

THE SPADE



GARDEN AND PLANT
PHOTOGRAPHY
MASTERCLASS

GREEN SPACES
IN THE SKY

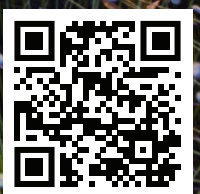
THE CITY REOPENS
ITS DOORS

GARDENERS CONTINUE
TO MAKE THEIR MARK



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Welcome to the Spring 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.

THE MASTER

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THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

It's so good to be into Spring and moving out of lockdown. The longer days and Spring flowering make everything seem so much better. It is a shame that some of the usual events in May will still not be able to take place this year. However, we have so much to be thankful for.

As we look to the future, we will be able to make use of all the things we have learned over the year. We quickly got accustomed to the new technology and we have been able to open some of our virtual offerings to other companies, inviting their Masters and Clerks to join our events. It is rewarding to get such good feedback from companies who have taken up this offer.

Company catch-ups will continue online and, to make a bit more sense of their timing, they will occur between Spade editions and be followed by a Clerk's Newsletter, the first of which you will have received in March.

Since the last Spade we have had the second highly successful Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Question Time which was open to other companies (see report page 10).

Although my planned visit to Florence didn't take place it was lovely to have my friend Nick Dakin Elliot to talk about Villa La Pietra. He was going to accompany the visit as the expert horticulturist and had managed to give us access to some private gardens. Liveryman Trevor Edwards also walked us through gardens of Ireland, India and Japan. I am so grateful for all who made these events possible. I have made arrangements for some face-to-face visits to take place before Installation on the 6th July, so fingers crossed.

As ever work continues through the committees. Our set of eight monthly briefings on Green Cities started on the 13th April and was introduced by the Lord Mayor. The City will have a reopening week probably in July and we are hoping to decorate the Mansion House area with planting for this event.

Next year will be the Queen's platinum anniversary and she has initiated a programme of tree planting to be known as the Queen's Green Canopy which we expect to be involved in.

The Company is also involved in two pan-livery pieces of work. One is concerned with the Livery contribution to the City Climate Action Strategy which, as well as having an outcome of climate change mitigation and adaptation, will also contribute to learning materials. The second seminar for this is happening mid-April.

The other is Pollinating London Together. In May we will start auditing gardens again for

pollinator-friendly planting and we will start some Citizen Science work. I hope that many of us will be happy to undertake some Citizen Science but more of that later. Flowers in the City will be awarding a prize for pollinator-friendly planting.

Many of you will have seen the proposals for a Master's travelling badge and a Consort/Mistress badge. Work on this has been slow with the crafts people not being able to work, although I hope they will be in place by Installation. Spinning off from these designs will be an opportunity to buy a pin, brooch, and/or a new design tie. We will circulate some designs and see what the take-up might be.

So let's see what we can achieve over the next few months. I fully appreciate that not everybody will want to travel far or on public transport but it would be nice to see people in reality. In the meantime take care and thanks for all your help and support.

Dr Heather Barrett-Mold



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

At time of publication.

Additional events are planned for July onwards and will be confirmed later.

DATE	EVENT AND DRESS	VENUE AND INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY
Thursday 6th May 2021	POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PLANTING	Virtual session	The Company, partners and guests
Tuesday 11th May 2021	CITY OF LONDON GREEN CITY BRIEFING	Virtual session1-2pm Nature-based solutions for water management in cities.	
TBA	VISIT TO WEST HAM PARK Comfortable attire	Upton Lane, London E7 9PU.	The Company, partners and guests
TBA	VISIT TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS Lounge suit	Guided tour by Liveryman Mark Lane, Gardens Manager for the Royal Family's London gardens	Livery and guests
Thursday 3rd June 2021	ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS' MEDICINAL GARDEN Comfortable attire	11.30am Garden tour with Dr. Henry Oakeley 11, St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LE	The Company, partners and guests
Tuesday 8th June 2021	VISIT TO HATFIELD HOUSE Lounge suit	Afternoon: 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
Friday 11th June 2021	COMPANY CATCH-UP	5pm Virtual session	
Tuesday 15th June 2021	CITY OF LONDON GREEN CITY BRIEFING	1-2pm Virtual session Green Roofs and Walls – an Extra-dimensional Approach to City Greening	
Thursday 29th June 2021	CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN Comfortable attire	Late afternoon: 66 Royal Hospital Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 4HS	The Company, partners and guests
Tuesday 6th July 2021	INSTALLATION COURT DINNER Dinner jacket	Ironmongers' Hall, off Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate St, Barbican EC2Y 8AA	The Company, partners and guests
Tuesday 13th July 2021	CITY OF LONDON GREEN CITY BRIEFING	Virtual session 1-2pm The Intersection between Built Infrastructure, Nature, and Wellbeing.	
Tuesday 10th August 2021	OXFORD VISIT Comfortable attire	Visiting the famous Botanical Gardens (Rose Lane OX1 4AZ) and the gardens of Worcester College, (Walton Street OX1 2HB)	The Company
Tuesday 7th– Sunday 12th September 2021	GARDENS OF WALES Comfortable and formal attire	Tour of Welsh gardens organised by the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust	The Company, partners and guests
Tuesday 14th September 2021	CITY OF LONDON GREEN CITY BRIEFING	Virtual session 1-2pm The Policy and Practice of Urban Forests	
Thursday 7th October 2021	HARVEST FESTIVAL PLUS LUNCH Lounge suits	All Hallows by the Tower (Byward St, Tower EC3R 5BJ) and Watermen's Hall (16-18 St Mary at Hill EC3R 8EF)	The Company, partners and guests
Wednesday 20th October 2021	CITY OF LONDON GREEN CITY BRIEFING	Virtual session 1-2pm The Critical Dynamics of City Biodiversity and Global Conservation	
Wednesday 20th October 2021	LINNEAN SOCIETY LECTURE PLUS SUPPER Lounge suits	Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly W1J 0BF	The Company, partners and guests
Thursday 4th November 2021	AUTUMN COURT DINNER Dinner jacket	Painter-Stainers' Hall, 9 Little Trinity Lane EC4V 2AD	Livery and guests
Tuesday 9th November 2021	CITY OF LONDON GREEN CITY BRIEFING	Virtual session 1-2pm Quality of life of all ages and sectors	
Tuesday 7th December 2021	CITY OF LONDON GREEN CITY BRIEFING	Virtual session 1-2pm The City of London Report on Climate Action	
Thursday 9th December 2021	DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL	Virtual session	The Company, partners and guests
Friday 17th December 2021	TRADESCANT LUNCH Lounge suits	Ironmongers' Hall, off Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate St, Barbican EC2Y 8AA	Court only
Friday 17th December 2021	COMPANY CAROL SERVICE Lounge suits	St Stephen Walbrook EC4N 8BN	Company, partners and guests

GARDENERS CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR MARK IN HORTICULTURE

Members of the Company have been recognised for their contributions to gardening and horticulture. Three Liverymen were included in Horticulture Week’s list of 100 Leading Women in Horticulture, launched on 8th March to celebrate International Women’s Day. A fourth has been appointed chair of the National Garden Scheme.

The three leading women are: the Master, Dr Heather Barrett-Mold; Carol Paris, former CEO of the Horticultural Trades Association and now CEO of the Rosebourne garden centre group, and Barbara Segall, garden writer and magazine editor.

The fourth Liveryman is Rupert Tyler who has succeeded Martin McMillan at the helm of the NGS. Mr. McMillan’s term of office saw both garden income and donations reach record levels in successive years, that is until the onset of Coronavirus in 2020.

Rupert, who works at investment managers Brewin Dolphin, has been an NGS trustee since 2014. He is a keen gardener and has opened his London garden in Clapham for many years.

Barbara Segall was also honoured last autumn when she was presented with the Chartered Institute of Horticulture’s President’s Award for 2020.

The citation reads: “Each year the President of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture chooses an individual who, in their opinion, epitomises the term horticulturist. Someone who has a true passion for the industry and everything it stands for and someone who has actively made a positive impact and given their life to horticulture”.

Barbara has edited the Horticulturist magazine since 1995. She writes books (the most recent is *Secret Gardens of East Anglia*, Frances Lincoln 2017), gives talks and blogs about gardens, plants and gardeners (www.thegardenpost.com). She manages the Gardeners’ Company Instagram account.



Dr Heather Barrett-Mold.



Rupert Tyler.



Carol Paris.



Barbara Segall with the CIH’s President’s Award

TYRONE'S MASTERCLASS FOR THE GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHER

As the flyer said, "a Masterclass in photography for all levels of skill encompassing landscapes, gardens and plants given by Liveryman Tyrone McGlinchey who runs the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition (IGPOTY)". And it certainly was. 100 people were privileged to be able to join the webinar, half from our own Company and half from 34 other companies.

Tyrone had created a clever mix of technical digital photography information and outstanding digital photographs from across the 13 years that the IGPOTY competition has been running. For some of us the technical information undoubtedly pushed our boundaries, which was all to the good, and the already expert were guided to an even higher level.

He covered different technical specifications to help us choose the right one for our own particular objectives, including some that we may not even have been aware of. He also looked at storage issues, and printing resolutions in particular densities.

This led into more artistic considerations such as the colour wheel, familiar to all artists, and picture composition including the golden spot, S curves and the two thirds rule. Then we tackled different aperture settings in order to determine the depth of focus as part of the picture composition, as well as varying the degree of sharpness or focus to control the background.

Lighting was not to be forgotten either, which may require patience until the light source is just right. These were all illustrated with

photographs, including detailed descriptions of the shot from each of the photographers which greatly added to the understanding and enjoyment. Some of us may have suffered from technical overload at this point, but this showed the complexity and expertise required to improve anyone's skill level.

This was then followed by an extraordinary range of outstanding winning competition photographs from all across the world with the photographers' annotations. These ranged from trees, woodland and forests to beautiful gardens such as Great Dixter to breathtaking landscapes and plants. All of which demonstrated their mastery of subject, artistry, texture and light.

Tyrone emphasised that our aim, as photographers, should be to develop our own unique style. Everyone will have had their favourite photographs, but two that stood out were an amazing close-up of a damselfly sitting vertically, but with drops of moisture on its head and which, on close inspection, reflected the flower on which it was perched. The more you looked at it the more extraordinary it became.

The second was an early morning shot in South America of clumps of *Paepalanthus*, where their tall wet tips gleamed in the early morning sunshine with a dramatic cloud background. An absolutely magical shot. The range of photographs left us in awe of the beauty of the natural world. (See our cover photograph)

Report by Nicholas Woolf

Adorned by the Dew

© **Alberto Ghizzi Panizza/IGPOTY**

"A portrait of a damselfly with drops of dew resting on its head. The dew is refracting a wildflower behind the subject."

Indian Summer Morning

© **Nigel McCall/IGPOTY**

Aberglasney Gardens, the Upper Walled Garden, late October.

Creation

© **Dr Robin Williams/IGPOTY**

A lotus flower.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Cerrado Sunrise

© **Marcio Cabral/IGPOTY**

"Marcio has captured a spectacular vision of plant life in Brazil's cerrado, displaying the beautiful flowers of *Paepalanthus chiquitensis*, stretching out on countless filaments towards the first light of the rising sun. It is artistically and technically brilliant, deploying superb use and understanding of equipment, post-capture processes, colour and exposure. It has the ability to make us feel novelty and wonder, as if experiencing plant life on this planet for the very first time.

As ecosystems such as the Brazilian cerrado are under threat, this image urges us all to document, understand and protect our vulnerable landscapes, with even greater passion."

**Tyrone McGlinchey FLS FRSA,
Managing Director/Head Judge,
International Garden Photographer
of the Year**



EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED AS THE CITY REOPENS ITS DOORS

Members are eagerly awaiting the Rentrée but no one can yet be quite sure how it is going to pan out. The year since the first lockdown has taught us to expect the unexpected, and the road to full recovery may take months if not years.

If all goes to plan and the roll-out of vaccinations continues to have positive results, there will be a partial reopening of Guildhall on 17th May and a further opening after 21st June. In all probability, though, this will not mean full and unfettered access as before.

Some restrictions in terms of social distancing are likely to remain in place for several months, and it may be the autumn before the City of London Corporation finds a new way of working in a post-pandemic world.

Hybrid meetings, with some members continuing to participate from home, are likely to become standard practice. Government legislation will need to be modified to allow this to happen.

In line with Government public health advice, and as COVID-19 recedes, the City Corporation is keen to promote a return of activity to the Square Mile and to encourage and incentivise people back to their offices. Much depends on when and under what conditions the Government lifts the work from home recommendation.

There are some positive steps planned for the road back to normal. The Lord Mayor is expecting to return to Mansion House in mid-April, and the Remembrancer's office is again taking bookings for social events. The Waterloo & City line is expected to re-open.

For many elected Members of Common Council, a key moment will be the first Court back in Great Hall; this could be the Court scheduled for 22nd July – the first after 21st June. On the corporate hospitality side at Guildhall, a number of City Corporation and third-party events are planned for the summer and there are currently substantial bookings in the diary for the autumn. Enquiries for the latter part of the year and for spring 2022 are increasing.

The general outlook, however, is that business meetings and events are not expected to return to pre-COVID-19 levels for a substantial period, perhaps up to two years.

In another sign that the worst of the pandemic may be over, the COVID-19 testing centre in Guildhall Yard is scheduled to close down in the next few months, although testing will continue at other venues in the City.

Events that have not been able to take place there, such as passing out parades for new recruits to the City of London Police, will be brought back. The two most recent police graduation parades have been held at Wellington Barracks – the latest on 12th March attended by the Lord Mayor, the Chief Commoner, the Remembrancer and the Chairman of the City of London Police Authority Board.

A note from Liveryman and Assistant, Alderman Robert Howard

The Chief Commoner, by convention a senior elected Member of Common Council, acts as an ambassador at ceremonial occasions. First established in 1444, the role is unique in that it is the only one now directly elected by the whole Court of Common Council and recognises the contribution the office holder is likely to have made to the City Corporation over a number of years. The Chief Commoner is, therefore, the foremost representative of the elected councilmen with regard to their rights and privileges - but equally, seeks to uphold the discipline and integrity of the Court, helping to mediate in the event of disputes. In effect, the Chief Commoner is Head Boy or Girl.

FLOWERS IN THE CITY AND GREEN SPACES IN THE SKY

Sid Sullivan imagines a new way of living and working

Life gradually returning to the City of London raises exciting possibilities for the Flowers in the City campaign. With the likelihood that working from home will reduce the usage of many buildings, the question of how that vacated space might be redesigned for 21st Century living and working arises. In a similar vein, re-engineering and greening road networks to minimise pollution and increase pedestrian access is now made more possible.

We have the technical and engineering capability to create viable and much needed greenspace in the sky, at all levels. This is a unique opportunity to invent Gardens and Parks 'floors' between accommodation floors: Parks in the Sky. The same principle can be applied to re-engineering roads and 'gateway bridges' to enhance pedestrian travel and incorporate plantings of all types; creating places for people and wildlife to flourish, a combination of well-being and nature; work, rest, and play.

Current planning powers are sufficient for repurposing buildings and roads financed from section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy process. Fulfilling at a stroke the original and farsighted aspiration and purpose of the Flowers in the City campaign whilst bringing a contemporary twist to those endeavours.

Alastair Moss, the Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee at the City of London Corporation, recently said:

"The City of London Corporation is dedicated to greening the Square Mile with world-class sustainable development with many policies, including the City Plan 2036 and the new Climate Action Strategy, aiming to boost wellbeing, improve air quality and significantly benefit views.

"We have already come a long way, with more than 30,000 sqm of new green roof installed across the City of London in the past 15 years, and we are targeting a further 23,000 sqm over the next four years.

"This focus, combined with ongoing developer confidence in the Square Mile, will help us to ensure the realisation of our vision for a 24/7 destination that is absolutely suitable to the needs of the City's residents, workers and visitors."

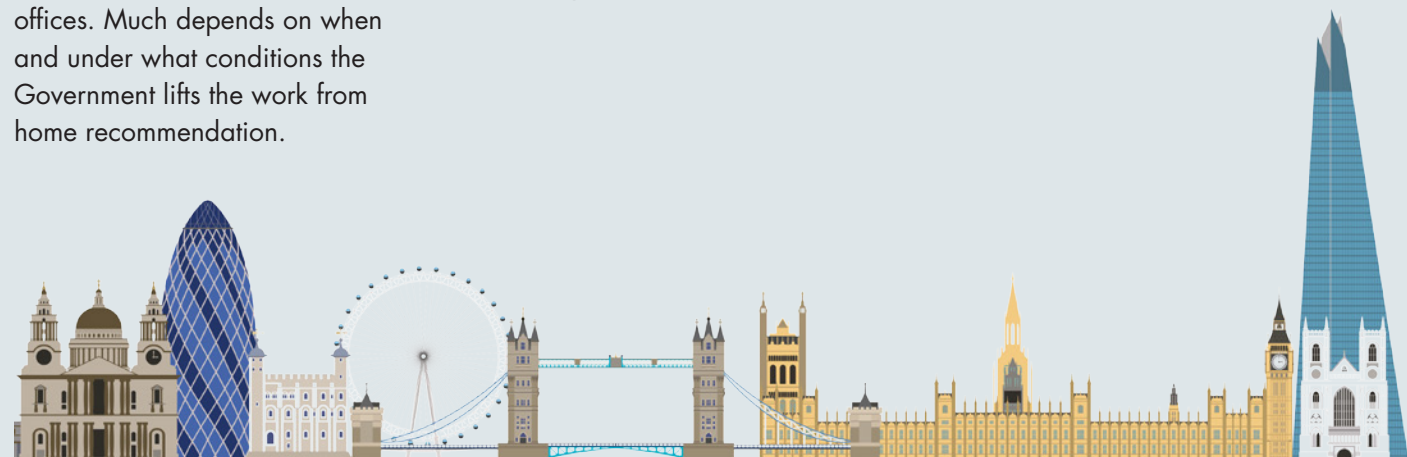
During the late 1990s under the guidance of the late PM Peter Franklin and Liveryman Ron Froud, encouragement was given to pollinator-friendly planting around the City. The enthusiasm of the current Master, Dr Heather Barrett-Mold, has seen a further development of that early approach. The Pollinating London Together

initiative is a pan-livery collaboration including the Wax Chandlers and the Gardeners in partnership with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. It aims to enhance conditions for pollinators and their associated plantings: <https://www.pollinatinglondontogether.com>. Green planning in its infinite variety making an unarguable contribution to City life as we re-invent the future.

The collective outcome of increasing the range of pollinators and the plant material they thrive on, greening and flowering, is truly the route to further green in the City of London. Flowers in the City are kept busy collating and inspecting, judging and encouraging these developments and finding ways to incorporate them into the campaign. FITC teams take great pride in judging them. Their influence and expertise were never more acutely necessary or more likely to make such a difference.

Editor's note: see the Diary page for a list of forthcoming Green City Briefings

Cannon Bridge House roof garden, an early example of green roofing in the City (photograph Michael Warren).



OUR ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE IS BETTER THAN THE TELLY

As we were swept into restricted activities and lockdown again in the run-up to Christmas, plans were made and enacted to produce a video version of our much-loved Carol Service at St Stephen Walbrook as it was soon clear that our meeting in the flesh, so to speak, would be impossible.

Our Hon Chaplain the Ven Peter Delaney compiled a service with the Rector, Rev Stephen Baxter and the Master and other lesson readers assembled on 15th October at St Stephen to be filmed reading the lessons (and having mince pies and

gluwein laid on by the Clerk).

Stephen and Peter then put together a choir (the Choral Scholars) and with the Organist (Dr Andrew Eavis) worked through and filmed some wondrous carols, beautifully sung, as well as the rest of the service.

On the day (14th December) we were treated to an excellent video beautifully filmed (also on YouTube) on GoToMeetings. Other than not being able to have the annual singing competition to “We Three Kings” and the fat controller (aka the Clerk) having to mute a few “singers

along” so as not to detract from the Choir’s wonderful performance, we had a lovely service. The Ven Peter’s usual thought-provoking and inspiring address sent us on our way with renewed hope for the future.

Thanks to all who produced this excellent performance in these ghastly times (some said it was better than anything else they had seen on the telly) and we look forward to meeting again for real (and with the gluwein and mince pies) in 2021.

Report by Jeremy Hertridge

GARDENERS FROM ACROSS THE LIVERY ASK US FOR ANSWERS

The second virtual Gardeners’ Company Question Time took place on the evening of Friday 5th February and was most ably hosted by David Domoney. He, together with other panellists drawn from the Livery, namely Richard Barley, Mark Lane, Julie Dowbiggin, Mark Gregory and John Gilbert, provided answers in an amusing and informative fashion.

The virtual audience included not only a large number of the Livery but also representatives from 31 other Livery companies. For technical reasons I was unable to join the first GQT so was not sure what to expect. My only previous experience of the format was the BBC Radio Four programme that I have listened to for many years. Indeed I have, on one occasion, actually attended a recording that took place in my local town of Chipping Sodbury. Among the panellists on that occasion was a certain Bob Flowerdew so, as you

might imagine, we were treated to some unusual ideas for containers etc.

The questions that had been submitted this time covered a wide range of horticultural issues such as plant choices for difficult areas and the timing and method for pruning an overgrown beech hedge. Further topics covered were ideas for unusual vegetable planting, methods to deal with bindweed as well as treatments for soil deficiency.

Green issues were also addressed including sustainability and how individuals themselves can make changes to address this issue, replacements for peat-based products and the use of organically produced fertiliser. A question from the Chairman of Greenfingers highlighted the charity’s work and listeners were directed to their website: <https://www.greenfingerscharity.org.uk/>.

However, with so many questions to deal with, David Domoney provided the panellists with a break mid-way through proceedings by presenting his thoughtful video on the effect of plants on mental wellbeing.

Finally, there were some useful topical tips and one tip particularly appealed. In this present spell of Arctic-like weather, our time should be spent in planning ahead as our gardens are so water-logged. Putting one’s feet up in the warm with some lovely seed catalogues and books sounded an excellent idea!

Thanks must go to the Gallant Clerk for his mastery of technology that put the event together and to all who contributed to a very interesting evening.

Report by Sally Macfadyen

HOW TO MAKE FLORAL DISPLAYS, CHAINSAW OPTIONAL

Saturday 12th December saw a big crowd gather online to learn about floral decoration from Liveryman Stephen Crisp. The Master introduced the show from one of PM Paul Rochford’s glasshouses and the whole mix of sessions (seven in all) covered: Making a Christmas Box; Making Wreaths, Centrepieces for Tables; Decorating Table Centres; Log Reindeer and How to Dress a Table to Best Effect.

There is no question but that Stephen is an absolute master in this field – anyone who has been to a Company dinner or Carol Service will attest to this and many of us have carried away his stunning displays afterwards only wishing we could produce such treasures. His series of videos, produced by the Master and her team, were riveting.

Seemingly effortlessly, he made a very plain wooden box into a masterpiece of display. His creations, using different plants and bits and pieces of shrubs/trees/flowers/baubles etc., were beautiful to behold. He has an amazing eye for detail, colour, contrast, shape and texture.

On he went, producing stunning table centrepieces and wreaths and giving sound advice on how to tweak them with wired cones, fruits and other materials.

One of Paul Rochford’s colleagues from ‘Waste Not Want Not’ then demonstrated how to make a reindeer from logs in four minutes – not for the faint-hearted if you don’t get on with chainsaws!

Stephen went on to show how to dress a table to best effect - something few of us get the chance to practise on the sort of scale Stephen was demonstrating but fabulous and fascinating nonetheless.

An excellent, informative and interesting morning therefore for which many thanks to both Stephen and the Master and her team for the production. The Clerk has copies of the video clips should anyone want to revise for next year.

Report by Jeremy Hertridge



STEPHEN CRISP SHOWS HOW IT IS DONE (PHOTOGRAPHS BARRY BARRETTMOLD).



CANDID VIEWS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE IN THE SQUARE MILE

Rev Laura Jorgensen has been Rector at St Botolph without Aldgate since 2009 and has fostered a family-friendly ethos within her church, not least by giving birth herself. As the then Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, put it at her son's christening: "For the first time in over nine centuries, the Rector has had a baby!"

This, accompanied by a beaming picture of Laura in her church, is just one of many fascinating stories about the religious life of the Square Mile to emerge from Niki Gorick's virtual presentation to the Gardeners' Company on 19th September.

Her talk was based on her book *Faith in the City** which includes 170 photographs distilled from four years of research into religion among the steel and glass towers of high finance. We were treated to more than 60 of these images and their fascinating tales drawn from the more than 40 Anglican churches as well as Jewish, Dutch, Catholic and Welsh establishments the City holds.

Muslims hold their Friday prayers at the Wax Chandlers' Hall, Bevis Marks Synagogue has been holding services for over 300 years. St Andrew by the Wardrobe holds Anglican services on weekdays and St Gregorios Indian Orthodox services on Sundays. Sikhs meanwhile meet for prayers in the Bedouin Tent at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace.

Worship, fellowship, music-making of the highest standard, the maintenance of old traditions (rolling eggs down Fleet Street, touring the streets with donkeys and selling fish at St Mary-at-Hill) were all featured in a wonderful selection of largely informal, candid shots.

During the question and answer session that followed, Liveryman Wendy Bentall reminded us that the Peter Beales fragrant pink Rosa 'St Ethelburga' was, in response to a request by the Gardeners' Company, named after the restored church in Bishopsgate partially destroyed by an IRA bomb in 1993.

*Published by Unicorn (www.unicornpublishing.org).
<http://www.nikigorick.com/>

Report by John Gilbert

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

A small but fiercely competitive group gathered together online on 18th December for a lively Christmas Quiz.

Our Question Master was David Balfour who had put together an intriguing competition comprising five rounds of 10 questions each. The five rounds were entitled Christmas, Horticulture, London, Odds and Sods and Quotes.

Tim Cutler emerged as the winner after a great deal of fun and banter ably and wittily conducted by David.