

THE SPADE

A NEW MASTER SETS
OUT HIS PROGRAMME

FUTURE GARDENERS
TAKE A BIG
STEP FORWARD

WORKING TOWARDS
A GREENER CITY

LIVERY SCHOOLS LINK:
HOW YOU CAN HELP

+

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY





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 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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RENTER WARDEN

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New dates will be added during the year such as Masterclasses and the Golf Day. The Clerk's circulars will provide further details.

The Master may vary eligibility to events. Liverymen and partners will take precedence where numbers are limited.

Closing date for bookings will be at least two weeks before the event.

DATE	EVENT AND DRESS	VENUE AND INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY
Mon 26th July 2021	VISIT TO WELWYN GARDEN CITY Comfortable attire	Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. Visit to this UN City of Trees, the second and most complete garden city in the world taking in urban landscape, woodland, 1-mile boulevard and lakes.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tues 10th August 2021	OXFORD GARDENS Comfortable attire	Oxford Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford, OX1 4AZ. Worcester College, Oxford, OX1 2HB Guided tour of Oxford Botanic Garden and Worcester College gardens, with lunch in college.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 11th August 2021	EVENING LECTURE Virtual	50 Ancient Trees. Lecture in conjunction with the Tree Council on ancient trees and hedgerows.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 20th August 2021	COMPANY CATCH-UP Virtual	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, with members' contributions and an opportunity for your feedback too.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tues 7th – Sun 12th September 2021	GARDENS OF WALES Comfortable attire	Tour of gardens – private, public, well known, little known and recreated. Get a taste of what Wales has to offer the horticultural enthusiast.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 7th October 2021	HARVEST FESTIVAL AND LUNCH Lounge suits	All Hallows-by-the Tower, Byward Street, London, EC3R 5BJ. Speaker: Dr Shahina Ghazanfar FLS on plants in the great religions of the world and in particular Christianity. Lunch at Watermen's Hall	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 20th October 2021	LINNEAN SOCIETY, LECTURE AND SUPPER Lounge suits	Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF. Speaker: Dr Mark Spencer on forensic botany. Supper at a nearby venue.	The Company, Partners & Guests
October TBA	LECTURE Virtual	Brogdale National Fruit Collection Heritage Apples.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 4th November 2021	AUTUMN COURT DINNER Dinner jacket	Painter-Stainers' Hall, 9 Little Trinity Ln, Queenhithe, London EC4V 2AD. Our annual awards to horticultural students will be presented. Principal guest: Dr Ben Cowell, Director General at Historic Houses Association, on some of his favourite gardens amongst the 400+ stately homes in membership.	Livery & Guests
Fri 12th November 2021	COMPANY CATCH-UP Virtual	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, with members' contributions and an opportunity for your feedback too.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 9th December 2021	DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL Virtual	In conjunction with The Dickens Fellowship.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 17th December 2021	TRADESCANT COURT AND LUNCH Lounge suits	Ironmongers' Hall, Shaftesbury Place, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8AA.	Court only
Fri 17th December 2021	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE Lounge suits	St Stephen Walbrook, 39 Walbrook, London EC4N 8BN. Join us for our annual Carol Service. Light refreshments after the service. Children very welcome.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 14th January 2022	COMPANY CATCH-UP Virtual	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, with members' contributions and an opportunity for your feedback too.	The Company, Partners & Guests
February 2022 Date TBA	MANSION HOUSE BANQUET Evening dress preferred	The Mansion House, Walbrook, London EC4N 8BH Principal guest: Mark Hedges, Editor, Country Life The highlight of The Company's year. A privilege to entertain family and guests in the splendour of The Lord Mayor's home.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 4th March 2022	A DAY OF HORTICULTURAL BOOK LEAVES Lounge suits	Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. Access to the historical herbaria at the museum, with virtual links to the Royal Collection of George III horticultural books at Windsor and the floral book collection at Milton's Cottage.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 18th March 2022	COMPANY CATCH-UP Virtual	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, with members' contributions and an opportunity for your feedback too.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 30th March 2022	SPRING COURT DINNER Dinner jacket	Butchers' Hall, 87 Bartholomew Close, London EC1A 7EB. Principal Guest: Stanley Johnson. The Prince Edward Award for horticultural excellence will be presented at this dinner.	The Company, Partners & Guests

A SOCIALLY-DISTANT INSTALLATION IS HELD AT IRONMONGERS' HALL

It was touch and go for several weeks but it was finally decided that we could get together safely and on 6th July a slimmed down 'actual' rather than 'virtual' meeting of the Court installed a new Master at Ironmongers' Hall.

Peter Waine was clothed in the livery of the Company by outgoing Master Dr Heather Barrett-Mold in the presence of about 30 assistants and past masters. The wardens and Spadebearer sat safely apart on the 'top table' while the other members were placed in socially-distant groups of six rather than at a conventional long boardroom table.

John Gilbert was installed as Upper Warden, Nicholas Woolf as Renter

Warden and Cindy Peck was appointed Spadebearer. A Past Master's badge was presented to Margaret Holland Prior. John Gilbert read out the traditional Resolution summing up the now Immediate Past Master's remarkable two-year term of office and this was warmly endorsed by the Court.

Three new Assistants were admitted to the Court: John Michaelson, the Lady Melissa Ashcombe and Jonathan Matheson, and the membership of the Company's various committees, as set out in the new Year Book, were confirmed.

Steward's wands were presented to Katarina Heldring-Morris (Master's Steward) and Rosalind Edwards

(Renter Warden). Barbara Segall, the Upper Warden's Steward, was not able to be present. The Court meeting was followed by lunch in the dining hall, served on socially-distanced tables of six. The top table comprised the new Master, the Immediate Past Master and her consort, Master Ironmonger John Biles, Liveryman Michael Warren and his wife Lois.

Michael has now retired from his post as official Company Photographer and the new Master paid tribute to his long and devoted service.

A toast to the new Master was proposed by Senior Past Master Viv Robinson.

John Gilbert

Cindy Peck gets to grips with her new role as Spadebearer.

The Master and the three new assistants, from the left: Jonathan Matheson, the Lady Melissa Ashcombe and John Michaelson.

The new Master is clothed in gown and chain of office (next page).



NEW MASTER PETER WAINE ON HIS PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

I must start by acknowledging and thanking Heather for undertaking an additional year in the special and adverse circumstances brought about by the wretched pandemic. Heather achieved much despite this and developed initiatives such as Company Catch-ups and Pollinating London Together which I have every intention of cherishing and developing in my year as Master.

In particular, I want to ensure that we take full advantage of our greater familiarity with technology and thereby allow members the choice on occasion to access and participate in some events on a virtual basis, sometimes exclusively, whilst on other occasions with a choice.

Our recently concluded arrangement with the Ironmongers' Company will allow us to display and become more familiar with our rich heritage of Company silver; more will be on display on formal occasions and we will introduce a different item of silver with the table plan at each dinner.

The newly established Events sub-committee will allow us to capture ideas of a previous Master which

were not acted upon but which could be considered by a future Master. Please feel free to submit your ideas for visits or lectures so that we can continue to enjoy occasions offered to the Company in a special and privileged way.

I want to encourage new names to become more involved at a level they feel comfortable with in order to supplement, not substitute for, the sterling efforts of others, the latter we take for granted and we are forever indebted to them.

I hope I will be allowed, virus permitting, to carry out my year of events in full, starting with a visit to Welwyn Garden City, an unexpected choice perhaps to many but it is the second and most complete garden city in the world and, along with the first, Letchworth, is a strong contender for World Heritage Status.

Then to Oxford's Botanical Gardens and Worcester College, neither of which require any introduction. Later, in the autumn, we visit the incomparable gardens of Wales, including old favourites such as Bodnant and the gardens of Avray Tipping but also hidden gems

such as Aberglasney, a unique Elizabethan cloister garden. In the spring of 2022 we will be in the gardens of Rome including Villa Farnesina, the Rome Botanical Gardens, the garden of the Knights of Malta and Castel Gandolfo, the Papal summer retreat.

In between and after Rome we have visits to Hever, Sissinghurst, Hole Gardens, staying overnight in Hever Castle with the ghost of Ann Boleyn. Other events include Highgrove, visited before but it changes with the seasons and as it matures, like any garden will and should.

As I write this on the eve of becoming your Master, I am filled with genuine apprehension, as my name joins a long list of eminent horticulturalists and successful Masters. I am aware that I am a mere link in a long chain stretching back through many seasons of mellow fruitfulness and high summers. I will endeavour to do my modest bit, aided by the goodwill and friendship for which our Company is especially known and of which we are rightly proud.

Ever uppermost is the awareness that we are here to touch lives through our charitable giving, enhanced by practical action such as our rapidly evolving Schools Links. We will continue to play a full part in the life of the great City of London, often above and beyond that offered by other Livery companies. Wish me luck!

Peter Waine

"We are here to touch lives"



HELPING POLLINATORS FIND THE FORAGE THEY NEED

The Gardeners' Company held a one-hour virtual meeting on Thursday 6th May to allow the Master to update members on the pan-Livery initiative called Pollinating London Together (PLT). There were 32 participants.

PLT was launched in June 2019 as a long-term initiative to halt the decline of pollinators in the City of London and its immediate environs. It is led by the Wax Chandlers, the Gardeners and the Information Technologists. PLT has the generous support of the Chartered Architects, the Grocers, our friends in the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, RBG Kew and the RHS.

The Master updated us on the work she has been doing over the last year, despite the restrictions imposed by lockdowns. Last year, audits were carried out on six Livery Company gardens to assess the types of planting and its friendliness to pollinators throughout a long season. Bee boxes for solitary bees were sourced and distributed to the gardens and these audits will be repeated during the course of 2021.

She reminded us that there are 270 species of bee in the UK of which the honey bee is just one. Indeed, because of the new popularity of roof-top honey bee hives now proliferating in the City, it is possible that the multitude of solitary bees and other pollinators are now suffering competition for nectar from a limited number of flowering plants. Hence the need to increase the diversity of pollinator-friendly plants as widely as possible.

The Master then asked the Renter Warden, John Gilbert, to discuss

the list of plants he has produced to guide pollinator-friendly planting plans; this is posted on the PLT website. He explained that it is a shortened version of the guide on the RHS website and that he has focused on flowering shrubs and trees he knows from experience to be robust enough to thrive in a city location. Supplemented with some herbaceous plants, the list attempts to cover as long a flowering season as possible.

The Master next introduced and gave a brief summary of several short videos she had made over the last year with the help of members of the Company along with some extracts. The first one showed Assistant Miles Watson-Smyth beautifully demonstrating the planting of window boxes with pollinator-friendly plants in a polytunnel. We also saw Assistant David Domoney talking about bee nesting sites and bee hotels whilst planting up pots with bee-friendly plants.

Tamsin Kerslake was interviewed in another video sitting on the edge of the ornamental pond near Guildhall outside the Church of St Lawrence

Jewry, explaining the diverse environmental needs of pollinators including water. We saw Liveryman Tim Cutler in another video chatting with the Master on a sunny bench in the Physic Garden at Barber-Surgeons' Hall (of which he is the Hon. Curator), discussing the welfare benefits of gardening and gardens to the population and the wealth of help that both bring to people who can access gardens.

This was a very worthwhile virtual session for which our thanks must go to the Master for all the work she has put into this project and we very much look forward to further updates.

Report by Tim Cutler

Master Heather Barrett-Mold continued the Company tradition of presenting an annual gift of produce to the Lord Mayor on the 28th of June. The hamper of fruit and vegetables and a cheque for the Lord Mayor's Fund were gratefully received in the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, William and Hilary Russell.



TURNING TO NATURE FOR CITY WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Cities that embrace the use of nature-based solutions for water management have helped to identify highly effective techniques that will make cities greener. This was clear to see for all those who attended the recent AIPH/WCG Green City Briefing.

The International Association for Horticultural Producers (AIPH), in collaboration with the Gardeners' Company, presented 'Nature-based solutions for water management in cities' as the second climate action topic in its series of City of London Green City Briefings. The Briefings were launched to address climate change issues faced by the City of London.

Taking place on 11th May 2021, the virtual briefing was led by M'Lisa Lee Colbert, Associate Director of the Nature of Cities. The programme featured Robert Brears, Founder of Our Future Water and James Hitchmough, Professor of Horticultural Ecology at the University of Sheffield.

Robert Brears demonstrated the role of Blue-Green Infrastructure

(BGI) in cities around the world and the innovative policies being used to encourage the uptake of nature-based-solutions. "Ageing grey infrastructure found in cities is leading to major issues, with water quantity and quality being impacted - we can't allow this to continue", he urged.

In response, some cities are turning to BGI that uses natural processes to manage stormwater by restoring natural systems. These solutions come in the form of rain gardens, green walls, green streets, and urban forests, and every one of these provides multiple benefits.

For example, a green wall can reduce stormwater run-off and improve water quality while also decreasing the urban heat island effect, improving the insulation of the building and providing habitat for multiple species. BGI also delivers co-benefits for city resilience, such as enhanced biodiversity, protection from climate change, green jobs, reduced infrastructure costs, and space for recreation.

James Hitchmough presented ways to re-imagine urban landscapes from a water management perspective, referencing Copenhagen's success in separating stormwater from sewage, the UK London Olympic flood plain design, and Longquanshan, Chengdu in Western China, where stormwater is being held in catchments in a mountain landscape.

James highlighted the need to think on a larger scale in city planning instead of focussing on single streets or isolated projects. He used the Grey to Green Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems of Sheffield as an example, which, although the largest in the UK, is still a small-scale approach.

The strategy for plant selection needs consideration of species, project size and design, and may vary from wetlands, wet meadows and woodland to gravel bed planting and designed mown turf. It is important to rank all species in terms of moisture gradients and recognise the most suitable for each environment.

James concluded by saying: "Water management is talked about, but is not yet part of the big picture. This radical view has to become the new normal to collectively achieve our goals. Cities need a catchment approach to urban stormwater management; working on a project-by-project basis is not enough".

The next briefing is on 14th September. For more information contact AIPH Green City at greencity@aiph.org

A beautifully planted drainage swale, to soak up flood water



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES HITCHMOUGH

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN GILBERT.

MANAGING INFLATION AS ECONOMIES BEGIN TO RECOVER

Inflation rates are now rising as nations emerge from Covid-19 lockdowns. This article examines the pressure on the world's central banks as they attempt to manage a post-pandemic recovery in a world running hot.

The world of official rates is divided into three parts. The advanced countries, including Europe and the Euro-area, the UK, the US, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Israel all have ultra-low rates, below 0.25%. They got there largely thanks to the pandemic and have stayed there in the belief that their inflation will stay low as in the previous decade – or will return to a low figure after a short upsurge as the economies recover.

The principal emerging-market economies have interest rates around 4%. China is at 3.85%, India at 4%, Brazil at 4.25%, South Africa at 3.5%, and Mexico at 4%. Their inflation rates are higher than the advanced country average and they wish to offer some protection to their currencies and to avoid an inflationary problem reappearing.

Some emerging economies already have a serious inflationary problem, usually brought on by governments that wish to live beyond their means. Venezuela and Argentina are the worst with interest rates at 58% and 38%, but Turkey now has a growing problem and interest rates at 19%. Lebanon and Zimbabwe are also struggling with very high inflation.

Dollar drives fledgling economies
Emerging economies are vulnerable to dollar pressures. When the dollar is strong they experience falling currency values, which adds to the cost of imports and to the true cost

of repaying foreign currency debts. China is especially keen to draw a big distinction between its prudent monetary and fiscal policy and that of the US, which it criticises for being too lax.

China is also well aware of US pressures to get the Chinese currency higher rather than lower given the large balance of payments deficit the USA runs with China. China has probably done enough tightening to avoid an inflationary problem, though it has experienced a sharp increase in input costs from commodity price rises on the back of easy US money and the world recovery.

Brazil, with 8% inflation, and India, with 6%, have more of an inflation problem and may need to take more action. Markets are expecting rate rises again in both Brazil and Russia on top of the recent changes. The countries with rapid inflation have a lot more to do to re-establish price stability.

The ones to watch

The crucial issues about rates are the ones that apply to the big three: the US, Japan and the Euro-area. Japan is likely to live for longer with rates around zero and continuing programmes of money creation and bond buying. There is still no general inflation in Japan despite the commodity and energy price moves this year. The government will want more stimulus.

Euro-area officials have just completed a meeting reviewing its longer-term money policy. It is possible they will conclude that they need to allow some overrun of their 2% target for a while to try to boost price rises to nearer the average over a period of years, as the US Fed is doing. Whilst there is a pick-up in Euro-area inflation, it may well be short lived as an ageing population with a savings habit looks a bit more like Japan than the US.



THE OUTLOOK IS BRIGHT FOR NEW FUTURE GARDENERS CHARITY

Future Gardeners has recently completed its fifth year of operation and has had approximately 100 people from all walks of life graduate from the course. Of these some 75% have gone on to jobs in horticulture and many have progressed to apprenticeships with organisations such as The Royal Parks or to undertake diplomas at Kew Gardens.

We even managed to get one course in last year between lockdowns!

This wonderful success story has up to now been funded by the Gardeners' Company and Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), our operating partner, on a 50/50 basis. Many of you will recall fundraising dinners in the past and the majority of Company monies for this project have come from events like that as well as private donations.

In order to be able to grow Future Gardeners beyond what it is now capable of it was decided to register it as a Charity with the Charity Commission which was achieved last October with the registered number 1191623.

It is hoped that in due course the charity will be able to fund itself so as to allow the Gardeners and BOST to continue to fund the other ventures that they run without the take on funds for this project.

To this end, for this year only, you will have received details of reduced Quarterage and a request that you donate the balance between the normal quarterage rate and this year's reduced one to Future Gardeners. Details were sent by the Clerk in his quarterage email. Email acceptance of this to the Clerk will be sufficient but we need to get

your confirmation that you make this donation to Future Gardeners so that we can claim Gift Aid on it in order to gain maximum value for the project.

Future plans are for us to grow the project from its current single site in Southwark to another one in London and to hopefully expand it into other areas of the country in due course. Graduates currently attain a City and Guilds certificate on completion of the course and we are presently talking to potential employers to see what they might require in the future and if there are alternative accreditation providers. As we all know the jobs market has changed dramatically because of the pandemic but the need for green space and its proper maintenance has never been greater so the future is looking good for Future Gardeners.

We have some amazing partners offering work experience to the courses and jobs when people have graduated. There is now a Future Gardeners tag on the Company website and we will be developing our own site over the coming months. We will continue to work with BOST as our partner in this exciting venture and look forward to keeping the Company in touch with developments as we progress. Thank you all for your support, it puts the Company at the forefront of social achievement in the Livery movement.

Rex Thornborough
Chair, Future Gardeners

Molly Gadenz from BOST and Guillaume Tremorin from Future Gardeners 9 busy with pond work at the Diversity Garden in King James Street, Southwark.



ZOOMING AROUND THE GARDENS OF THE WORLD WITH TREVOR

With armchair travel the only way to go we were delighted on 18th March to be shown round a range of fascinating and very different gardens by Liveryman Trevor Edwards as he shared some of his recent garden tour experiences in India, Japan and at home in Ireland via Zoom.

Trevor's theme was that gardens can contain horticulture, art and architecture but rarely all three together. Topiary, for instance, demonstrates horticulture and art whilst Italianate gardens focus on horticulture with architecture.

We started in Trevor's home village in County Down with a tour of the garden at his home, Spindrift, where his love of container gardening could be enjoyed by local people during lockdown as he opened the gates.

We admired the spring bulbs, hostas

and alliums as well as wife Barbara's wonderful primula collection, and were introduced to some beautiful locally-made sculptures of Irish hares, Harriet and Henry.

Thence to Trevor's family cottage in a fairly remote part of Donegal, with a very different style of gardening. Here the planting is much more dictated by the local wet, windy and salty climate, with a less formal style blending well with the stunning views over Trawbreaga Bay.

We then moved to India where Trevor led a tour in February. Carpet bedding remains popular (and colourful) as seen at the Mughal Gardens behind the Palace in New Delhi, designed by Edwin Lutyens. Other sights included the Amber Fort, reachable only by boat, and the colourful Wafa International Flower Festival at Jaipur.

Many Indian and Japanese people

have no gardens of their own and so public gardens and parks are extremely popular. In Japan much of the emphasis is on controlling nature to bring out its best, using virtually no automation but relying on manual labour to manipulate and shape the trees and plants.

Japanese gardens are highly representative and often contemplative, using stones to depict rivers, for example. Trevor's visit was in autumn, arguably even more beautiful than the famous spring cherry blossom season. The colours were truly glorious.

We ended at Mount Stewart, a National Trust property on Northern Ireland's Ards Peninsula. Here the micro-climate, with salt water either side, has encouraged a stunning garden with rhododendrons and a Spanish garden leading down to the man-made lake.

Report by Deborah Blackman

EXPLORING A TUSCAN TREASURE

"I always feel energetic and fit at my Tuscan villa, both mentally and physically."

Nick Dakin-Elliott began his fascinating one hour-illustrated lecture with this quote from Pliny (Epistles V,vi45) and explained the philosophy of a villa in Italy. It is a concept that is more than 2,000 years old, a house in the country for a family that earns its crust in the city; it has grounds, which while not a farm do produce food. In the case of Villa La Pietra it is only 1.5 miles from the centre of Florence, dominated of course by the world-famous Duomo.

The very first classical Tuscan

Renaissance villa is the nearby Villa Medici built between 1451 and 1457 and closely followed by Villa La Pietra in the 1460s. Nick showed us a 16th Century plan showing the Villa's layout with a well in the centre and two gardens – the Giardino Segreto and the Giardino Grande.

We were shown some fascinating frescoes and paintings for the following centuries, particularly a 1750s fresco showing some of the planting. This included olive trees and a row of topiarised plants.

But at the turn of the 20th Century the Acton family moved in, first renting in 1903 and buying it in 1907. Arthur Acton essentially

created a new garden from 1908 onwards. Jumping to the end, Arthur Acton's son Sir Harold Acton died in 1994 and left the estate to New York University (NYU) with a requirement that they would restore the house and estate.

Nick Dakin-Elliott has been Horticultural Associate for the last 22 years and has carried out extensive research into the history and structure of the garden.

The NYU restoration project sets the garden in the 1930s, by which time the Actons had created a garden for Society and for entertainment.

Report by Nicholas Woolf

ROBERT PETER FRANKLIN

18TH SEPTEMBER 1932 – 3RD JANUARY 2021

Lyn Franklin writes

Peter was born in Streatham, educated at Homefield Preparatory School, where he later became a Governor, and went on to Dulwich College. Peter always said he was never an academic at school - it was the game of rugby and playing sports that made him the person he was.

He began stockbroking in 1954 after serving his National Service with the Royal Signals and became a member of the Stock Exchange in 1966. He relished City life and the markets and latterly ran his partnership at Brewin Dolphin from 1987 until his retirement in 2007. He spent much of his spare time fundraising and managing investment portfolios for both Homefield School and the Dulwich College Mission.

On 31st May 1955 Peter met Génia at a hospital dance – they were inseparable and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2019. In turn they had Lyn, John and Kristina and grandchildren, Noah, Agnes, Lily and Aline. Peter was a devoted family man.

Peter was a passionate gardener and plantsman – his garden in Cheam was enchanting, a collection of plants from various travels. Whenever anyone visited, they had to have the tour ... wine glass in hand. Peter and Génia looked forward to their annual trips to South Africa and admired the native plants.

Peter did his best to encourage others to love Plectranthus as much as he did - often sending batches of cuttings to willing takers through the post. He was especially tickled

to have raised a beautiful white Agapanthus named after him which received an RHS Award of Garden Merit.

Peter was a longstanding and active member of the Company joining in 1971 and being installed as Master in 1997. He was delighted when his daughter Lyn was made his apprentice in 1985 and in turn a Liveryman. He worked hard to make the City a greener and more pleasant place to work. During his time in the Chair his Appeal for funds from City firms led to the planting of 500 scented winter flowering shrubs in City gardens used by the public. Snowdrops also played a small but heart-warming part with another appeal for the supply and planting by Company members of some 11,000 snowdrops in the Churchyard of St. Paul's.

Peter's personal highlight was leading a Company visit to the delightful Journées des Plantes de Courson in the grounds of a 17th Century chateau, south of Paris.

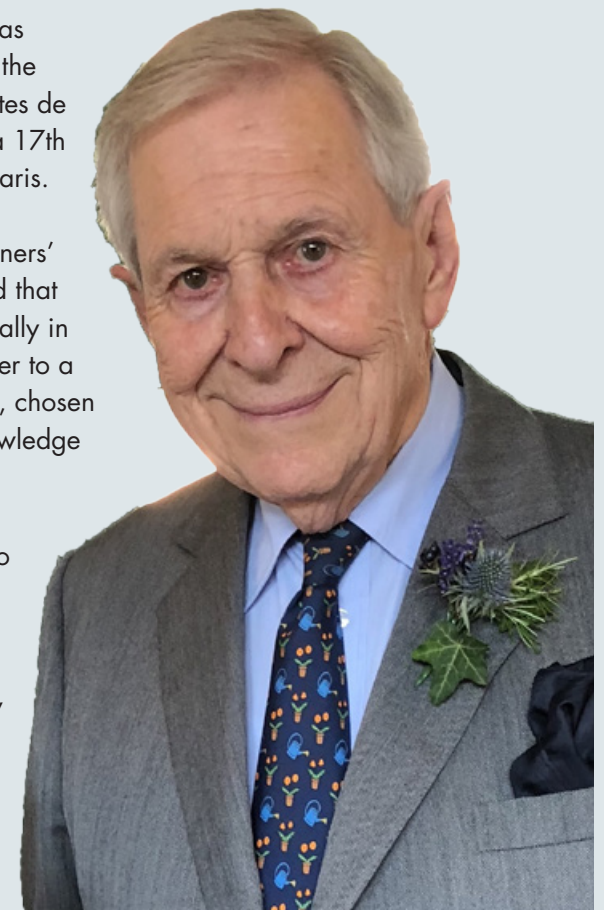
Here he initiated the Gardeners' Company Trophy, an award that continued to be made annually in May by the Master Gardener to a distinguished horticulturalist, chosen by the organisers, to acknowledge an outstanding contribution to the success of the show. The event later transferred to Chantilly.

He subsequently went on to chair the Flowers in the City Campaign where he fostered constructive and convivial communication between the area judges and contractors – he was

delighted that so many of the contractors.

Peter was a true gentleman with a great sense of humanity - he will be remembered by so many with much love and affection.

Lyn adds: My mother Génia, my siblings and I would like to say a big thank you to all who sent heart-warming messages of support when my father died so suddenly and unexpectedly in hospital after an operation. It has been a great shock for the family and for so many good friends in the Gardeners' Company. You have said such wonderful things about my father which in so many ways has eased the pain of our great loss. Thank you all very much. In time we shall have a memorial party in celebration of my father's life.



SENIOR PAST MASTER PETER FRANKLIN.



OPENING THE EYES OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO WHAT HORTICULTURE HAS TO OFFER

Livery Schools Link sub-committee chair Jonathan Matheson reports on an area of Company work with schools that is growing in importance

Livery Schools Link (LSL) is a new, early-stage activity for the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. It meets two original objectives of the Livery movement: promoting education and training of non-members and also benevolence. LSL works with Livery Companies and schools to benefit young people in education.

Our key objective is to open the eyes of young people to the very many careers available to them under the umbrella of horticulture and to encourage them to pursue these careers. LSL provides a means of engaging with a diverse range of school children of different ages and backgrounds. We can achieve this primarily through presentations to schools and arranging and accompanying them on outings that will spark their interest.

Liverymen may become volunteer speakers at schools, helping guide their careers departments towards a real understanding of the exciting and diverse prospects available in

the sector. We manage occasions for Liverymen to personally present career paths, opportunities, advice, mentoring and more to schools where relationships have developed. We also arrange school outings to places of horticultural excellence, to stimulate interest among the pupils.

Key events in the LSL calendar include The Livery Education Conference and The Livery Showcase. The former is attended by over 100 delegates from Livery companies and schools. This year the title of the conference was 'Preparing Young People for the Changing Future'.

The Livery Showcase is part of the London Careers Festival, at which we exhibit annually. It provides an opportunity for students interested in a career in horticulture to discover more, by talking face-to-face with experts, and aims also to generate interest in a career in horticulture among those who may not previously have considered it. Around 1,200 school pupils from years 5, 6, 8 and 9, as well as special needs pupils, attend annually. In 2021, social distancing meant the event was virtual. We made eight online

presentations to schools featuring, among others, Baroness Benjamin, the Master and David Domoney. The call to action was 'Your future, you choose - GREEN OR GONE'

While development of this branch of educational support is at an early stage in the Company, prospects look good and developments in the outside world have created tailwinds for our work. Environmental Activist Greta Thunberg has raised awareness of the whole 'green' issue among young people and 'Lockdown' has underlined the importance of outdoor activities for mental and physical health. In addition, unemployment and a more difficult labour market, as an unfortunate consequence of the pandemic, mean that school leavers and graduates may need to consider alternative careers to those they had previously planned.

For more information on LSL, please see <https://liveryschoolslink.org.uk/>

School pupils are drawn to the Gardeners' Company stand at the 2019 Livery Showcase, part of the London Careers Festival.