

# THE SPADE

WENDY RAISES CASH  
FOR PLANT HERITAGE

EDUCATION:  
SPECIAL REPORT

WOODLAND  
ARCHEOLOGY  
IN THE CHILTERN

OUR NUFFIELD  
SCHOLAR REPORTS



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY  
FLOWERS IN THE CITY  
WINTER WINNERS

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# THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Welcome to the Summer Spade. 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 stories about events in the City and other items of interest in the horticulture and gardening worlds. Click on the News button. Next to it is the link to our Twitter account. To visit our Instagram account go to:

<https://www.instagram.com/gardenliveryco>

Please send photographs for posting there to Liveryman Barbara Segall.

## THE MASTER

Dr Heather Barrett-Mold

## RENTER WARDEN

John Gilbert

## SPADEBEARER ELECT

Cindy Peck

## UPPER WARDEN

Peter Waine

## SPADEBEARER

Nicholas Woolf

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# THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Well the long stay at home has had some advantages. Our animals are certainly appreciating us being a fixture, especially the dogs. They are always up for yet another walk.

These strange times have led the Court to the decision that I should continue as Master for another year. It was not an easy decision to come to as there are knock-on effects to Peter Waine as Upper Warden but also to others as usually it takes two years to build a programme for a Master's year.

We talked about the pros and cons and on balance thought this was the best way forward for the Company, but of course this decision impacts heavily on the Wardens who I must thank for their generous approach.

Surprisingly perhaps a few events have continued. Ordinarily I would have gone to Ironbridge with other Masters in post in early June to establish the Masters' Year Group. This didn't take place, but a virtual meeting will allow this to happen.

Many Masters will continue for two years but certainly not all. The Architects put on an excellent virtual lecture. The Lord Mayor is holding virtual coffee afternoons for Masters. Of course, the Gardeners' Company work has continued throughout.

Thanks so much for your responses to my letter asking for your opinions as to the way forward. There are some strong messages, such as the reluctance to come into London on public transport; in planning events that will certainly be taken into account. Zoom has gained in popularity and more and more of us have got used to this. The Company is using a different platform for its meetings (GoToMeeting) but it is similar to Zoom in its use.

Many are keen to be shown round various gardens and to have a virtual walk round the horticulture businesses of some of our members. We have started working on this and Paul Rochford and I have had a practice at presenting videos of my garden.

Don't get me wrong, I don't hold up my garden as an exemplar, but once we get this ready to present it will be an opportunity to have you all round for a visit, which I think could be fun. Of course, not everybody will want to log in to a virtual experience and we are trying to accommodate that as well.

I know that many of you enjoy taking photographs of your gardens and I hope you will enter the photography competition. It will be good to share these photos with others in the Company. I always welcome ideas so please do let me have any other suggestions for the coming year.

**Heather Barrett-Mold and Chalkie**



## THE GRAND GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Enter a maximum of three photographs per category by 31st August.

Send photos to the Clerk:  
[clerk@gardenerscompany.org.uk](mailto:clerk@gardenerscompany.org.uk)

Four categories and a prize of £50 for the best in each:

1. A feature within your garden
2. A plant/ flower in your garden
3. Pollinators in your garden
4. Something that reminds you of lockdown

Winners' photographs will appear in the Spade, on the website and on Instagram.

Sizing: On a phone, choose maximum size or the highest quality setting. Alternatively, images should be a minimum of 300 PPI, A4 - 210 x 297 mm or 8.3 x 11.7 inches in Jpeg format. 3780 pixels on longest side.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

At the time of publication

Date	Event and Dress	Venue and Information	Eligibility
August 2020	VIRTUAL TEA AND TOUR OF MASTER'S GARDEN AND WOODLAND	NA	The Company, Partners and Guests
Monday 31st August 2020	CLOSING DATE for our first photography competition.	NA	The Company and Partners
Tuesday 6th October 2020	HARVEST FESTIVAL	NA	The Company, Partners and Guests
October 2020	LECTURE	NA	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 3rd November 2020	TREE PLANTING AT KEW.	14.00 Kew Gardens, Kew, Richmond, London, TW9 3AE	Livery
Thursday 5th November 2020	AUTUMN COURT DINNER <i>Dinner Jacket</i>	NA	Livery and Guests
Saturday 12th December 2020	MAKE YOUR OWN WREATH AND REINDEER FOR CHRIST-MAS <i>Gardening clothes</i>	Joseph Rochford Gardens Ltd., Pipers End, Letty Green, Herts. SG14 2PB	The Company, Partners and Guests
Monday 14th December 2020	TRADESCANT LUNCH <i>Lounge Suits</i>	NA	Court Only
Monday 14th December 2020	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE <i>Lounge Suits</i>	St. Stephen Walbrook, London, EC4N 8BN Carol Service in this beautiful candle-lit church,in the late afternoon. Light refreshments after the service.	The Company, Partners, and Guests
February 2021	MANSION HOUSE BANQUET <i>White tie preferred</i>	Mansion House	The Company, Partners and Guests
Thursday 25th February 2021	CHISWICK HOUSE AT CAMEL-LIA TIME <i>Comfortable attire</i>	Chiswick House and Gardens, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London, W4 2RP	The Company, Partners, and Guests
Tuesday 30th March 2021	SPRING COURT LUNCH <i>Lounge suit</i>	Barber Surgeons' Hall, Monckwell Square, Wood St, Barbican, London, EC2Y 5BL The Prince Edward Award for horticultural excellence will be presented at this lunch.	Livery and Guests
Wednesday 7th April 2021	BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN <i>Lounge suit</i>	Buckingham Palace A guided tour by Liveryman Mark Lane, Gardens Manager for the Royal Family's London gardens.	Livery and Guests
Friday 30th April 2021	Chelsea Physic Garden <i>Comfortable attire</i>	Introduction from Liveryman Sue Medway, the Director of the garden.	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 4th May 2021	ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSI-CIANS' MEDICINAL GARDEN	Tour with Dr. Henry Oakeley	The Company, Partners, and Guests
Tuesday 18th May 2021	CHELSEA SUPPER <i>Lounge suit</i>	Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London, SW1A 2EL	Company members and partners associated with Chelsea Flower Show
Tuesday 1st June 2021	THE FAIRCHILD LECTURE <i>Lounge suit</i>	Lecture to be given by Sir Roy Strong	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 8th June 2021	VISIT TO HATFIELD HOUSE <i>Lounge suit</i>	An opportunity to be shown round the gardens by Lady Salisbury and her Head Gardener.	The Company, Partners and Guests
Monday 14th June 2021 – Friday 18th	York and Yorkshire <i>Comfortable attire</i>	Yorkshire tour of gardens and more. Staying in York.	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 6th July 2021	INSTALLATION COURT DINNER <i>Dinner jacket</i>	TBC	The Company, Partners and Guests
TBC	VISIT TO WEST HAM PARK tba		
TBC	VIRTUAL FORAGING LECTURE tba		
TBC	VIRTUAL TOURS OF GARDENS AND HORTICULTURAL BUSI- NESSES		
TBC	LECTURE BY DAVID MARSH.		The Company, Partners and Guests
TBC	VISIT TO LEONARDSLEE GARDENS		The Company, Partners and Guests

# WENDY'S POP-UP STALL RAISES A WHOPPING SUM

Liveryman Wendy Bentall describes her Covid-19 adventure in the plant trade.

With lockdown imminent I started my little plant stall outside the gate because I had a huge amount of plants destined for a cancelled plant fair.

I hit lucky by having the right shaped entrance gate with moderately busy passing trade and a secure letter box set into the wall. The sign said: 'All plants £3, put the money in the letterbox, all money goes to Plant Heritage' \*.

Things started slowly, I had no ambition other than to shift a few plants and make a bit of money to replace the lost plant sale. However, with all the garden centres closed I became the only go-to place for plants, and people were including me as part of their daily perambulations and cycle ride.

I then realised we were probably

going to be in this for the long term and gathered vegetable seeds and plants from friends. Some were out of date but I planted them anyway. Soon one table turned into two: vegetables £2. These flew off the shelf, a tray of 30 tomatoes from a friend went in two hours.

By April I enlisted the help of a local nursery; they let me have plants at a discounted price. Tomatoes and courgettes flew out, as did pansies destined for compost. Two tables turned into three. By now the garden centres were allowed 'click and collect', but the nursery still supplied me with plants.

I had a couple of clandestine meetings in the shadows of the Waitrose car park to collect plants from a fellow Plant Heritage member and plants were dropped off from all over the place.

Eventually I ran out of compost, plants, pots and energy, and at the risk of making this a career

I closed down at the beginning of June. I wore out three pairs of shoes, umpteen gardening gloves, 27 bags of compost, 2,500 plant labels, supplied the neighborhood with about 500 tomato plants, and made a whopping £5,500 for Surrey Plant Heritage. This goes to ensure the diversity of garden plants and supports the National Plant Collection holders.

I plan to open up 'shop' for a while in the autumn as I have some nice late summer and spring plants and our autumn plant fair is now cancelled. I am also taking the opportunity of catching the born-again gardeners to run a few propagating workshops, socially distancing outside of course.

Meanwhile I shall plant seeds in the house dust and the shed remains unsorted.

*\*The garden plant conservation and research charity, home of the National Plant Collections.*



WENDY AT THE GARDEN GATE



# PROMOTING HORTICULTURAL CAREERS AT ALL LEVELS

## Chairman Tim Edwards describes the extensive and varied work of the Education Committee

A number of the Company's objectives concern horticultural skills and education and the support of those involved in the industry. Much of the work done in these areas falls under the aegis of the Education Committee, which delivers through four Sub-committees: Livery Schools Link; Trade Apprenticeships; Future Gardeners and Nuffield Scholarship.

Taking up roles on these active and committed groups provides Freeman and Liverymen with a way of getting more meaningfully involved in the work of the Company.

### Livery Schools Link

Plant cultivation and the wider industry that supports it can provide a rich and rewarding life. The role of this Sub-committee is to present Horticulture to youngsters when they are at that formative stage in life of considering the careers they might follow in the future.

This element of the Committee's work started out as an annual representation at the Livery Schools Link Showcase event, which



presents career options to more than 1,000 London school pupils. It has subsequently progressed into a broader offering: the Sub-committee is now developing a network of Freeman and Liverymen willing to talk with those schools and pupils wanting to know more about our sector. As well as connecting those willing to speak with an audience eager to learn more about careers in Horticulture, the Committee is developing material that will help its speakers communicate effectively and with a consistent message.

While Horticulture can provide fulfilment for people of all physical and intellectual capabilities, the whole industry shares concerns that it gets overlooked at the expense of apparently more 'sexy' sectors and careers. There are opportunities to work with other organisations within the Trade to get across our common message. This is an area in which any member of the Company with meaningful horticultural experience can become involved.

### Apprenticeships

Anyone taking up a position in Horticulture, no matter what their age, will need a first position in the Trade and the experience gained from that first position can dramatically affect their future. A well run apprenticeship provides a structured introduction to the Trade and can establish the foundation to education and skills upon which a long career will continuously build. The best of apprenticeships go further still and introduce colleagues, mentors and connections that are never lost.

The Company delivers a number of apprenticeships in conjunction with the Royal Parks Guild and

other specialist employers and is supported by City & Guilds of London funding. Apprenticeships run over one, two or three year training programmes aimed at progressing careers in Horticulture.

The Company also works with other organisations within the City of London to make available a range of events and experiences for a very large number of London's horticultural apprentices, delivering a network through which lasting friendships are built and important introductions established as well as providing experiences and specific training well beyond what is required from a standard apprenticeship.

Liverymen and Freeman with horticultural experience and connections can help the Apprenticeships Sub-committee by introducing other organisations that host apprenticeships or which might provide valuable experience for apprentices. And, of course, we would welcome anyone with an interest in delivering our programme of apprentice activities.

### Future Gardeners

The Company's primary charitable venture is an ambitious programme aimed at those who, for various reasons, are unable to access the traditional apprenticeship route into horticulture.

The Future Gardeners programme helps to make participants 'work ready' by providing pre-apprenticeship training programmes, culminating in real employment opportunities. It focuses on developing job application skills, preparation of CVs and interview techniques.

Each 10-week programme raises awareness of the many careers available in Horticulture and, by working with scheme partners, is able to provide work experience periods, helping participants progress towards a future in their chosen areas of Horticulture.

To date, the training for this flagship project has been delivered through the Bankside Open Spaces Trust in London's SE1 area and its results have been astonishingly impressive: some 76% of those completing the programme have taken on work in the horticultural sector, a far greater percentage than most schemes of this type.

It is clear that there is great potential for rolling this concept out further. In order to do this, the management of the project will need to be further expanded, more delivery partners will need to be found as well as more scheme partners to provide the work experience. The Company is developing this project further and is in the process of applying for charitable status.

We would be pleased to hear from any Liveryman who feels they might have a contribution to make to this project.

### Nuffield Scholar

The Gardeners' Company can discreetly operate to influence careers at all levels: we show school pupils what 'Horticulture' might mean as a career; we formally introduce those who choose Horticulture to working life by delivering apprenticeships and we help those who find themselves in difficult times through the work of Future Gardeners. We also aim to help those who have already achieved great heights in Horticulture to fly higher still through the sponsorship of a Nuffield Scholar.

Nuffield Scholarships are offered to all sectors of Agriculture, including Horticulture, but our sector has historically been very much under represented. By getting close to the Nuffield Foundation, promoting their scholarships throughout our network of influence and by funding a Horticultural Scholarship, we aim to attract high-calibre Nuffield

applicants from a horticultural background.

Ideal applicants will have already established a meaningful career and wish to further develop that while at the same time bringing real value to the Industry itself, through research of a specific topic and through travel and exposure to influential horticulturists around the globe.

Through this initiative we aim to help develop and hone those who will influence and lead our Industry in the future. In doing so, we will make discreet use of a network perhaps unique to the Gardeners' Company and further establish our position as a body that promotes the art and practice of Horticulture. Any Liveryman or Freeman who knows of potential Nuffield Scholars who would fit our ambitious criteria should suggest that person put themselves forward to the Nuffield Foundation.

See back page for news of our first Nuffield Scholar, Richard Harrison, and page 9 for a report of a recent Livery Schools Link visit.



School pupils get up close and personal with plants on the Gardeners' stand at last year's Livery Schools Link Showcase at Guildhall



# WOODLAND ARCHEOLOGY IN THE CHILTERN

The Master's March visit to first Piggotts Hill and then Burnham Beeches, both AONB (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), was a very informative introduction to contrasting types of Ancient Woodland defined as an area continuously wooded since the 1600s.

Piggotts, the house and barn where we started the day, was artist Eric Gill's home in the 1920s and 30s. Piggotts Hill is an example of a woodland cultivated for timber mainly to supply London with firewood, billets, taltwood and faggots transported by barge down the Thames.

Later chair-making in High Wycombe was a market for the beech wood—the predominant species together with oak and some ash, wild cherry and hornbeam. Piggotts Hill woods were mainly in private ownership through history but the exact boundaries of ownership changed over the years.

Burnham Beeches is an Ancient Wood with a different function. Largely common land at varying times, it was a wood pasture which was available for grazing. In many parts of the woods the trees were pollarded both to allow grazing beneath the trees, which coppicing would not allow, and to supply additional fodder for animals and firewood for local people.

The different functions of the woods meant that the topographic features were quite different. In Piggotts wood we saw sawpits, quarries for chalk and sarsan stone for kerbs (also pudding stone with pebbles in it) and boundary ditches and banks.

Our guide was John Morris, Director of the Chiltern Woodlands Project, whose book about the Chiltern woods was a gift to each of us from the Master. It is fascinating. John showed us LIDAR images, a technique that allows the contours of a landscape to be seen clearly. We learned that although these features look like very similar depressions in the winter woods, quarries can be identified by their need for an exit from the quarry, and that sawpits are always four metres in length with the spoil heaped on the side.

Ancient Woods have their own particular flora and continuous management of the woodland is needed to keep them in a good state. For example, larch needs to be cleared to give more open areas and replanting is needed to give variety of species. Holly is a problem everywhere.

Helen Read was our guide in Burnham Beeches, a 375-hectare site part-owned by the City of London Corporation and bought by them

in 1880 as recreation for London residents who were able to take the train to East Burnham—no longer!

The site is heathland and woodland. Helen showed us some amazing 'Harry Potter' like trees and both described and showed us the conservation work, including pollarding (which had stopped about 200 years ago) of the beech trees young and old, and using cows, ponies and pigs for grazing. Pollarding allows the tree to grow for 4-500 years whereas a straight trunk timber tree usually dies after 15-200 years.

In both Piggotts wood and Burnham Beeches we were shown the damage done by squirrels which takes such a toll on the survival of young trees which are not so easy to source now as varieties from other countries may bring problems and seeds take time to grow! The weather was kind to us, lunch at the local pub excellent as was tea at Burnham Beeches. A very well organised and fascinating day.



John Morris, Director of the Chiltern Woodlands Project, with the Gardeners' group.

# HUNTING MANDRAKES IN REGENT'S PARK

**Jonathan Matheson reports on a Livery Schools Link visit to the Royal College of Physicians Garden of Medicinal Plants**

Dr. Henry Oakeley, Garden Fellow at the Royal College of Physicians, gave a fascinating talk at last year's Carol Service on 'The World's Plants, the World's Medicines'. He then kindly offered the Gardeners' Company the opportunity to invite a few schools on a guided tour of his Garden of Medicinal Plants, on the edge of Regent's Park.

For the first tour, on 12th March, we invited boys from the City of London School. Eighteen boys between 15 and 17 from two groups arrived with Masters Andy Thomson, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator, and Kevin Rogers, Head of Careers. The boys were planning to study medicine and were interested in climate change. Dr Oakeley presented the guided tour in an entertaining and amusing way that grabbed their attention and imagination.

Among the plants that interested the boys most were: *Ephedra sinica*, source of Ephedrine - probably because they were offered a piece to chew; *Nandina domestica*, a source of cyanide - which they were not offered to chew, and cycads, probably the source of the mysterious illness, lytigo bodig that afflicts residents of the Pacific Island, Guam, and resembles the muscle-wasting disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's-like dementia. The boys were amazed to hear that trees we see routinely in London, like *Ginkgo biloba* and *Taxus baccata*, can have valuable uses in medicine.

**"In March several of the Mandrakes threw a loud and raucous party in greenhouse three" - J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**

Of course, all school boys know about *Mandragora officinarum* from reading Harry Potter. The boys were intrigued by Dr Oakeley's referencing the medieval myth that,

when pulled from the ground, the Mandrake root emitted a shrill cry that drove people mad and killed them. As a result, the ancients believed that the way to pull up the mandrake root safely was to plug one's ears, tie a dog to the root with rope and throw the dog a treat. As the dog lunged forward, the mandrake root would be uprooted and its shrieks would kill the dog. The Mandrake-hunter could then continue unfazed.

Andy Thomas kindly thanked Dr Oakeley and Jonathan Matheson, Livery Schools Link Co-ordinator, as follows: "I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr Oakeley and Jonathan for offering such an interesting and engaging experience at the gardens. It is not often that the boys are given such a thorough and entertaining insight into the world of plants and one which I personally believe is very important for their academic development and appreciation of the natural world".



Dr. Henry Oakeley reveals some of the treasures of the garden.

## GOLFING NEWS

The Golf Day baton has been passed by David Balfour to Richard Bernhard who was hoping to run the event at Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club on 11th May. Half a dozen intrepid Gardener golfers have already signed up to the new provisional date of Monday 14th September (12.30 -7.30 p.m. approx).

If you and your golfing guests would like to play please email Richard at richard.bernhard@tiscali.co.uk and he will be delighted to email you with an application form and such details as are confirmed at present.



# THE CASE FOR SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

**View from the City by Sir John Redwood, Chief Global Strategist at our investment manager, Charles Stanley.**

There was a time when the job of an investment analyst was to forecast the turnover and profits and concentrate on the hard numbers of business life. The role of the Investment strategist was to do the same for the economy and market as a whole.

As recently as this January, arguments about whether the world economy might grow a little faster than 3% or a little slower were still at the heart of deciding whether there could be another good year for stock markets, or whether they were running out of momentum.

Companies on average were expecting a normal low figure percentage increase in profits on stable or gently rising turnovers. None of us entered 2020 saying governments worldwide would close down around a third of their economies, and damage the output of another third, creating an enormous recession.

When this happened the investment world clearly changed dramatically. After a big sell-off, investors got used to company after company cancelling its guidance and its dividend. Attention turned to charting the course of the virus. In practice the only thing that mattered was to follow the Fed and the other leading Central Banks as they turned their attention to rescuing debt markets from disaster, and launching a tsunami of money at any problem.

Some people still try to forecast and

describe the world in rational and traditional terms. They currently end up with a bearish script which is made redundant by the temporary bubble in assets being inflated by Central Banks.

Before the virus hit some investors and the regulators were taking more interest in the social impact of big companies. Some said the corporate sector should do more to curb wars and internal repression by states. They wanted businesses to stop making weapons and instruments of repression, or to limit more strictly who they sold to and for what purpose.

Some said the corporate sector spoke the occasional greenwash, but needed to take much more action to cease dependence on fossil fuels and move into alternative energy. Some said companies were not doing enough to look after their employees, wanted more evidence of opportunities for women and minorities at the top, and more progress in providing a higher minimum or living wage.

It is likely that these pressures from society and from political groupings are going to get a lot more intense. In Europe the new Commission is determined to make its Green Deal the centrepiece of its approach.

In the USA Mr Biden, if elected, will want to go in a similar direction. There is a growing gap between the rich who own shares and bonds and are benefitting from the current surge in financial assets thanks to money creation, and the lower paid subject to losing their jobs or experiencing wage and bonus cuts thanks to the downturn. Political parties and governments will seek to tip the

balance by legislating on the side of those who are suffering from the situation.

Alert chairmen and chief executives of large companies will need to satisfy politicians, investors and regulators that they understand these feelings and wish to contribute to solutions. Gone are the days when a CEO could appear on the media and justify the company's stance because it was in the financial interest of shareholders.

They now have to understand they need messages that are crafted for their customers, for their employees, and for the wider, often critical public and their politicians. Investment analysts and managers need to recognise that corporate survival now needs more than a strong balance sheet.

Ignoring the wider social and political context can cause much damage. The current wave of protests should pass, but the underlying issues remain to be resolved. Investors need to grapple with the profound economic impacts of the digital and green revolutions, and with the issues of social responsibility many now pose to markets.



# COMMANDER ROBERT WOOLGAR OBE 15TH JUNE 1939 – 5TH MAY 2020

You will all have been saddened to learn of the death, after a four-year battle with Alzheimer's, of our former Clerk and Honorary Freeman, Rob Woolgar.

Rob saw the Company through a very trying time in its history and we are ever grateful to him for stepping into the breach at short notice to take over the Clerkship of the Gardeners' Company when it was in severe difficulty.

Whilst you remember him as a smiling and friendly Clerk what many of you don't know was the career as a Naval Officer he enjoyed beforehand. He joined Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth in 1957, preferring that to University despite being awarded a scholarship to read Modern History at Christ's College Cambridge, and was commissioned in 1959.

Having attended what he thought was a routine medical, he was informed that he had passed aircrew selection and spent two tours as a Sea Vixen observer in 890 and 893 Naval Air Squadrons. Amassing some 1,000 deck take-offs and landings from Carriers like Ark Royal and Hermes, he avoided 'getting wet' in spite of a number of close shaves.

In between flying jobs Rob commanded the Dartmouth Training Ship HMS Brearley where he was reported to the Captain of Dartmouth for teaching cadets 'unsafe seamanship practices', by using the pub signs to navigate the River Dart. Apparently when briefed by the reporting officer, the Captain commented '....is there another way to navigate the Dart?'.

He was then given command of the minesweeper HMS Bossington on the Hong Kong Squadron which saw more than its fair share of excitement. After a brief time as Directing Staff at the Royal Naval College Greenwich, he headed back to sea again to HMS Ark Royal, this time as Operations Officer. It was here he played a (semi) starring role in the fly-on-the-wall documentary 'Sailor', although barely recognisable with a ginger full set (beard).

Promoted early to Commander at 36, he commanded the Tribal Class frigate HMS Zulu followed by one of the then many Mine Countermeasures Squadrons of eight minesweepers. In the Falklands Campaign he was disappointed

to find himself driving a desk in Whitehall rather than a warship.

His last two jobs in the Navy were as Executive Officer of HMS Nelson, the stone frigate in Portsmouth, followed by three years as Defence Attaché in Denmark.

Retiring from the Navy after 35 years Rob was awarded an OBE in 1992 and the Freedom of the City in 2007. Most importantly Rob was a loyal husband, caring father and enthusiastic grandfather as well as being an excellent Clerk when we badly needed one.

I am indebted to Lieutenant Colonel Nick Woolgar, Rob's son, for supplying me with the Naval details for this article.



# OUR NUFFIELD SCHOLAR SUBMITS HIS REPORT

Dr. Richard Harrison, the Nuffield Scholar we sponsor jointly with the Fruiterers' Company, has submitted his research scholarship report. Entitled 'Where next for soft fruit in the UK? Addressing the yield gap and providing a path to 500 t/ha', it is now available in full on the Company website.

His study tour considered how to improve efficiency and productivity in the soft fruit industry in the face of increasing political, environmental and economic uncertainty. Key objectives were to:

1. Understand some of the major developments in research and technology.
2. Estimate whether it is realistic and sustainable to deploy new technologies on farms.
3. Identify the barriers to new technology being adopted and potential solutions.

Key messages to emerge from his report:

1. Genetics is an easy way to make environmentally sustainable yield gain in horticultural crops; we have

more tools than ever before and the UK is well-placed to lead.

2. Energy consumption in agriculture is rising and new production systems must 'design to avoid' and be developed with an awareness of wider energy and sustainability policies.

3. It is currently very hard to say what is good and bad; more sophisticated lifecycle analysis and digital twinning is needed to quantify externalities of production and shape the design of new systems.

4. In a new UK agricultural policy landscape there could be further direct incentives to lower fossil fuel energy and transfer to renewable usage through a 'produce or reduce' energy incentive scheme for green energy.

5. Every consumer is responsible, but we are largely unaware of our actions. Technology could help raise awareness of sustainably produced fresh produce and help shift consumer behaviour.

Richard spoke at our Autumn Court Dinner in 2018 and outlined the plans for his research. Since then

he has been appointed Director of Cambridge Crop Research at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) at East Malling Research. Richard's wife Nicky was awarded a Nuffield scholarship in the autumn of 2019, so is facing undertaking her research in very challenging times.

## FLOWERS IN THE CITY WINTER WINNERS 2019/2020

Roger Payton Trophy:  
Dunster Court EC3R 7AH.

Annie Hart Trophy: Beaumont  
Business Centre EC4V 4EG.

Edmund and Annie Hart Trophy:  
Saddlers' Hall EC2V 6BR.

Colin Downie Trophy:  
Crowne Plaza London - The City  
EC4V 6DB (See photo above).

Cutlers' Trophy:  
Fountain Court EC4Y 9DH.

**Reception: 41 Lothbury EC2R 7HF.**