and warm friendship. He was very much a bon viveur and enjoyed life and meeting people. I very much valued his friendship.

One story to conclude with: in 1975 the Company paid its then customary visit to the Ghent Floralties. After a splendid banquet we returned to our hotel in Brussels at midnight. Charles turned to me and said, "I fancy a dozen oysters, how about it?".

So off we went to a fish bar just off the Grande Place, he to his oysters and me to a large bowl of moules, accompanied by a good bottle of Chablis. That is the type of man I am happy to remember. I shall miss him very much.

SPM David Longman



CHARLES TALBOT, WHO DIED IN OCTOBER, PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1965 WHEN MAYOR OF KIDDERMINSTER.



THE WORLD GARDEN AT LULLINGSTONE CASTLE

Drive, passion, determination and sheer force of personality are not something that Tom Hart Dyke is short of and in September he gave the Master and 39 other liverymen an energetic and highly informative tour of his creation: the World Garden at Lullingstone Castle, Kent.

The 20th generation to live at the castle, Tom was inspired to garden by his Grannie 'Crac', and pursued a horticultural career, becoming an avid plant hunter. His 1999 worldwide plant-hunting trip was going all too smoothly when he ended up being held captive by gun-toting kids in the Darien Gap between Columbia and Panama for nine months.

Fearing for his life, Tom came up with the idea of a garden showcasing plants from all from around the world, planted in their respective continents as a way of dealing with his captivity.

Upon arrival we enjoyed a potted history of the castle and some of

its specimen trees in the grounds including venerable Cedar of Lebanon before entering the World Garden via an appropriate Moon Gate. The World Garden is in the former two-acre walled garden that used to house a kitchen and herb garden as well as mulberries for silk production.

Now it is home to some 7,000 plants, grown from seed by Tom, held together by 350 tons of rock and arranged in the shape of a map of the world. A micro climate, it allows Tom to grow plants that otherwise would not withstand the vagaries of the British climate.

Tom guided us around enthusiastically, pointing out interesting specimens including *Clerodendron 'Carnival'*; the smallest Eucalyptus species in the world, part of his National Collection of Eucalyptus; beautiful *Anisodonteia 'El Rayo'*; the huge *Dahlia imperialis* and the astounding *Dasyllirion longissimum*, or Mexican grass tree. The latter had conveniently put up a magnificent flower spike in time

for our visit, growing at a rate of 14 inches a day. Covered in blooms, it was abuzz with honey bees. Near the end of the tour we went under cover into the Hot and Spiky House - the gasps were audible at the sight of a collection of huge cacti, many reflowering after a recent warm spell. Of particular note were the enormous *Echinocactus grusonii* or Golden Barrel Cactus and the rather bizarre looking *Aristolochia gigantea* or Dutchman's Pipe. The plants here are protected from the winter wet as well having a warmer temperature under cover.

A delicious tea was served at close of the visit. By way of thanks the Master presented Tom with the Company Shield which he said he would proudly display in his potting shed. The Master gave thanks to Richard Capewell for his help in arranging such a fantastic visit. Many of us headed back to the shed to purchase some unusual plants from his nursery and to ask more questions from the ever obliging Tom who complimented the Liverymen on their plant knowledge.