

THE SPADE

WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE
FUTURE OF FOSSIL FUELS

POLLINATING LONDON
TOGETHER:
OFFICIAL LAUNCH

EXPLORING THE SECRETS OF
HIGHGATE CEMETERY

SPRING COURT DINNER
AT BUTCHERS' HALL



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE SPRING EDITION 2022 - ISSUE 59
GARDENERSCOMPANY.ORG.UK
ISSN 1473-091X





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.

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 are the links to our Twitter and Instagram accounts. Please send photographs for posting there to Liveryman Barbara Segall.

www.instagram.com/gardenliveryco

THE MASTER

Peter Waine

RENTER WARDEN

Nicholas Woolf

SPADE EDITOR

John Gilbert

UPPER WARDEN

John Gilbert

SPADEBEARER

Cindy Peck

DESIGNER

James Bernhard

THE CLERK

Major Jeremy Herrtage

01730 815325 | clerk@gardenerscompany.org.uk

The Gardeners' Company, Ingrams, Ingram's Green, West Sussex, GU29 0LJ

| DATE | EVENT AND DRESS | VENUE AND INFORMATION | ELIGIBILITY |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Wed 4th – Sun 8th May 2022 | GARDENS OF ROME Comfortable attire | A five-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 |
| Sat 28th May 2022 | GARDENERS' COMPANY PLATINUM JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY DAY Comfort- able attire | Eight Company members will be hosting private parties in their gardens in Essex, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, London, Oxford, and Surrey. In aid of Future Gardeners. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Sun 29th May 2022 | GARDENERS' COMPANY PLATINUM JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY DAY Comfortable attire | An additional private party in Little Venice, West London: The Triangle Garden Randolph Crescent, Little Venice, W91BQ | 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, members' contributions and feedback. | The Company and Partners |
| Tues 14th June 2022 | HIGHGROVE Comfortable attire | Highgrove House, Tetbury, GL8 0AY A day trip to Highgrove. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Tues 21st – Wed 22nd June 2022 | KENT VISIT Comfortable attire | Overnight trip visiting Sissinghurst Castle, with short horticultural workshop, Hale 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, Ave Maria Lane London, EC4M 7DD The start of the Gardeners' year with the installation of the new Master. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Thurs 14th July 2022 | AFTERNOON TOUR OF ROOF GARDENS Comfortable attire | Canonbridge House including tea, the Sky Garden and Vintners' Place. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Tues 2nd August 2022 | COMPANY CATCH-UP Virtual | The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, members' contributions and feedback. | The Company and Partners |
| Wed 10th August 2022 | KINGS CROSS & AGA KHAN CENTRE GUIDED WALKING TOUR Comfortable attire | A chance to explore this huge redeveloped site, rich in industrial and social history and now graced with fine buildings and a range of beautiful gardens and public spaces. Including lunch. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Mon 22nd August 2022 | Virtual presentation direct from the Linnaeus Garden & Museum, Uppsala | Sweden's oldest botanic garden and the garden of Olof Rudbeck Sr and Carl Linnaeus, which has been reconstructed according to the original plan from 1745. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Thurs 8th September 2022 | OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS 1 Comfortable attire | Day time visit to Blenheim Palace, gardens and ancient forest. Woodstock, OX20 1PP. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Tues 13th September 2022 | OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS 2 Comfortable attire | Day time visit to Broughton Grange Gardens Wykham Lane, Banbury OX15 5DS and Broughton Castle, Banbury, OX15 5EB. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Tues 20th September 2022 | CHARTERHOUSE EVENING RECEPTION Lounge suit | Guided tour of this historic building, reception and garden talk. Charterhouse Square, Barbican, London, EC1M 6AN. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Sat 24th September 2022 | OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS 3 Comfortable attire | Day time visit to Waterperry Gardens Oxford, OX33 1LA Made famous by Beatrix Havergal who established her School of Horticulture for Ladies here from 1932 to 1971. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Wed 5th October 2022 | TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR & CAPEL MANOR COLLEGE Comfortable attire | Day time visit to Capel Manor College, Gardening Which? trial grounds and Tottenham Hotspurs' immaculate training grounds and gardens. Bullsmoor Lane, Waltham Cross, Enfield, EN1 4RQ. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Thurs 6th October 2022 | HARVEST FESTIVAL Lounge suit | St James Garlickhythe, Garlick Hill, London, EC4V 2AF followed by lunch | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Wed 12th October 2022 | LINNEAN SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE Lounge suit | 'Carl Peter Thunberg, the Linnaeus of Japan: how the world first came to know Japanese horticulture'. Presentation, lecture and Japanese tea tasting, followed by supper. Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Tue 18th October 2022 | RHS WISLEY HILLTOP Comfortable attire | Day visit to the UK's first dedicated gardening science hub, surrounded by four acres of 'living laboratories' in the form of three new gardens. Wisley Lane, Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Thurs 3rd November 2022 | AUTUMN COURT DINNER Dinner jacket | Ironmongers' Hall off Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate St, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8AA | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Tues 8th November 2022 | FAITH IN THE CITY Virtual presentation | Photographer Niki Gorick presents an evening based on her acclaimed book about worship by all faiths in the City. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Tue 6th December 2022 | GILBERT WHITE LECTURE Virtual presentation | Brycchan Carey, academic expert on 18th Century naturalists, gives a talk on Gilbert White, the pioneering English naturalist, ecologist, and ornithologist best known for his 'Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne'. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Fri 16th December 2022 | CAROL SERVICE Lounge suit | St Stephen Walbrook 39 Walbrook, London, EC4N 8BN. | The Company, Partners & Guests |
| Fri 16th December 2022 | TRADESCANT LUNCH Lounge suit | Venue to be confirmed. | Court only |

New dates may be added during the year. The new digital newsletter, the Trowel, 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.

HOW FORENSIC BOTANY CAN HELP AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME

The Linnean Society kindly opened their doors to us for the afternoon on 20th October last year. The highlight was to be a talk by forensic botanist Dr Mark Spencer. But first we were treated to a wonderful 30-minute, 'Covid special' video telling us of the history of the Society, the building and its collections.

The Head of Collections, Isabelle Charmantier, hosted the video and was able to answer questions and chat to us afterwards. I was particularly intrigued by the problems caused by Carl Linnaeus' handwriting. He wrote in Swedish and Latin, and as a young man it was clear but as he aged it became almost illegible and poor Isabelle had such a problem deciphering it, especially as she doesn't speak Swedish. Digitising his papers took five years!

Linnaeus was the first naturalist to develop a binomial naming system. While compiling his lists, he realised he was lacking fish and asked his colleague in America, Alexander Graham, to send samples. Rather than glass bottles with preservative (sometimes rum), he sent pressed fish and they are on display for us to marvel at today. He gutted the fish, kept the top skin and head, pressed them and glued them on to paper, then varnished them.

The Linnean Society, founded in 1778, after Linnaeus' death, was an all-male preserve until 1905, when 15 women were elected and admitted as Fellows, after much struggle. Marian Farquharson, a naturalist and women's rights activist and the woman who spearheaded the campaign, was herself not admitted. Apparently she so upset the President he refused

her admittance. She was however eventually elected, but by then was too ill to accept. Portraits of several of the original women Fellows now hang in the beautiful Library.

The building, occupied in 1857, was kept open throughout the world wars, although 3,000 of the most precious items were relocated to Woburn Abbey during WW2. The Library is a great source of information and reference and is much used, but Covid managed to shut it! Sadly, there is a possibility that the Society's doors in Burlington House may close forever: The rent could rise to an impossible level, and both they and the other Scientific Societies neighbouring them may have to find alternative accommodation.

Dr Mark Spencer introduced us to the world of Forensic Botany and its application, working with the police on missing persons enquiries, searches (especially cold cases), murders and other serious crimes. Plants hold secrets and tell stories; they are the silent witnesses.

The length of time a body found in the landscape has been there, can be ascertained by the plant growth surrounding it. Also, botanists can advise about suitable places to look for a missing body. The undergrowth and soil composition can indicate if a body is likely to be buried or lying there. A great favourite with fiction crime writers is the presence of luscious stinging nettles but this is not correct. Brambles can be useful: a dense mound could indicate a 'long term' body, but never a recent one: it takes a long time for the brambles to grow over a body.

Scene of Crime Officers can be inadvertently guilty of 'plant blindness', overlooking and disturbing plants during an investigation, but Mark enjoys helping and working with the police, and can assist prosecution. Occasionally he assists the defence. Trace evidence - fragments of foliage, lichens, pollen, spores - all contribute to the picture and profiling. Pollen can assist only if it's 'sticky', i.e. from a plant needing to attract insects, not 'wind-blown' pollen.

Surprisingly, algae diatoms, tiny organisms present in standing and flowing water, can help determine the cause of death when a body is found in water. When a person drowns they inhale and swallow these organisms which can later be detected at post mortem. If the body was dead before entering the water they will not be present.

Environmental DNA is the 'Project of the Future'. At the moment it is embryonic, but science is moving rapidly and will soon be able to build a picture of the intricacies of a crime.

After our fascinating afternoon, Mark joined us when we adjourned for a delicious supper.

Report by Rosalind Edwards

A SPRING MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER GARDENER

There are so many branches to the Gardeners' Company and a Master becomes involved in most of its activities or regrets when two or more events clash and a difficult choice has to be made. Likewise, with the many invitations proffered so liberally by other livery companies, their range of activities is legion and the friendships made are to be cherished and, hopefully, to be retained.

There is nothing quite like hosting the Lord Mayor in his own Mansion House, historic, resplendent in its aesthetic beauty and historical associations. We had an insightful contribution from Dame Fiona Reynolds, who amongst her many distinguished roles is a former Director General of the National Trust. She said that most gardens in their care were even more popular than the houses they adorned.

For the first time we celebrated National Book Day by being hosted by the Natural History Museum which possesses a stunning 80 million plus specimens, many of which are horticultural. We were shown treasures from Cook's iconic voyages and other specimens, dried and faded but priceless and often a crucial means of recreating biodiversity.

The day was supplemented by a video link to the Royal Collections at Windsor and we were reminded of the collecting zeal of many members of Royalty in particular George III, Victoria and Prince Albert. The day resumed with a talk on John Milton's interest in horticulture, and was concluded with a close inspection of the ceiling of the main hall, so often overlooked but in fact constituting a glorious and varied collection of botanical delights.

Spring Court was at the recently refurbished Butchers' Hall, a particular favourite of many - unless cloven hooved. Sir Laurie Magnus, chairman of Historic England, was our principal guest speaking on the delights of our historical designed landscape.

As Master I attend many functions as does the Mistress, usually together, but on occasion separately. Invitations include: Masters' dinner at Drapers'; as guests of the Needle-makers at their Mansion House dinner; the Tacitus lecture, hosted by the World Traders - on the peculiar and dark relationship between slavery and the financial transactions of the City, and a lecture on counter terrorism, hosted by the Security Professionals.

St Paul's plays a central and constant role throughout the year and this spring I attended the United Guild Service, preceded by breakfast at Goldsmiths and lunch afterwards at Butchers'.

I was delighted to award our livery prize at Mansion House to an outstanding student who left home in Northern Ireland that morning at 3.45 am to attend and was returning that night.

In between, but equally important, are the rounds of committee meetings and the meetings of the Charity Board, Future Gardeners, Flowers in the City, the Metropolitan Open Spaces Society and the London Children's Flower Society.

The final weeks of my Mastership will include visits to Hever, Highgrove, Highgate, Hole, Rome, Sissinghurst and Thenford, and the opening of members' gardens to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with the proceeds going to Future Gardeners. These and more of the events offered by other Companies which, together, form the very pleasant and privileged lot of being your Master!



The Master with his principal guest Sir Laurie Magnus at the Spring Court Dinner.

A VIRTUAL DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FULL OF REAL FESTIVE CHEER

God bless us every one! Tiny Tim's famous toast from Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' rounded off the Gardeners' Dickensian Christmas Festival, a fascinating evening produced in conjunction with the Dickens Fellowship.

Introduced by the Master, followed by Ian Dickens, a great great grandson of Charles Dickens and current President of the Fellowship, the virtual event suffered some technical problems but succeeded in generating some very welcome Christmas spirit as well as providing intriguing information about the famous author and the history of Yuletide celebrations.

Jennifer Ide, Senior Curator at Gad's Hill, Dickens' final family home near Rochester in Kent, focussed on the commission by the author of a splendid conservatory, built at vast expense and described by him as 'positively the last improvement' to the property. This was something of a family joke since he had repeated this phrase at various stages during the refurbishment of Gad's Hill. It was also sadly prophetic as he died at the age of 58 only two weeks after it was finished.

Jennifer revealed that Dickens was very proud of the new conservatory and took a keen interest in his garden. She showed the catalogue of conservatory plants that was prepared for auction after his death. Deep red pelargoniums were his favourites.

Lucinda Hawksley, great, great, great granddaughter of Charles and Catherine Dickens then treated us to an account of the great British Christmas and Dickens' part in its development. The first commercially

produced Christmas card appeared in 1843, coincidentally the same year as 'A Christmas Carol' was published.

Dickens wrote the book in six weeks and it was an instant success. Published on 19th December, it had sold out by Christmas Eve; several reprints followed. Although a joyful celebration, the book is part of Dickens' determined campaign to highlight the plight of poor children, a thread that runs through much of his work.

The Christmas tree, that staple of seasonal decoration, began to appear after 1848 when Prince Albert issued a picture of one with him and his family. The use of mistletoe on the other hand had been around since pagan times.

Lucinda also showed the famous 'lost portrait' of Dickens. Painted by Margaret Gillies while the 31-year-old was writing 'A Christmas Carol', it went missing for more than 130 years before being discovered in a cardboard box of trinkets in an auction in South Africa. It is now on display at the Charles Dickens Museum 48 Doughty Street, London, WC1N 2LX.

When the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning saw the portrait she remarked how it "has the dust and mud of humanity about him, notwithstanding those eagle eyes". The Master concluded the evening with warm wishes for all involved and a thoughtful reminder that child poverty is with us still.

Report by John Gilbert

For information about tours of Gad's Hill visit: www.gadshillplace.co.uk

RED CROSS FAIR 2022

One of the civic highlights every two years (three years this time) is the Red Cross Fair in Guildhall. The best stand is always the Gardeners! But this only happens because of the dedication and camaraderie of we the Gardeners.

Plants are generously provided by a number of members owning horticultural businesses led by Paul Rochford. But then we need members to volunteer to staff the stand. This is a great opportunity for newer members to join the old hands, who are equally appreciated. The Upper Warden, who is traditionally charged with the organisation, would be very pleased to hear from you if you would like to be involved. Please let him know through the Clerk.

SPADES ARE TRUMPS!

Our bridge pair, Nicholas Woolf and Rosalind Edwards, were placed third in the Inter-Livery Bridge competition held on Monday 7th March at Drapers' Hall. 36 pairs completed in this long-standing event organised by the Makers of Playing Cards livery company.

SIR LAURIE AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF HERITAGE IN OUR LIVES

The Butchers' Company, who received their charter in the same year as the Gardeners in 1605, are now resident in a beautifully refurbished hall which opened its doors in the autumn of 2019, set within the new St Bartholomew's Square development. Master Butcher, Ms Margaret Boanas hosted the Gardeners' Spring Court Dinner in their Great Hall.

This light and airy room houses a magnificent tapestry, the largest in the City of London. HM The Queen Mother, Honorary Freeman, and HRH The Princess Royal, Past Master, looked down on the guests below, where the top table was decorated with blue and yellow flowers in support of Ukraine.

The Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Alan, one of the Master's guests, conducted Grace before dinner, and we were also introduced to guests Lord and Lady Salisbury before Sir Laurie Magnus, the Master's guest speaker rose to the lectern.

Sir Laurie became chair of English Heritage, now Historic England, in 2013 and believes passionately in the importance of Heritage, his chosen topic for the evening. We were to learn that Historic England is the guardian of 1,699 registered sites in England, 167 of them in London. HE are responsible for listings and caring for parks, gardens, shipwrecks, battlefields, churches and landscapes. In recent time HE has managed the Culture Recovery Fund in response to the Covid pandemic, in which £300million was distributed to support 4,000 organisations to ensure their survival and continuity.

Sir Laurie despaired of government ministers being unaware of the importance of Heritage. HE is in the remit of the department of DCMS - Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Sir Laurie has campaigned to have 'H' added to the title - DCHMS - so that Heritage can be properly recognised. He told the audience that "Heritage is a catalyst for levelling-up, enhancing life and wellbeing of communities". It brings high streets back to life, creates jobs and keeps traditional skills and crafts alive. He added that mental and physical wellbeing is enhanced, especially by protecting parks and gardens.

The protection of landscape proves to be a constant struggle, especially from requests for memorials to be sited in inappropriate places. As

an example, he paid tribute to "the wonderful Holocaust Monument", which, if allowed to be set in Victoria Gardens, Westminster, would have a serious impact on the surrounding area, to which cries of 'hear hear' were heard from the room. In conclusion, Sir Laurie told us that he hoped to involve the Gardeners' Company in HE's future projects.

The Master responded by warmly thanking Sir Laurie and went on to deliver an amusing speech which invoked much appreciative laughter. Sadly, there was no presentation of the Prince Edward Award for Horticultural Excellence this year due to the Covid pandemic; it will be carried over to next year.

Report by Valerie Hill-Archer



Assistants John Michaelson, left, and Tyrone McGlinchey putting the world to rights at the Spring Court reception.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE HUGE IMPACT OF WAR IN UKRAINE

Many in the advanced world now want to speed-up the transition to renewable energy in order to make a big impact on the output of carbon dioxide. There is also the new imperative to reduce dependence on Russian oil and gas.

There are plenty of investment plans and capital available to boost windfarms. On windy days renewable power can be a good percentage of total electricity generated. Yet, in 2020, total renewable electricity represented only 5.7% of world energy usage.

The great coal and gas burning nations of China, India and the emerging world swamp the global totals with more fossil-fuel output. The days when the wind does not blow and the nights when the sun does not shine drag the output down. Even with redoubled renewable investment in the next few years we will still mainly rely on fossil fuels for the rest of this decade.

Green hydrogen and nuclear

Before Russia began its invasion of Ukraine, the European Union moved to categorise gas as a transition fuel. Why not, it argued, switch more coal to gas over the next few years as that will reduce pollutants and CO2 emissions? It would allow the development of green hydrogen to use the gas facilities and perhaps allow a smoother transition in home heating and fuelling industrial processes than forcing an early conversion to renewable technologies.

The problem with this idea was it entailed substantial and growing European dependence on Russian gas, with the second Nord Stream 2 pipeline to Germany entrenching that trade.

The EU has now decided to eliminate Russian gas from its future, but also agreed with the German view that it would take time to remove Russia from its gas supply. German dependence on Russian gas is helping finance the war and has limited sanctions, with Germany needing Russian banks to be able to transact so Germany can pay for the gas it receives.

There is also a new enthusiasm for nuclear. The world's big five in nuclear power are the US, China, France, Russia and South Korea. The US is the world's largest generator of nuclear electricity but is not yet planning a major replacement programme for its ageing plants. China is pressing ahead with a large new nuclear programme, South Korea is interested in rolling out new small nuclear reactors and Russia too is keen to stay ahead in nuclear technology.

The difficulties of reducing reliance on Russia

In 2020, 82% of the world's energy came from oil, coal and gas. This year, the advanced world is scrambling to remove Russian oil from its supplies at a time when the oil market has largely recovered from the pandemic and is supplying 100 million barrels a day (mbpd). Doing without Russian oil, where gross production is 11 mbpd, is not easy.

Russia exports more than 7mbpd and is finding markets in China and India for its export surplus. The market is trying to switch contracts away from Western countries and companies to emerging-market customers which do not impose sanctions.

This is driving world politics. Oil scarcity and the consequent high petrol and diesel prices that follow lies behind US President Joe Biden's new enthusiasm for a diplomatic deal with Iran over nuclear weapons, to enable him to lift sanctions on Iranian oil. Mr Biden is also making overtures to the regime in Venezuela.

We move towards a more polarised world of two main blocs, one led by the US and the other by China. The US-led grouping will gradually remove Russia from its supply chains. To do so, in the short term, it needs to produce more of its own fossil fuel energy or tip more neutral oil producers into its bloc. In the medium term, it will intensify the green revolution.

All of these transitions take time, substantial investment, and changes of consumer behaviour. In the short term, there is a scramble to switch contracts and change sources of gas and oil, the cornerstones still of the world's energy supply. There will continue to be wild oil-price gyrations on rumours over how the contracts will be switched and how large countries will meet their energy needs in a world where the politics and actions of the supplier country is a new all-important force.



POLLINATING LONDON TOGETHER TAKES FLIGHT AT MANSION HOUSE

In September, Pollinating London Together held its formal launch event at Mansion House, hosted by the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell and the Lady Mayoress, Hilary Russell.

PLT is a pan Livery initiative that is raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and pollinators and their substantial recent decline. The initiative is a collaboration of some of the City of London's Livery Companies, initiated by the Wax Chandlers and Gardeners. PLT's purpose is to help champion and create green places, starting in the City of London, ensuring better conditions for pollinators to thrive, and allowing workers and visitors to the City to benefit from the tranquillity of those green spaces.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Rebecca Pow recorded a video that was played at the event showing her support for the initiative. She said: "I am delighted to be here celebrating your Pollinating London Together initiative. It sounds like a really proactive project that can involve so many people." Urging everyone to help our pollinators, she said: "We've set a legally-binding target to halt the decline of species abundance by 2030; that's a ground breaking commitment." Highlighting the introduction of nature recovery networks and habitat restoration projects, she urged everyone to help our pollinators.

She said: "We can all make a difference to helping our pollinators and that doesn't just mean bees. It means a whole range of other insects – moths, butterflies, hoverflies, and all the different bees. Together we need to provide them with food and nectar, that's where you and I come in, greening up London".

The PLT initiative also seeks to educate and inform with Citizen Science and with other projects that demonstrate to children and adults alike the importance of pollinators to everyone and their crucial role in the food supply, the health of our environment and maintaining biodiversity.

Professor Alistair Griffiths of the RHS commented: "Pollinating London Together is a great opportunity to bring the people of London together on this important ecological initiative. Human health and well-being are intrinsically linked to the work of pollinators like bees but so many of them are in decline. Raising awareness of this issue and taking steps to improve conditions for

pollinators, while creating beautiful green spaces, is an extremely worthwhile cause".

Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment, highlighted how activities to protect pollinators play a positive role in enhancing London's green spaces for human benefit too. She said: "Protecting, restoring and increasing London's natural green spaces is at the heart of the Mayor's plans for a green recovery, creating a healthier, more resilient city where everyone has access to a green space and wildlife can thrive. This includes continuing to work to fulfil his ambitious manifesto pledge that no Londoner should be more than 10 minutes away from a green space".



Pictured at the Mansion House launch, from the left: John Burton, PLT Chairman; Lady Mayoress Hilary Russell; IPM Dr Heather Barrett-Mold, PLT Vice Chair and Anthony Bickmore, Master Wax Chandler, PLT Board.

‘WE NEED TO GET CLOSER TO THE HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY’

Martin Panter reflects on an industry showcase event in Lincolnshire

In the Netherlands the inspirational foresight of one or two successful entrepreneurs, the backing of the banks and the support of the Government led to the formation of The World Horti Centre. A very impressive facility that includes a college catering for 1,400 horticultural students, an area where 60 commercial companies are represented and laboratories for research and development, all under one roof.

On November 4th at the Lincolnshire Showground, Nigel Jenny the CEO of the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) in conjunction with the University of Lincoln, without support from the banks or the Government, created our very own British Horti Centre. A showcase for the leading companies involved in AI and robotics within the horticultural industry. A number of companies were there to recruit some of our brightest students. Also present were organisations keen to promote Horticulture as a career path, the Worshipful Company of Gardeners being one of them.

Past Master Stephen Bernhard and myself were happy to represent the Company and talk to the many visitors that came to us to find out more about the Gardeners, what we stood for and what we had to offer. It was at this point that we couldn't help but ask ourselves what message we had to impart and what was the relevance of the Company to the industry.

The Gardeners have some wonderful initiatives: Future Gardeners, our apprenticeship programme and of

course the Nuffield Scholarship. It was quite obvious, however, that many visitors had not even heard of us. I can't help feeling we are missing a trick; we need closer ties with industry and at the very least relevant literature setting out the criteria for applying for the Nuffield Scholarship and Apprenticeship Scheme. I spoke to an arboriculturist and a plant pathologist taking her Phd to name just two people who were very interested in the Nuffield Scholarship. It was a great shame we didn't have something a little more tangible to offer than words of encouragement.

A common problem many companies we spoke to had was the difficulty they find in getting good enthusiastic young people to work for them. A sentiment that will be confirmed by the commercial members of our Company I am sure. Imagine our response when we were approached by Dr Ramana Sundara of the University of Lincoln who wanted to know if the Company could help him in finding companies that would be interested in taking research students for six months at no cost to them.

All in all this trade show was like a breath of fresh air, a great success which outperformed everyone's expectations and which will definitely be an annual event. It was also an eye opening experience for both Stephen and I, flagging up many areas where the Company can play a role and become more relevant to the Industry as a whole.

MUCH TO LEARN AT THE OLYMPIC PARK

On a sunny day, last October, the Royal Parks Guild continued its long history of organising 'Discovery Days' with its latest event called 'Green Spaces, Wild Places'. It was held at the London Stadium and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The event provided the opportunity for more than 180 horticultural apprentices and trainees to meet their counterparts and key industry figures, whilst learning more about their chosen profession and the career opportunities this presents.

For the first time at a 'Discovery Day' a small group of school pupils and their teachers was invited. This pilot initiative, organised by the Company's Schools Outreach programme, aimed to provide an opportunity for school pupils and their teachers/careers advisers to learn about career opportunities in Horticulture and Landscape, whilst meeting people already working in the industry.

The afternoon session was devoted to walking tours of the Park and a visit to the stadium football pitch, home of West Ham.

Twelve separate tour groups - each with a leader and flag-bearers - were carefully choreographed through the Park. Each tour leader spoke from their career perspective about the Park - from head gardener, landscape architects to communications and biodiversity experts. They also engaged with the school pupils who were taken to the Great British Garden to explore landscape design and ecology.

HIGHGATE CEMETERY: CLIMBING UP TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD

Our tour of Highgate West Cemetery on 5th April began through an impressive gateway with two chapels into a carriage courtyard backed by an arched colonnade. The founder, Stephen Geary, referred to this area as the 'land of the living' from which stairs take you to the 'land of the dead'.

The West Cemetery of 17 acres was one of seven Garden Cemeteries created around the edges of London in the mid-19th Century and colloquially known as the Magnificent Seven. They were built in response to the dramatic increase in London's population with its associated increase in deaths and totally inadequate provision for burials.

Most Victorians held a strong belief in the Resurrection and were nervous that the bodies of their dead would be 'snatched' by 'bag-up-men' and sold to hospitals for dissection by medical students. The prospect of a secure cemetery in a semi-rural location held a great attraction and the cemetery became a popular place of burial. However, by 1960 the London Cemetery Company was bankrupt, the gates were closed and the next 15 years saw decline as nature and vandals took hold. In 1975 the Friends of Highgate Cemetery were formed and took on the tasks of restoration, conservation and accessibility.

The immediate impression is of a green tranquil woodland with a floor of graves and monuments of all shapes and sizes and states of preservation. The woodland is mostly self-sown trees with only two trees known to originally exist on the land - a magnificent horse chestnut whose lime green leaf buds were just

bursting open and a redwood.

The charity's first job was to clear main paths and the worst of the ivy. Now many vaults and tombs can be seen resting in green ground cover of a sea of wild garlic with occasional pockets of wood anemones, primroses and violets.

The main path climbs from the entrance and is lined with burial plots which were the most prestigious - large, deep, brick vaults that could take many lead-lined coffins of family members. These vaults are topped by fitting memorials. It was especially poignant to see the grave of Alexander Litvinenko murdered in 2006.

The impressive entrance to the Egyptian Avenue leads to a gloomy passage lined with vaults on each side.

The cast iron doors are decorated with an inverted torch. There were many inverted emblems decorating graves and monuments - inversion being a symbol of a life extinguished.

The heart of the cemetery is the Circle of Lebanon, two concentric circles of vaults. Its centre was a magnificent 100 year old Cedar of Lebanon which died recently, but has already been replaced. Today the Egyptian Avenue, Circle of Lebanon and other monuments are dull in colour, but originally the stone would have been pale and lustrous.

The enthusiasm and knowledge of our guides, Julia Johnson and Peter Mills was an indication that the cemetery is in good hands.

Report by Frances Glanusk



Volunteer guide Peter Mills tells the story of George Wombwell, famous menagerist, whose tomb is still guarded by his reputedly docile lion Nero



CELEBRATING WITH HER MAJESTY

Her Majesty the Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. To mark this momentous occasion, we are holding a Gardeners' Company Jubilee Garden Party Day on Saturday 28th May. This will be a wonderful day where we can celebrate together and can raise funds for the Future Gardeners charity.

Eight Company members will be hosting private parties in their gardens and all Company members, and their partners, are invited. There will be parties in Essex, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, London, Oxford, and Surrey.

Each party will be unique. Some hosts will offer charming and relaxing afternoon teas. Other hosts will serve delicious lunches. There will even be a coffee morning hosted by the Master in the hope that you might be able to attend two parties – one in the morning and one in the afternoon!

The common link between each party is that not only will the parties offer the Company the chance to meet in each other's beautiful gardens, but we will also celebrate the jubilee together and raise funds for the Future Gardeners charity. As the hosts will also be inviting friends, family, and neighbours to their parties, we have an excellent opportunity as the Gardeners' Company to promote the work of Future Gardeners, and perhaps our livery too, to those who do not know the wonderful charitable work that together we all do.

An additional party, hosted by Jonathan Matheson in Little Venice, will be on Sunday 29th May and will be for Company members and their families only.

Full details of each party including hosts, addresses, times, parking restrictions and costs are on the members' section of the website.

Please confirm your attendance to your host by 10th May (21st April in one instance).

We are very grateful to all our host gardeners for their invitations to their garden parties.

We are also grateful to those members of the Company who are not able to participate with parties on the day, but have offered to raise funds for Future Gardeners using their gardens in various ways, and who will be contributing the funds raised to the Jubilee Garden Party Day.

Report by Zoe Jasko

John and Megan Ansell's garden near Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, just one of the beautiful gardens members are opening to celebrate and raise funds for Future Gardeners