

# THE SPADE

EXPLORING THE GARDEN  
TREASURES OF WALES

FOSSIL FUELS: A VIEW  
FROM THE CITY

MEET OUR NEW  
NUFFIELD SCHOLAR

STUDENT AWARDS  
AT AUTUMN COURT



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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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.

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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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New dates will be added during the year.  
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.

DATE	EVENT AND DRESS	VENUE AND INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY
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
Thurs 21st April 2022	THENFORD ARBORETUM AND GARDENS Comfortable attire	Banbury OX17 2BX. A tour of Lord Heseltine's famous garden and arboretum.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tues 5th April 2022	TOUR OF HIGHGATE CEMETERY Comfortable attire	Highgate Cemetery, Swain's Lane, London N6 6PJ. Walking tour of the cemetery with a talk on conserving the tombs and creating a wildlife habitat.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 4th – Sun 8th May 2022	GARDENS OF ROME Comfortable attire	A 5-day tour of glorious Italian gardens in and around Rome.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Mon 9th May 2022	COMPANY GOLF DAY	Royal Blackheath Golf Club, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5AF.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tues 7th June 2022	THE FAIRCHILD LECTURE Lounge suit	St. Giles' Cripplegate Church, Fore Street, London EC2Y 8DA. Lecture to be given by Robert Peel. Supper to follow at The Brewery, 52 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4SD.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 10th June 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
June 2022 TBA	HIGHGROVE & THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM Comfortable attire	Highgrove House, Tetbury, GL8 0AY. A day trip to Highgrove and the National Arboretum	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tues 21st – Wed 22nd June 2022	KENT VISIT Comfortable attire	Overnight trip visiting Sissinghurst Castle, with short horticultural workshop, Hole Park Gardens and Hever Castle and gardens. Stay at Hever Castle (optional).	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 7th July 2022	INSTALLATION COURT DINNER Dinner jacket	Stationers' Hall. The start of the Gardeners' year with the installation of the new Master.	The Company, Partners & Guests

## COMPANY GOLFERS ARE PUT TO THE TEST

Once again the fates tested the mettle of the Golfing Gardeners. By the time the intrepid 21 gathered the Biblical rains had passed over and we had to contend only with the traditional enemy of strong wind. Happily the sun made a welcome appearance as old friends were joined by some keen new guests.

Chelsfield ("up and") Downs Golf Club was a great venue: 18 interesting holes without repetition

that were best played without deviation or hesitation. With a great set of greens playing beautifully, despite the overnight drenching.

Athletes included Nigel Branson, Peter Jackson, Jeremy Herrtage, David Kidd, Bill Rayner, Colin Smith, Nigel Reese, Barbara Reese and Hilary Stone. As ever the (friendly) competition was intense. The prize for nearest the pin passing from David Wiesteld via Nicholas Woolf to Bill Rayner before being claimed by Jon Adams.

Recording the team's best two Stableford scores was ideal in the testing conditions. Nigel Branson, Peter Jackson and Nicholas Woolf had a splendid 41 points, but they were bested by Alistair (King of the Greens) Watson-Gandy, Jenny Dicken, Sean Arble and someone answering to "Spangles" with 45 points! So, through gritted teeth its CONGRATULATIONS to Jon and Chris Adams and Caroline Leslie who best met the challenge of the day.

**Report by Tony Muldoon**



# THE JOY OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP AT THE AUTUMN COURT DINNER

The Autumn Court Dinner took place at Ironmongers' Hall in the Barbican on 4th November 2021. What a joy it was for the Company to get together again for a Court Dinner for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

Although the tables had been decorated with customary magnificent floral arrangements in giant wine glasses it was not all quite business as usual. The Protocol for Covid Attendance required prior lateral flow tests, no handshakes on the receiving line and no Loving Cup.

Assistant Lady Melissa Ashcombe proposed the toast to the guests. The Company had the pleasure of entertaining the Master Ironmonger, Plate worker, Scrivener, Needlemaker and Carman. Other distinguished guests included Dr Nicholas Bell, the chief librarian of Trinity College, Cambridge and James Bartos, the former Chair of the Gardens Trust.

Oxford Botanic Garden had been visited by the Company earlier in the year and it was a pleasure to welcome the Director, Professor Simon Hiscock. Another guest from

the gardening world was Marilyn Anderson, a trustee of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. She had organised the very interesting tour of Welsh gardens in September, which had been led by the Master.

The response on behalf of the guests was made by Dr Ben Cowell O.B.E, the Director General of the Historic Houses Association. The HHA represents some of the most important houses in the country in independent ownership and helps sustain the UK country house heritage. Prior to joining the HHA Dr Cowell worked for the National Trust and DCMS (the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport). In the course of his work Dr Cowell has visited many gardens and he referred to some of his favourites: Kiftsgate Court Gardens in the Cotswolds, Lowther Castle Gardens in Cumbria, Iford Manor Gardens near Bath and Easton Walled Garden in Lincolnshire. He particularly liked Easton Lodge Garden in Essex, designed by Harold Peto for the Countess of Warwick in 1902.

During the course of the dinner the Master welcomed the new Freeman, who had been admitted earlier in the

day. He also welcomed the student prizewinners from Writtle, Kew, Wisley, Capel Manor and the Royal Parks. The Master hoped the students would keep in touch.

He noted that the head gardener at Aberglasney Gardens, which the Company visited in September, mentioned that he had been a prizewinner in 2009.

## Report by Caroline Leslie

Immediately before the Dinner, in a separate ceremony, the Master presented prizes to this year's student and apprentice winners. They were:

WRITTLE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE: Madeline Starkey and Jerry Bone.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS KEW: Luigi Leone and Mira-Marie Nubold.

RHS WISLEY: Jason Saul and Emma Leaper.

CAPEL MANOR COLLEGE: Jerome Webb and Hamzah Desa.

ROYAL PARKS APPRENTICES, THE GEORGE COOK AWARD: Selina Tan.

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION: Jonathan Reeve. *Our Company has in recent years developed a strong link with the CWGC honouring those who serve or have served in the armed forces. This award goes to the staff member who has made an outstanding contribution to innovation within the horticultural work of the Commission.*

**Details of all the winners and the projects for which they were nominated are available on the website.**



The Master with Capel College prize-winner Jerome Webb.

# THE MASTER REVIEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM HIS PROGRAMME SO FAR

Despite the disappointment of having to postpone the Tradescant Lunch for the Court and also having to cancel our much-loved Carol Service, most recent events have not been adversely affected by the unwelcome Covid.

Amongst the many events from the last three months is a highlight of any Master's year, the annual ceremony for the prize-winners of the London Children's Flower Society at Guildhall, this year with Alan Titchmarsh. It meant, alas, not being able to be at the Olympic Park Discovery Day where our invigorated Schools' Outreach Team were playing a major part.

The graduation ceremony for Future Gardens was also both fun and important as 14 young, aspiring horticulturists were given a crucial and practical helping hand in their chosen career by our livery.

Assessing the finalists for each category of Flowers in the City and selecting a Master's choice, was another highlight and a reminder of the eclectic, diverse nature of the categories we encourage and acknowledge, adapting the range over the years to now include green walls, atriums and roof gardens.

The annual concert at St Paul's Cathedral, courtesy of the Musicians' Company, offered the chance to enjoy anthems as they soared to the heavens via Wren's incomparable dome. Also at St Paul's, was the moving Service of Remembrance prior to the ceremony at the War Memorial at the Royal Exchange. On the previous Monday, each Master placed a cross in turn on St Paul's Green as the bands played under a winter's sky.

Early on the morning of the Lord Mayor's Show, accompanied by the Upper Warden and PM Rex Thornborough, I walked the almost empty streets of the City, where carriages and horses were being prepared, to the Mansion House to present posies to the new Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

It was a delight to preside over my first Court prior to the Autumn Court dinner, to welcome seven new members to the livery and in a separate ceremony to give the awards to our various prizewinners.

At the accompanying dinner, encouragingly patronised by 140 diners, our principal guest, Ben Cowell, chief executive of Historic Houses, entertained us as he selected his favourite gardens from over 1,200 stately homes and gardens in membership.

A memory which will linger long was the Ceremony of the Trial of the Pyx, going back to Anglo Saxon times, where a jury checks at random the quality of newly minted

coinage. All was in order and a fine banquet at Goldsmiths' Hall followed this reassuring news, a role the Goldsmiths first undertook a mere 400 years ago.

I painted this year's Master's Christmas card, Adam in the Snow. The initial disappointment that the printers had turned my pristine white snow into a pale blue was quickly forgotten when my Steward, Katerina, who originates from Lapland, complimented me on how I had captured the true colour and essence of snow in that northern clime, apparently a rare achievement! I now claim that my depiction was based on a lot of research!

And so the second quarter of my year concludes, all too quickly for me. However, with gardens to explore both here and in Rome, with events to share and companionship to enjoy, I am looking forward to the second half of my year with growing expectations and with mounting excitement.



The Master with George Cook Award winner Selina Tan at Autumn Court: see opposite page.



# FUTURE GARDENERS CELEBRATE SUCCESS AT HISTORIC GARDEN

Fourteen horticultural students gathered in Bankside Open Spaces Trust's award winning Red Cross Garden\* in Southwark in July to celebrate passing the Future Gardeners Programme. With two previous graduations disrupted by Covid, this event saw three groups of students mark their success.

Recently established as a charity in its own right (see Spade issue 56, Summer 2021), Future Gardeners was launched in 2016. An innovative training and work experience scheme, it gives participants core skills to gain entry level jobs in the horticulture industry without having any previous experience or specialist education.

The programme is run by Bankside Open Spaces Trust with support from the Gardeners' Company, the Royal Parks Guild, Walworth Garden and Roots and Shoots. It is entirely funded by donations and is free for the trainees – giving opportunities to the long term unemployed and those who have struggled to access education.

The speakers at the July event included Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture and Learning at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, IPM Dr Heather Barrett-Mold and Robert Halbert-Pereno, Gardener at Lancaster West Estate and previous Future Gardeners student.

The programme has now seen 115 students through its doors. There is an overall completion rate of 81%. Out of the students who finish the course 75% have gone on to employment in the industry.

Nine students graduated from Future Gardeners 11, the course that ended on the day of the July graduation. They had reason to celebrate as seven out of the nine students had already been successful in gaining employment in the industry with employers such as Bartholomew Landscapes, Gavin Jones and Willerby Landscapes.

A new group of students enrolled in September.

**\*Red Cross Garden is an award-winning open space which BOST renovated and restored to its original Victorian layout in 2005. Steeped in history, it was built along with its neighbouring cottages in 1886. Designed by Octavia Hill (1838-1912), a social reformer and one of the three founders of the National Trust, this park was her flagship project and at the time Red Cross Garden demonstrated the importance of improving housing for the poor and the need for meaningful occupations for poor workers.**

*Bankside Open Spaces Trust is a registered environmental charity working to protect, preserve and enhance parks, gardens and other amenities in London's SE1 and surrounding areas. It aims to improve people's lives by making where they live and work greener and more beautiful.*

*It was set up in 2000 by Bankside residents and it welcomes volunteers from both the community and the corporate sector. It runs regular gardening groups, supports park steering groups, organises and takes part in public events and educational projects, and offers advice to others. It collaborates closely with local residents and businesses to champion green spaces.*

*Its spaces include Red Cross Garden, Marlborough Sports Garden, Waterloo Millennium Green and Tate Community Garden. Many are award-winning. It holds more than 32 awards, including the UNESCO Man and Biosphere award, London in Bloom Champion of Champions and the MPG London Spade for its community gardening partnerships.*

# THE MASTER'S TOUR GIVES TASTE OF THE GLORIOUS GARDENS OF WALES

**Three intrepid Spade reporters covered the Master's garden-packed trip to Wales last autumn: Wendy Bentall, Flavia Leslie and John Michaelson. Their full report will be available on the new members' section of the website. Meanwhile, here are some of the highlights**

H. Avray Tipping, architectural editor of Country Life from 1907 until his death in 1933, designed several arts and crafts houses and gardens in Monmouthshire as well as the garden at Chequers. We visited three of his gardens on the second day.

We started the day at High Glanau Manor, built in 1922. Here we met the owner Helena Gerrish, who with her light touch, gave us a talk about Tipping before showing us around the house and garden which she has faithfully restored to its original design. This was the last Welsh home he built for himself after he had created the vast Mounton House just before the First World War, where, accompanied by Helena, we visited next.

Mounton House had been subdivided but has now been restored to its original state by owners Armin Bienger and Paul Cook. In the spring of this year, accompanied by Lois, the head gardener, they travelled to Belgium to "buy a garden". The purchase list included 120 mature woodland trees, eight enormous topiary yews, 40 more smaller topiary bushes for the terrace, 18 mature cherry trees and additional cornus, beech, wisteria and magnolias, some costing as much as £25k.

These were all loaded onto an articulated truck and shipped to

nearby Chepstow racecourse before being transported along the narrow track to Mounton. The positioning of each plant beautifully and carefully has instantly recreated the garden much as it would have looked in Tipping's time. In addition the rockery and lake have been rebuilt with 240 enormous rocks, weighing up to six tons, garnered from a neighbouring farmer's fields.

Wyndcliffe Court was our next destination, a large house with a view towards the Bristol Channel. It has a wooded area, topiary and beautiful flower beds.

The following day we visited Cowbridge Physic Garden. Dan Clayton-Jones, of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, told us how he had had the idea of transforming a walled patch of land in the middle of the market town of Cowbridge. The area had become a wilderness, and the plan was to transform it into a place where local people and visitors could, free of charge, come and relax.

From Cowbridge we went to Dyffryn Garden, which is maintained by the National Trust. The head gardener Chris gave us an interesting talk about how he was restoring this 55 acre garden to Mawson's 1904 Edwardian design. The subtropical area is surprising as most of the exotic plants remain outside during the winter.

We visited three gardens on the final two days of the trip, all on the River Conwy in the North of Wales. Two, Bodnant Garden and Bodysgallen Hall, are National Trust properties. These share late Victorian origins, spectacular settings high over the Conwy, terraces cascading down steep hills and breathtaking views of Snowdonia. Gwydir Castle, a far older house, is set down alongside the Conwy. Each traces the arc of country homes in the 20th Century. Unlike so many, these were preserved largely through the dedication of their owners.



Paras Sanghavi receives his graduation certificate from IPM Heather Barrett-Mold and Future Gardeners Project Manager Louisa Mansfield.



The terrace at Bodnant Garden with its impressive pergola.



# FOSSIL FUELS WILL CONTINUE TO DRIVE WORLD ECONOMIES

The recovery from the deep and short recession caused by the pandemic saw a sharp increase in the prices of oil, gas and coal. Whilst the world conversation was all about replacing fossil fuels, once again the heavy lifting, carrying and transforming of raw materials and products needed plenty of traditional fuel.

In 2020, the world needed 557 exajoules of energy. Of this, 31% came from oil, 27% from coal and 25% from gas – so fossil fuels accounted for 83% of the total. Nuclear contributed 4.3%, hydro 6.8% and renewable electricity from solar and wind 5.7%.

The leading players all plan to add more to renewables in the next few years, with schemes for substantial increases to windfarms and solar installations. Meanwhile, nuclear faces conflicting pressures. Whilst there is some enthusiasm to put in more capacity, nuclear fleets around the world are ageing and will face a number of closures as they end their safe and useful lives.

Germany has decided to close all its nuclear stations out of policy preference. France has more temporary closures in her large, ageing fleet and needs to consider replacements. New nuclear plants are very expensive and take a long time to plan and build.

All this means that, even with plenty of rhetorical support from the main governments of the EU and the US, and even with the renewable investments of some emerging market economies including China, for the next few years fossil fuels will continue to be the main way of fuelling economic activity worldwide.

The heightened policy support for carbon-free development in some advanced countries can lead to offshoring rather than reducing the global use of fossil fuels. A country which makes it dearer and more difficult to use fossil fuels may end up importing more goods that have a heavy energy content.

An individual country's figures for carbon dioxide output under the international standards for accounting are improved if the country shuts steel plants, foundries, kilns and other high energy users and imports the steel, ceramics and engineered products instead.

The debate about energy use often turns into a debate about electricity, where it is feasible to increase the proportion generated from renewables or nuclear. But much energy is used direct from the coal mine or oilfield. Substituting electricity for oil or gas in every home heating system, industrial plant and vehicle will be both expensive and take a long time.

The emerging world has effectively said to the advanced world that they need to pursue their own growth plans using more coal, oil and gas for the time being. They would need much larger sums of money in grants from the rich to pay for a quicker transition to different technologies.

Looking forward to 2030 it is likely that, whilst renewable electricity will grow rapidly from a low base, the world will still be needing as much oil and gas as it is burning today.

China will continue to drive ahead using more coal. Last autumn the

world shortage of gas and the impact of emission controls on Chinese power stations left China struggling to keep the lights on. This in turn led to a relaxation of emission controls and a direction to dig and burn more coal. Security of supply trumped green objectives.

All this makes valuing old and new-style energy investments difficult. The large oil and gas companies of the advanced world with quotes on the big stock markets will be under pressure to divest or close their traditional fossil fuel activities. They will probably sell more of them to unquoted companies or emerging world owners who will be less concerned about the politics of ownership.

At the same time there will continue to be an avalanche of money into renewables to try to force the pace of transition. This provides opportunities but also runs the danger of valuations exceeding the real future earning power of the assets.



# 200 SCHOOL BOYS EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF HORTICULTURE

**Schools Outreach\* sub-committee chair Jonathan Matheson reports**

With so many competing careers for pupils to consider, Horticulture is often the 'Cinderella' option. Consequently, our challenge is to convince teachers and careers advisers of the attractions of a career in Horticulture, even before opening the eyes of school pupils to the 65+ careers that fall under the banner of Horticulture. Fortunately, Shaun Clifford, of City of London School, needs no such convincing.

Working closely with Shaun, the team arranged eight visits by City of London School Boys to four venues every Monday and Wednesday in September last year. Respectively, they were: Cannon Bridge Roof Gardens; the Garden Museum; the Chelsea Physic Garden and Middle Temple Gardens. The weather was very kind to us - it only poured on a couple of Tuesdays!

**The Garden Museum**

Samia Quarshi, Science Learning Officer, organised an excellent programme including identification of exotic plants, a guided tour of the various exhibits and a classroom session. The challenges to plant life due to climate change were highlighted, focusing on the importance of 'right plant, right place' and culminating in using microscopes and hand lenses to examine leaves from various plants to understand the concept.

**Cannon Bridge Roof Gardens**

Liveryman Paul Burnage's spectacular roof garden was the venue for the second series of visits. What Paul achieves in very shallow soil is quite remarkable. Highlights included South African proteas growing out in the open and the intriguing fingered citron (Buddha's Hand). The medicinal (and poisonous) properties of plants were also covered and fascinated the boys.

**Chelsea Physic Garden**

Anneka Gonzalez, Learning and Public Engagement Coordinator, devised a detailed programme, including a tour of medicinal plants and an associated practical activity. The boys took cuttings of Rosemary which they potted up to take home and ended with a Q&A session on careers in Horticulture.

**Middle Temple Gardens**

Kate Jenrick, Head Gardener, gave an excellent talk on her role, followed by a tour of the beautiful gardens which have the brief of 'year-round colour'. The boys were intrigued by a Medlar tree in full fruit. The session ended with wide-ranging Q&A.

**\* Formally known as Livery Schools Link**

## PETER SEABROOK MBE

Peter Seabrook MBE, doyen of garden writers and broadcasters and a good friend of the Gardeners' Company, died suddenly in January at the age of 85. Horticulture Week reports that before he wrote for newspapers and magazines he was a broadcaster— on the BBC Home Service from 1965 and later on TV's Gardeners' World and on Pebble Mill At One.

He first visited Chelsea Flower Show in 1952 and was a regular exhibitor there up to 2021, presenting the Queen with a posy each year. He was one of horticulture's most-respected and longest serving writers and, as Horticulture Week's

lead opinion writer, was a tireless champion of the industry. He had written for the Sun newspaper since 1977 and also wrote for Amateur Gardening for 35 years.

In 2019 the Master Gardener presented him with the Company's prestigious Prince Edward Award for Excellence in Horticultural Career Development at Spring Court where he entertained the Company and guests with amusing and thoughtful stories from his long broadcasting career.

**Master Margi Holland Prior presents Peter with our Prince Edward Award at Spring Court 2019.**



PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL WARREN



# AN UPBEAT AND JOYOUS HARVEST FESTIVAL AT ALL HALLOWS

It was fitting that the first non-virtual, non-socially distanced set piece event in the Company calendar since February 2020 should have been the Harvest Festival at historic All Hallows by the Tower, beautifully decorated by liveryman Ron Froud. Held on 7th October last year the service was conducted by the Vicar the Rev. Katherine Hedderly and our own Senior Past Master the Ven. Peter Delaney who were both in excellent form.

The whole tone of the service was upbeat and joyous which was echoed in the Master's choice of hymns. We were privileged to hear one of the last organ performances by Jonathan Melling FRCO who was retiring from his long-held role as Organist and Director of Music to the church at the end of the week.

His music prior to, during and on departure from the service was

much appreciated by the 50 or so members of the Company who had decided that this was the event to kickstart the return to formal Livery life after two lockdowns.

The fascinating address by Dr. Shahina Ghazanfar FLS, Research Associate at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and recent recipient of the Linnean Medal in Botany, was far too brief and left many wishing to hear further from her. She drew on her expertise of the vegetation of the Middle East and her knowledge of the texts of the great religions of the world to reflect on the movement of plants with humans to the creation of gardens such as the Temple of Karnac in Egypt and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and the cultural history and conservation of plants.

The importance of fruits and practical advice about their cultivation and preservation are

mentioned in the Bible, the Koran, and Jewish, Chinese, Egyptian, Persian and Zoroastrian texts. As examples Dr Ghazanfar enumerated the number of times olives, grapes, pomegranates, and dates appeared in such texts. We were reminded that date palms were valued for food and shade, symbolise peace, are used in painting, are stamped on coins and are a motif on gravestones.

Olive oil is also a symbol of peace and purification, is used to anoint kings, is burnt in sacred lamps, and of course an olive branch was brought back after Noah's flood. Attributes of grapes and pomegranates were also outlined.

The Company then adjourned to nearby Watermen's Hall for a delicious lunch.

**Report by Mary Cole-Adams**

# A POSY FOR THE LADY MAYORESS

In accordance with City and Company tradition, the Master presented posies and buttonholes to the Lady Mayoress and those accompanying her in her carriage, at Mansion House on Saturday 13th November ahead of the Lord Mayor's Show. He was accompanied by the Upper Warden, John Gilbert; they were escorted in robes and regalia through the streets from Ironmongers' Hall by SPM Rex Thornborough.

This tradition dates from 1991 when the late Dick Balfour, as Master, made a presentation of roses from his garden to Liveryman Lady McWilliams, the new Lady Mayoress. So, thanks to the Covid

cancellation of the 2020 Show, this was the 30th anniversary but the 29th presentation!

The posies and a buttonhole were

produced by SPM Nick Evans and given to the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Amanda Keaveny, Mrs Keaveny Senior and Ms Debbie Slater with a buttonhole for Mr Keaveny Senior.



**Amanda Keaveny, the Lady Mayoress, Vincent Keaveny, the Lord Mayor and the Master**

PHOTOGRAPH REX THORNBOROUGH

# ONLINE COMPETITION WINNERS ARE REWARDED AT ROYAL HOSPITAL

Prize-winners of the 'Design Online – Say it with Plants' competition finally received their awards at a reception at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in September.

The competition was part of the Royal Parks Guild's ongoing 'Growing Generations' partnership programme, one of the partners being the Gardeners' Company. The presentation day was hosted by another of the partners, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the famous Chelsea Pensioners.

Sadly, because of Covid restrictions, the prize-winners were not able to create their online container designs in real life, to be displayed at the Royal Hospital for all to enjoy, as originally planned.

The winners were landscape and garden design students, alongside horticultural apprentices, all from across the UK. As well as receiving a winner's certificate they each took

home a beautiful pottery award, crafted by Chelsea Pensioner, Ray Pearson.

The 'Design Online' winners were wowed with a guided walk, led by two Chelsea Pensioners, around the historic buildings of the Royal Hospital. A fascinating tour of the grounds was led by Ric Glenn, Head of Gardens and Grounds.

\*Entrants were asked to design innovative and exciting planting for a container that reflects 'what

horticulture means to them', using a range of plants and props. The winning entries were to be planted up and displayed in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea during the week of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show but Covid intervened.

**Chelsea Pensioner Ray Pearson on his Harley Davidson mobility scooter and Ric Glenn, Head of Gardens and Grounds, lead a tour of the Hospital grounds.**



PHOTOGRAPH JOHN GILBERT

# WELCOME OUR NUFFIELD SCHOLAR

My name is Tom Young and I have the privilege of being sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for a Nuffield Scholarship in 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Company for all the help and support thus far, and for sponsoring me. I look forward to meeting as many members as possible over the next 18 months.

I originally studied Ecology at the University of Sheffield and went on to study for an applied research PhD in Green Roof design and technology. For the last seven years I have worked for STRI, a multi-

disciplinary research consultancy specialising in the amenity sector.

My job roles there have ranged from managing client research trails, developing new technology and most recently acting as an environmental consultant specialising in water management and security.

I am building to become an established cross-disciplinary scientist and consultant, specialising in sustainable land practices, with water management at the core of this.

To this end, my chosen Nuffield

Scholarship topic is "Sustainable water use: opportunities for agriculture based on cross-disciplinary knowledge sharing". I aim to study how similar industries in other countries are dealing with water security issues through a combination of technology, sustainable management practices, water reduction, and alternative water sourcing.

For me, the integration of solving issues caused by too much water (drainage) and too little water (drought) is key to providing long term sustainable solutions, and something I will be looking at in detail.





# THE 'WHITE GARDEN' IN MINIATURE

## SUPER BLOOM

**Jonathan Matheson goes guerrilla gardening in Westminster...**

Living in the middle of central London as I do, I don't have a regular garden. Instead, I have created a container garden. Outside my central London apartment, Westminster Council planted three *Ginkgo biloba* trees which are now over 25 feet high. The area under the trees they covered over with tar and, while they were doing so, I rang the Council to see if I could garden under one of the magnificent trees, before they tarred over. Having recently won a gold London in Bloom award for my container garden, I was encouraged to 'expand', by cultivating the tiny area under the tree.

The whole 'garden' is under a metre square. The soil under the tree is very infertile; at some stage, builders rubble and sand was dumped there. The roots of the Ginkgo tree are also an obstacle; dogs and foxes frequently dig there and the soil is very shallow. As elsewhere in central London, passers-by drop litter and, in

the winter, the female Ginkgo drops unpleasant-smelling fruit.

Undeterred, I removed a lot of the soil and replaced it with rich compost. I decided on a white (and green) garden on a miniature scale. Spring-flowering *Polygonatum* thrives there as does a white *Osteospermum* (flowering again in the late summer, after being covered in flowers in the spring). There is a delicate, white *Dicentra spectabilis* which has doubled in size since I planted it and a *Heuchera* with white markings on dark green leaves. In between I have planted white *Impatiens* 'Pacific Hybrids' and, unable to avoid buying plants, once they die back I have a white *Astilbe* waiting to go in. For the winter, I planted white pansies between the perennials and white species tulips will also come up in the spring.

While hardly the Sissinghurst white garden, passers-by stop to admire it and it gives them and me a great deal of pleasure. Interestingly, littering has almost stopped. It shows the effect you can achieve.

The Tower of London will be encircled by millions of flowers this summer, for a stunning new 'Superbloom' display, celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. From the spring, 20 million carefully selected seeds will be sown in the Tower's famous moat, creating a vibrant sea of flowers which will continuously evolve from June to September, changing colours and patterns throughout the summer. With a planting scheme designed to attract bees, pollinators and seed-eating birds, the display will provide a biodiverse space to support wildlife. 'Superbloom' will be the first stage of a permanent transformation of the famous moat into a new natural landscape in the heart of the City of London.

