

# THE SPADE

CRAFT:  
SPECIAL REPORT

TREE PLANTING  
AT KEW GARDENS

ROYAL PARKS  
APPRENTICE  
WINS AWARD

HON HERALDIST  
REMEMBERED



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY  
VIEW FROM THE CITY

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# THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Welcome to the Winter Spade. Written contributions, ideas for articles and help in gathering material and preparing it for publication are always very welcome.

Most of the items in this issue are available at greater length on the Company website. Using your password, go to the Members' Area and click on the Noticeboard.

The public or first page of the website also features a steady stream of news stories about the Company, 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.

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## THE MASTER

Dr Heather Barrett-Mold

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## RENTER WARDEN

John Gilbert

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## SPADEBEARER ELECT

Cindy Peck

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## UPPER WARDEN

Peter Waine

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## SPADEBEARER

Nicholas Woolf

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# THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

I've just looked back at my last message here in the Spade where I talked about the Rule of Six. How times and rules change. I have heard of various colleagues who have been ill with the virus; now the news is more of friends and others who have had the vaccination which does give us hope for some semblance of what we knew as normal.

The Lord Mayor was hoping to have a reopening of the City in April. This will go ahead but is now more likely to happen in June or July when hopefully the Gardeners will contribute to the celebrations.

The Big Curry lunch usually happens in April. This is going to be virtual this year with an online auction and other online events. Our Guildhall Yard garden is planned to go ahead in April/May and has the theme of the phoenix rising from the ashes. Very suitable for these times but also for service personnel benefitting from pain management. It is hoped that the usual stalls, ours included, will operate in an open market in Guildhall Yard at some point later.

I know that many of you appreciated and enjoyed our Carol Service. My thanks to our Chaplain but also to the Reverend Stephen Baxter, the Rector at St Stephen Walbrook, who encouraged us to undertake this filming and who edited the whole video.

Within the Rule of Six window we managed finally to do a tree planting at Kew. Tony Kirkham, Head of Arboretum, Gardens and Horticulture at Kew, invited us to plant one of the new resistant Elms. So many people have helped with events such as the Christmas decorations workshop, the Christmas quiz and the masterclass in photography. It was good to be able to open up the photography

talk to Masters and Clerks of other companies. We had around 60 attendees from other companies together with an equivalent number from within our Company. I'm sorry to say our Mansion House Dinner will not be able to go ahead. However more events are on their way.

One of the people I must thank is Michael Warren. He is our official photographer. He is so well known that we don't have to negotiate his presence as a photographer in the Mansion House. He joined the Company in 1999 sponsored by Dick Balfour who took occasional photographs and encouraged him to bring a camera along to events.

In his year as Master Daniel Caspi asked Michael to become the official photographer for the Company and he has consistently undertaken the major events and Flowers in the City final judging. The very sad news is that he will give up this role at the end of this year. We need to find a replacement although he will be a

hard act to follow and the gap may need to be filled by more than one person!

Our committees continue to do such good work with many activities moving forward. Future Gardeners is now a charity in its own right and the next course is underway. The Craft Committee and AIPH (The International Association of Horticultural Producers) have been working on a series of Green Cities Briefings connecting cities internationally. Very recently the Lord Mayor has agreed to support this and introduce the first session.

Work on Pollinating London Together continues and John Gilbert has now joined this initiative. We expect to do more auditing of planting in the summer as well as start some citizen science monitoring of pollinators.

So, times may be different but your Company continues to make its contribution to the City and to all of you.





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

At the time of publication

DATE	EVENT AND DRESS	VENUE AND INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY
Thursday 4th March 2021 18.30	Villa La Pietra: British influence in Tuscan gardens.	Virtual lecture by Nick Dakin-Elliot. Nick was due to accompany us to Florence in April last year.	The Company, Partners and Guests, Alumni and Future Gardeners.
Friday 12th March 2021	Third Company Catch- Up	Virtual session	The Company, Partners and Guests
Thursday 18th March 2021	Experiences of recent Garden Tours to India & Japan	Virtual lecture by Trevor Edwards	The Company, Partners and Guests, Alumni and Future Gardeners.
Wednesday 7th April 2021	BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN Lounge suit	Buckingham Palace Gardens, Westminster, London SW1A 1AA 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 Comfortable attire	66 Royal Hospital Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 4HS	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 4th May 2021	ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS' MEDICINAL GARDEN Comfortable attire	Garden tour with Dr. Henry Oakeley 11, St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LE	The Company, Partners, and Guests
Tuesday 1st June 2021	THE FAIRCHILD LECTURE Lounge suit	St. Giles' Cripplegate Church, Fore Street, London EC2Y 8DA Supper at Osteria	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 8th June 2021	VISIT TO HATFIELD HOUSE Lounge suit	Hatfield House, Great North Road, Hatfield AL9 5HX  An opportunity to be shown round the gardens by Lady Salisbury and her Head Gardener followed by a drinks reception.	The Company, Partners and Guests
Monday 14th – Friday 18th June 2021	YORK AND YORKSHIRE Comfortable attire	Yorkshire tour of gardens and more. Staying in York.	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 6th July 2021	INSTALLATION COURT DINNER Dinner jacket	Ironmongers' Hall, off Shaftesbury Pl, Aldersgate St, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA	The Company, Partners and Guests
TBA	VISIT TO WEST HAM PARK Comfortable attire		The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 6th July 2021	OXFORD Comfortable attire	Visiting the famous Botanical Gardens and the gardens of Worcester College, rated one of the best college gardens. Tea in college.	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 7th– Sunday 12th September 2021	A TASTE OF WELSH HERITAGE Comfortable attire	Tour of Welsh gardens organised by the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust	The Company, Partners and Guests

## GOLFERS FIND OVERLOOKED GEM

The golfing gods AND the sun shone on the annual Golf Day on 14th September. The first Company post-lockdown event, held over from May, allowed social distancing and the chance to see and greet old friends.

The day started the traditional way with bacon butties enjoyed on a terrace that afforded stunning panoramic views from the Wembley

Stadium Arch to Canary Warf and all points between.

Surrounded by familiar faces it was a reminder of what good times the Company has provided us with. This year Richard Bernhard hosted us at Dulwich and Sydenham Golf Club, an overlooked gem with fiendish greens designed by the great Harry Colt.

All Golfers know that golf is not fair and the severely handicapped pair of John Bradley and Robert Perkins led us off. I had the pleasure of

playing with Chris and John Adams. John hit not just the straightest but also longest drive for his bottle – now that's just showing off but he did surrender his nearest-the-pin prize to Nicholas Woolf!

David Balfour, John Morley and Ron Froud played hard, finishing only slightly behind Jeremy Herrtage, Xandra Morley and Michael Balmforth. Congratulations to the worthy winners Nick Woolf, Caroline Leslie and Richard Bernhard.

Report by Tony Muldoon

# GOOD LUCK TO DISEASE-RESISTANT ELM PLANTED AT KEW GARDENS

The Master and a small group of Company members planted a disease-resistant Elm, *Ulmus* 'New Horizon', at Kew Gardens in November. The invitation to do so came from Tony Kirkham, Head of Kew Arboretum, to mark the Gardeners' visit to Kew's Winter Wonderland the previous December.

The *Ulmus* 'New Horizon' specimen is a six-year-old tree which is, hopefully, resistant to Dutch Elm disease. It has been injected with a mild dose of the disease and has a microchip. It probably won't grow as tall as the original elms.

When planting an official tree, Kew always plants it beforehand to ensure that the tree is established before the ceremony. Gardening staff then remove some of the soil and compost for the official planting. The soil at Kew is sand on gravel, free draining but with few nutrients.

This tree is protected, but if you wanted to take a hardwood cutting of similar trees (not at Kew!) take it when the tree is dormant, that is December onwards.

Kew has a tradition of including a coin in the planting to wish the tree good luck. Traditionally it was a farthing but the Gardeners supplied a £1 coin - one of those featuring an oak tree.

### Planting an official tree, Kew style

- Plant the tree at its natural planting depth, which is probably only a spade spit depth - no deeper; trees can be killed by planting too deep.
- Make the hole a square or even a triangle rather than a circle so the roots can find a corner to grow out of and are discouraged from twirling around.
- Do not add anything to the soil, but top dress with compost.
- Leave a circle in the grass of 1.2m/1.6m so a mower can turn without damaging the tree or its roots.
- Do not stake, except perhaps a bamboo for support during the trees early days.
- Planting in the late summer and autumn, even when the tree still has leaves, is preferable to the spring.
- Keep the tree watered if the weather is dry, especially for the first year.

**Job done. The planting team admire the new elm. From the left, Past Master Paul Rochford, Spadebearer Elect Cindy Peck, Tony Kirkham, the Master Dr. Heather Barrett-Mold, Spadebearer Nicholas Woolf and Liveryman Wendy Bental.**



DISEASE-RESISTANT ELM PLANTED



# HOW WE HONOUR OUR ORIGINS IN THE CRAFT OF HORTICULTURE

**Chairman Richard Capewell describes the wide-ranging work of the Craft Committee**

In the middle ages, when livery companies were born, they related to their specific occupation, trade or craft. Guilds and livery companies set out rules and regulations on how their particular craft was conducted, who was allowed to practise it, and the standards they needed to maintain. Our own Company's first charter in the early 17th Century defined our scope as 'the trade, crafte, or misterie of Gardening'. For some livery companies in the 21st Century, the original 'crafte' is, not to put too fine a point on it, obscure. Not so with gardening, today the pleasure and pride of millions, amateurs and professionals alike.

So the Company continues to honour its origins in the service of the craft of horticulture. In a way, this involves everyone; there can hardly be a Liveryman, Freeman or guest, even the least green-fingered of them, who has not learnt something they did not know about gardens and gardening at one of the Company's functions or

dinners. But in the formal structures of the Company it is the Craft Committee which takes the lead, although of course the work of other committees, especially the Education Committee, overlaps in the promotion of the craft.

The dozen or so members of the Craft Committee bring to the table a wide range of backgrounds relating to horticulture and in many cases a high level of expertise in the practice of gardening. Drawing on this expertise the focus of the Committee's work falls into three areas.

## AWARDS

The presentation of awards to those in training or at the early stages in their career acts not only as recognition of achievement and a spur to the acquisition of further knowledge, but for many can also enhance a CV and hopefully promote their career. So the focus of the awards is on younger horticulturists and, through a special award, those whose achievements inspire them.

### Student Awards

Presented every autumn, tutors nominate students for these awards for excellence. Nine students are honoured each year. Awards have been made to RHS students since shortly after the Company was brought back to life at the end of the 19th Century and are now given to those studying at one of the RHS gardens, especially Wisley.

The Royal Botanic Garden Kew also trains gardeners from all over the UK and beyond, and nominates two of their high flyers. Capel Manor College, with its particular links to London, is the third nominating institution, with Writtle University College succeeding Wye College on its closure earlier this century. Earlier this century too, awards were given for the first time to an apprentice from the Royal Parks, a happy addition to our work.

### Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Horticulture

Instituted in 1999, and recognising Royal Liveryman HRH the Prince of Wales's particular interest in organic gardening, this award is made annually to a horticultural student who, in the eyes of the judges, demonstrates their commitment to sustainable (which could include organic) horticultural practices.

### The Prince Edward Award

This award named after our Past Master HRH The Duke of Wessex, recognises the lifetime achievement of a well-known horticulturist whose enthusiasm, knowledge, communication and promotion of the craft of horticulture has helped inspire others to enter and develop careers in the profession. Often the recipients are well-known beyond the horticultural world; recent winners include Peter Seabrook and Michael Heseltine.

## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Award for Horticultural Innovation

This is an entirely new award, made for the first time in 2019, under our partnership with the Commission. Its aim is to promote innovative and excellent horticultural practice within the Commission's cemeteries.

## FLORAL DISPLAYS

To a degree unrivalled by any other livery company, our dinners and events are graced with outstanding floral displays. Admired by livery and guests alike, these displays are the work of a small but talented group of volunteers. These volunteers also arrange the floral displays in St Dunstan's Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral.

To this committee also falls the task of bringing the craft of horticulture into two of the City's charitable events, the biennial Red Cross Fair held in the Guildhall and the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch. In recent years a display has been set up in Guildhall Yard which both promotes the event and shows the creative side of gardening to the many people who, in normal times, pass through the very heart of the City on a daily basis.



**Alexis Baddeley, award-winning apprentice.**

## LEARNING AND SHARING

In recent years the Company's craft workshops for its own members and their guests, often held at Capel Manor College, have seen a decline in take-up, perhaps due to the welcome growth of local opportunities to learn craft skills. The only workshop now offered provides the opportunity to learn about Christmas wreathes and decorations, with the added bonus that the results raise money at the biennial Red Cross Fair.

Instead, elements of craft skills and training are incorporated into suitable visits, perhaps by way of talk or demonstration. More widely, the Committee from time to time draws on its expertise to support the Master in such matters as may help promote the Company's work.

## In conclusion

An active Committee in ordinary times, the Craft Committee has been keeping going during the pandemic. The Awards are being made on the normal timetable, albeit without the presentations at formal dinners, with details of winners published in the Spade and on the website. The Committee, whose activities have been virtual for nearly a year, looks forward to 2021 hopefully and in good heart.

### The George Cooke Award

The Gardeners' Company George Cooke Award for Royal Parks apprentices was awarded by the Master to Alexis Baddeley at a virtual ceremony in December. His citation read:

*Since the start of his apprenticeship Alexis has performed well in his Capel Manor College course work and assignments, achieving consistently high grades. He has been fully involved in college life, being both the Apprentice Representative and College Class Representative, whilst holding the role of Student Representative on the Royal Parks Guild Management Board.*

*At work, Alexis has demonstrated his ability to put his theoretical knowledge and skills into practice as a dedicated and hardworking member of the Regents Park team. In the past 12 months he has further developed his team leader ability to great effect and is much respected by his colleagues. An outstanding student well deserving of this award. Congratulations.*

Alexis said: "Thank you for awarding me the prestigious George Cooke award which the Gardeners' Company kindly sponsors; receiving the award has been a great honour. Sadly, because of the cancellation of the Autumn Court Dinner, I was unable to receive my award from the Master in person but I look forward to joining the Company's student alumni and taking part in its events and activities.

"During my time in the Royal Parks apprenticeship programme at Regent's Park I have grown from a keen amateur to an ambitious professional, and now have the practical skills, theoretical knowledge, and industry experience to pursue a long career in horticulture."



**Richard Capewell, Chairman of the Craft Committee.**



# SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT AND THE COMING OF THE VACCINES

In recent months stock markets have celebrated the development of vaccines by rising, and by boosting sectors that have suffered badly from the anti-virus policies pursued by governments.

Bulls seem to think controls will be lifted by spring as the virus subsides, allowing more normal life to resume as summer in the northern hemisphere takes over.

Others are more pessimistic, pointing to the long period needed to vaccinate sufficient people to make a big difference to the spread of the disease, and anticipating more delay in getting to large numbers of vaccinated people.

The virus is proving persistent this winter. There have now been 100 million identified cases worldwide, with two million deaths attributed to Covid-19. The USA leads the totals with 25 million cases and 425,000 deaths, followed by India and Brazil. Belgium and Peru continue to head the table for deaths per million of the population, whilst France has had the largest number of cases for a European country.

All of this continues to make uncomfortable reading for governments who persist with social distancing and closure orders for various types of event and business activity. The scientific advisers continue to recommend these measures to limit spread of the disease and, if anything, want more and longer control.

So what will the vaccine change? If enough people are vaccinated in any given country it should increase the pressure on government to relax the controls. Sufficient rollout

is now looking unlikely to happen before spring 2021 and may be later, though there should be earlier relaxation following recent lockdowns if the virus subsides from this latest round of regulations.

It is also possible that as the northern hemisphere comes out of winter the virus will wane anyway, making it easier for governments to relax. This much is worth a bit of a rally from shares.

What the coming of the vaccines does not change is the determination of governments to continue on the green journey, leading to closures and write-offs on a large scale in all fossil fuel producing and using areas of an economy.

Nor does it change the balance sheet damage done to many travel, tourism and leisure businesses by a year of poor trading and lockdowns as they seek to rebuild their customer base and trade within the limitations of continued social distancing.

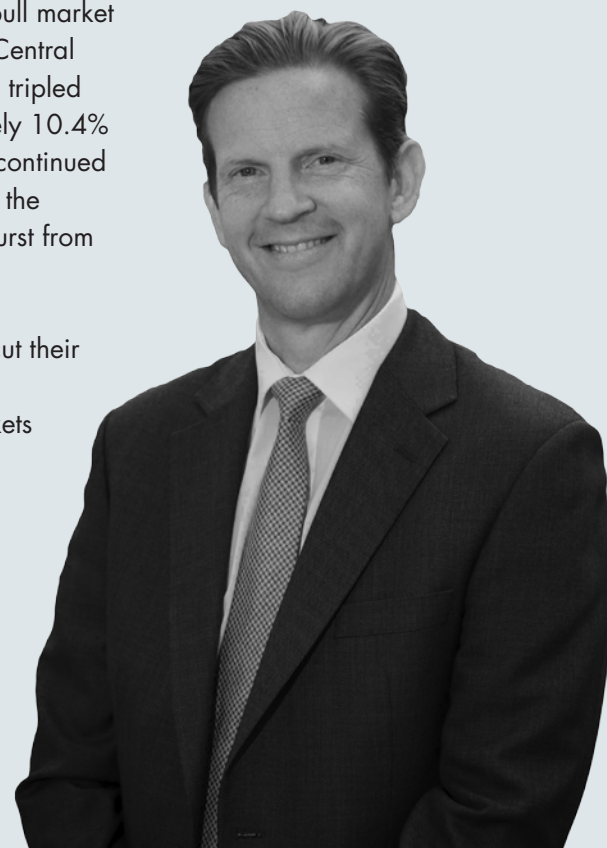
The whole edifice of this bull market is sustained by generous Central Banks. Money growth has tripled in Japan to 7.5%, is a lively 10.4% in the Euro area and has continued gently up in the USA after the massive second quarter burst from Fed action.

Investors have wished to cut their cash holdings and have clambered back into markets for fear of missing out, even though the prospects

for earnings and economic growth are disappointing at best. The vaccine is a good story to boost more activity and justify some wider share exposure.

It will help some, but does not solve the problems created by the green and digital revolutions for traditional businesses. It will reinforce the role of governments in business life, given the active engagement of them with the vaccine research companies and their support for the casualties of anti-virus policy.

The world will now turn to discuss fair shares of the vaccines for all, and how to spread them thinly without profiteering. The coming of the vaccines will extend the interest in sustainable investing and the need for companies to behave in an ethical way. Governments will wrestle with green-led growth and the need to address inequalities, highlighted by the different impact on employment from pandemic measures.



# TWO MASTERS MARK A SPECIAL GIFT TO RHS GARDEN WISLEY

On a sunny Friday morning in early October the Master paid an official visit to RHS Wisley, a joint invitation from Dame Fiona Woolf, IPM of the Plumbers' Company and Andy Jasper, Programme Director, Wisley Strategic Investment Programme. The Spadebearer, Nicholas Woolf, and the Master's Consort, Barry Barrett-Mold, made up the party.

The occasion was the second part of the presentation of a splendid lead planter made as a donation by the Plumbers' Company to Wisley. The first part was held earlier in the week but the Rule of Six prevented the two Masters being able to attend as guests.

The lead planter is one of only a very small number made by the Plumbers' Company specially for their surroundings. Others are a pair in the rose garden at Buckingham Palace for the Golden Jubilee, another at Sandringham for the

Diamond Jubilee and one in a courtyard in Guildhall, the latter having been presented to Dame Fiona when she was Lord Mayor.

So this lead planter, which includes motifs of flowers and plants decorating the 1904 Wisley laboratory building, is in exalted company. The planters were all made at the Plumbers' workshop in the Amberley Museum, which you can and should visit, and which also has one outside.

Andy Jasper has masterminded the redevelopment of Wisley, starting with the larger more spacious entrance, which fortunately easily allows for social distancing. Just inside, we saw a large colourful display of home-grown squashes and pumpkins. We then viewed the impressive planter which is located on the north side of the Box Garden adjacent to the large rectangular pond in front of the historic 1904

laboratory building. (Although it looks like a country house it was built as a laboratory, albeit now very out-dated).

The party then walked up the hill to review progress on the construction of the substantial new RHS Wisley building with its state of the art laboratories, educational and conference spaces. Due for completion in the next few months, it will be opened in Summer 2021.

The imaginative planting for three adjacent spaces with plants for well-being, biodiversity and food production is going hand in hand with the building, carefully designed to blend into its surroundings. As Andy said, the previous building lasted for 100 years and the new one is intended to set up the RHS and Wisley for the next 100 years.

**Report by Nicholas Woolf**



The lead planter. The inscription reads: Presented to RHS Garden Wisley by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers 2020.



The Master and Dame Fiona Woolf with the new planter.



# CALLING ALL BRIDGE PLAYERS

The Makers of Playing Cards Company has for many years run a popular and well established annual inter-livery Bridge Competition. It is usually on the first Monday in March in Drapers' Hall. Sixty four pairs participate in two bridge sessions with a two-course supper served between the sessions. It is a fun event with a highly variable standard of play, so do not be intimidated.

Spadebearer Nicholas Woolf has participated for many years (for another company), but his partner has sadly passed away. He wonders whether there are sufficient regular bridge players in the Gardeners' Company to make up at least two pairs for whenever the next competition is held (at the time of going to press the scheduled March event appears unlikely).

Players need to be members of the Company or the partner of a member and there is a competition for married couples. For further details contact either the Clerk or Nicholas Woolf.

# FROM TWISTED CARROTS TO BULBS AND THE GRATED SOAP TRICK

David Domoney, the familiar broadcaster, chaired our own online version of Gardeners' Question Time on 16th October. He told us that in this year when so many people had to stay at home the glorious weather had encouraged 2.7 million new gardeners.

Also on the panel were fellow Liverymen Wendy Bentall, Paul Rochford and Barbara Segall.

The unusual weather in the spring encouraged pests and diseases and this was reflected in some of the questions.

For a problem with multi-legged and twisted carrots, the panel suggested that sandy soil could make the tap root flare out so either put in more organic matter or grow them in a deep container with good compost. A tip to help runner beans to germinate is to hydrate the seeds before planting them direct into the soil in May or June.

A very productive thornless blackberry has some white drupelets. This was seen by the panel as a visual problem only as the taste was not affected. White berry mite may have got into the bush in the very hot weather.

A problem with a young quince was highlighted. The leaves appear diseased. This was thought to be most likely due to leaf blight fungus. The fruit should not be affected so all right to make jam. We were reminded of plant hygiene 3Ds: cut out Dead, Diseased and Damaged branches.

Barbara showed us in a video how a plantswoman can make the most of a town garden 88' long and 44' wide. She grows some fruit and salad veg and many wonderful plants in the garden or in containers. The Hydrangea 'Annabelle' and red and orange dahlias were at their best as were the monarda and verbascum. She will soon be changing the gladioli and cosmos in pots for spring bulbs.

The Clerk did not get his usual crop of courgettes and his application of Strulch was blamed as the plants he gave away flourished. We use Strulch every year on our flower and shrub borders very successfully. How to propagate from a favourite betula? The panel suggested to taking soft semi-ripe wood cuttings from high up in the tree in the spring or see if there any seeds under the tree for harvesting in the autumn.

A Chilean Lantern Tree (spring flowering) is producing flower buds now. Does that mean there won't be flowers next year? The panel doesn't see a problem but it might not flower as well if we have a harsh winter.

Hints and tips given were to collect seed for free plants next year. David suggested that bulbs are like light bulbs so push and twist them into the bottom of the planting hole. To deter squirrels, grate a bar of soap around the hole; the smell masks the fragrance of the bulbs.



DAVID DOMONEY: HOW TO KEEP SQUIRRELS AWAY FROM YOUR BULBS. | REPORT BY DOREEN ROBINSON

# PLEASE WELCOME NEW LIVERYMEN

## Georgina Anne Craufurd (Lady Craufurd)

Georgina is an art historian and retired museum professional with two Masters degrees, including Medieval & Georgian architecture in London. Up until 1990, her Ladyship was employed at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, in South London.

Her Ladyship is a member of the Hampshire Gardens Trust Research Group and the Gardens Trust (Garden History Society), and owns a three-acre historic garden in Lymington, Hampshire.



## Jonathan Andrew Matheson

Originally from South Africa, Jonathan is a retired mutual fund marketer who resides in London and has worked extensively in the City of London's financial sector since the late 1970s. He has been a Freeman since 2018, and now serves on the Company's Education Committee.

A self-described 'passionate plantsman', who began gardening at the age of four, Jonathan is a judge for London in Bloom, has studied at Capel Manor College and acted as mentor and assessor for the RHS Green Plan It schools project.



# THREE WONDERFUL GARDENS OF PERENNIAL INTEREST

Forty or so members of the Gardeners' Company were lucky to join the Master on 28th September for a virtual visit to three wonderful gardens – all members of the Perennial Charity, founded in January 1839 as the Gardeners' Benevolent Institution.

Our first garden was York Gate and we were shown around by the Head Gardener Ben Preston. First we watched a drone video showing an aerial view of the garden. It is a magical one-acre site created by the Spencer family in the early 1950s.

It has a design of rooms interlinked through a succession of vistas with meticulous attention to detail owed to the Arts and Craft movement. Ben is

now busy with designing an addition to the garden after the purchase of a further half acre. Well worth a visit.

Next to Fullers Mill in West Stow just outside Bury St Edmunds. It is an enchanting and tranquil seven-acre creation on the banks of the River Lark. It was created by the late Bernard Tickner MBE who moved to Fullers Mill in 1958. Head gardener Annie Dellbridge was our guide and she also gave us a drone, bird's eye view of the garden. Beautiful and so peaceful. They even have a licence to catch crayfish in the lake which they sell at the local farmers' market!

Our last stop was to The Laskett Gardens in Herefordshire on the Welsh borders. The gardens were

the creation of Sir Roy Strong and his late wife Julia Trevelyan Oman CBE. They were begun in 1974 – created from a bare four-acre field - and have continued to evolve ever since. We were able to watch a YouTube interview of Sir Roy and saw wonderful black and white photos many of which are in the Bodleian Library.

What an interesting visit we had. Hopefully we will all have the opportunity to visit them for ourselves in the not too distant future.

**Report by Laura Fraser**





# DR JOHN MAURICE LANCASTER

9TH MAY 1930 – 4TH NOVEMBER 2020

**It was with great sadness that the Company learned of the death of our Hon Heraldist last November at the age of 90. What follows is an edited version of the Eulogy given by his cousin Kate Alexander at his funeral service in Cheltenham on 19th November last year.**

John was a man of many talents: a painter, calligrapher, heraldic artist, art teacher, author and musician to name a few.

Born in Wigan, he began as a 16-year-old student at Leeds College of Art and pursued higher degrees through Bristol and London Universities. He served in the Royal Army Educational Corps and declined a commission twice before beginning a career as an artist and educator.

He met and married Janet and they enjoyed 63 years of marriage, world travel, parties and joint teaching adventures in the US and much more.

His nephew John Seddon said: "John was a charismatic and respected teacher and lecturer who treated his students, of any age, with dignity and understanding. He had a tremendous faith in young people and their potential, took a genuine and personal interest in their welfare and development and loved nothing more than to see them succeed".

For 25 years John had the honour and joy of being the Hon Heraldist of the Gardeners' Company. As was noted in their Spade magazine when he retired from that post in 2015: "John chronicled the history of the Gardeners' Company. He combined his exceptional skills in calligraphy and heraldry to bring colour, style and elegance to all the formal documents of the Company. These include scrolls, Resolutions, and the unique and much-prized Golden Book, which is signed by distinguished guests, including Royalty, before Heraldic embellishments painstakingly made by John".

Woven into that sparkling quarter century with the Gardeners was John's other love, Kelmarsh, a lovely Georgian hall and gardens in Northamptonshire, now in trust but formerly owned by generations of Lancasters.

For 37 years John and Janet researched Kelmarsh's history and John was an active trustee for 20 years. Together they renovated the Orangery there.

**SPM Vivian Robinson writes: John became a Liveryman in 1999, was an enthusiastic supporter of Company activities and in due course became an Honorary Assistant. He was a gentle and courteous man, with a twinkle in his eye and a great sense of humour. It was always a pleasure to be in his company.**

**John and Janet during the special lunch held at the RAC Club to celebrate his retirement as Hon Heraldist in 2015**