

THE SPADE



THE ANCIENT OAKS OF
BLENHEIM PALACE

A WREATH FIT
FOR A QUEEN

CHARITY UPDATE: FOUR
PAGES OF NEWS ABOUT
OUR CHARITABLE GIVING

GREEN CITY BRIEFINGS:
THE NEW PROGRAMME



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY





THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



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

Many of the items in this issue are available at greater length on the Members' side of 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 Assistant Barbara Segall.

www.instagram.com/gardenliveryco

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

It's been an interesting year for members of the Gardeners' Company - horticulturists, gardeners and City types alike. Strange weather, even stranger politics, pandemic, war, rising prices, hosepipe bans, shortages of materials and shortages of labour appear to have come at us from all sides.

We also, of course, had to come to terms on 8th September with the news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen, bringing to an end her 70-year reign.

Meanwhile, it is fair to say that we have enjoyed a remarkable autumn. Our three day trips to Oxfordshire Gardens in September were well subscribed and blessed with agreeable weather. We began at Blenheim where one of the highlights was the chance to visit the ancient royal hunting grounds of High Park, not normally open to the public. The forest has the largest number of ancient oaks in Europe; four are amongst the largest and probably oldest in England.

Broughton Castle and Grange followed, the third day out being at Waterperry Gardens. We saw wonderful gardens and wherever we went were looked after by expert and highly entertaining guides.

In October we were at the Which? Gardening trials grounds at Capel Manor in Enfield for a fascinating session with Principal Researcher Adele Dyer. We were then given a tour of the notable trees on the college's 30-acre estate by Adam Sarfas, Head of Arboriculture, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation. The afternoon was spent at the neighbouring Tottenham

Hotspur training grounds where everyone marvelled at the high standards of the grass and ornamental planting.

I was disappointed to have to cancel our regular Harvest Festival owing to lack of numbers and postponing the Autumn Court Dinner because of a rail strike that was then itself postponed was frustrating in the extreme.

We have a busy programme ahead of us, however, including several virtual evenings and our annual Carol Service at St Stephen Walbrook on 16th December.

Next year brings further delights: the Mansion House Banquet, the Coronation Banquet at Guildhall (a fund-raising dinner for Future Gardeners), Hampton Court Palace, Down House and an action-packed week among the gardens of Yorkshire. I hope to share it with as many of you as possible.

Don't miss the new Charity Update section, a new regular feature which will keep us all informed about how our donations are used and the people and organisations that benefit from our members' generosity.

John Gilbert



31 October 2022

Dear Master,

Thank you so much for your very kind letter of condolence. Your thoughtfulness is deeply touching and means a great deal at this time.

The Queen was a very special person who meant so much to so many and who led the most extraordinary life. It is wonderfully reassuring to know that you, among many, are able to appreciate something of the unimaginable void she has left in all our lives and, more importantly, what we will all miss.

Please pass on my thanks and best wishes to the Court, members and staff of the Company of Gardeners.

Yours sincerely,

HRH The Earl of Wessex and Forfar KG GCVO

Mr John Gilbert

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New dates will be added during the year. The Trowel and other circulars from the Clerk 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
Tue 6th December 2022	GILBERT WHITE LECTURE Virtual presentation 6:30pm	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	TRADESCANT LUNCH Lounge suit/equivalent	Alderman’s Dining Room, Guildhall.	Court only
Fri 16th December 2022	CAROL SERVICE Lounge suit/equivalent	St Stephen Walbrook 39 Walbrook, London EC4N 8BN.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 10th January 2023	COMPANY CATCH-UP Zoom	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, members’ contributions and feedback.	The Company & Partners
Tue 7th February 2023	EVENING TOUR OF THE COLLEGE OF ARMS Lounge suit/equivalent	Bluemantle Pursuivant Mark Scott will show us some of the treasures of this ancient institution. 130 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BT. 6.30pm start, supper included.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 10th February 2023	MANSION HOUSE BANQUET Evening dress preferred	The Mansion House, Walbrook, London EC4N 8BH. The highlight of the Company year.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 7th March 2023	COMPANY CATCH-UP Zoom	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, members’ contributions and feedback.	The Company & Partners
Tue 14th March 2023 TBC	GARDENERS’ QUESTION TIME Zoom	Chaired by TV gardener and Assistant David Domoney.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 28th March 2023	AUTUMN COURT DINNER	Postponed from November 2022. Ironmongers’ Hall off Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate Street, Barbican EC2Y 8AA	The Company, Partners & Guests
Friday 31st March 2023	HAMPTON COURT PALACE & GARDENS Comfortable attire	A day trip to the magnificent palace and spring gardens. Hampton Court Way, Molesey, East Molesey KT8 9AU.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Mon 17th April 2023	CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN Comfortable attire	A day visit in the year when the famous garden celebrates its 350th anniversary. 66 Royal Hospital Rd, London SW3 4HS.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 16th May 2023	CORONATION BANQUET Black tie	A fund-raising event at Guildhall in aid of Future Gardeners.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 30th May 2023	FAIRCHILD LECTURE Lounge suit/equivalent	Our annual lecture at St Giles Cripplegate, Fore Street, London EC2Y 8DA, followed by supper.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thur 1st June 2023	COMPANY CATCH-UP Zoom	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, members’ contributions and feedback.	The Company & Partners
Sat 17th June 2023	DOWN HOUSE & GARDENS Comfortable attire	A day trip to Darwin’s home and laboratory for 40 years where the famous naturalist worked on his theory of evolution by natural selection. Luxted Rd, Downe, Orpington BR6 7JT.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Mon 19th – Fri 23rd June 2023	YORK & THE GARDENS OF YORKSHIRE Comfortable day attire plus lounge suit/ equivalent	A four-night trip to the cathedral city and some of Yorkshire’s finest gardens, including York Gate and the Archbishop of York’s Palace.	The Company, Partners & Guests

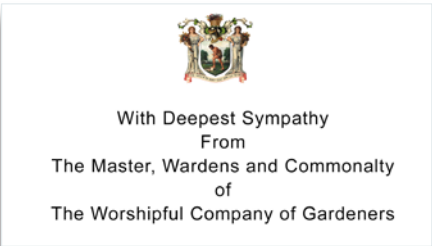
A WREATH FIT FOR A QUEEN

Following the death of Her Majesty the Queen the Gardeners’ Company were honoured to be allowed to provide a wreath for the service in Windsor Chapel.

The wreath contained ‘White Avalanche’ Roses, double white Lisianthus, white Hydrangea in the base, white Dendrobium orchids and Myrtle foliage and berries with Rosemary. Myrtle and Rosemary featured in the Her Majesty’s wedding bouquet, presented by the

Company and made at Longmans Florists, the business of Father of the Company David Longman.

The wreath was made by Paul Thomas Flowers and delivered direct to Windsor Castle.



ANCIENT OAK TREES AND THRIVING BIODIVERSITY AT BLENHEIM PALACE

Thirty of us gathered at the magnificent World Heritage Blenheim Palace, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Marlborough, for the first of three September days out in Oxfordshire. Our tour of the estate started, after early morning coffee, in tractor-drawn beater trailers before continuing on foot.

Throughout we were accompanied by Andrew the new Head Gardener, the Estates Manager Rachel Furness-Smith and the Woodlands Manager Nick Baimbridge.

The family does not live in the palace anymore and the requirements from past Dukes were much varied. Now, a 10-year plan for the whole estate has been launched, striving for a green agenda to reduce food miles and thus carbon footprint and so work to address climate change. This programme includes restoring the gardens to the original historic designs but with planting schemes that will hopefully work with changing climatic conditions.

Walking around the vast walled kitchen garden, now looking sadly neglected, it was hard to imagine how busy and productive it would have been in its heyday. But restoration has begun and ongoing tasks include digging out the now overgrown and hidden ponds to reinstate the complex water system which irrigated the flower and vegetable beds. Another truly massive project is underway in the estate: dredging the lake and removing the silt built up over 200 years, more than enough to fill Wembley Stadium we were told, in order to save “The finest view in England”.

We were then hauled to the private part of the estate called High Park and were fortunate to be joined by Alijos Farjon, Research Associate at Kew and the Head of the High Park Biodiversity Survey. He explained that they had recorded 3,780 different species in the wood, which is remarkable for this kind of site.

The site has the largest numbers of ancient oaks in Europe, 275 with a circumference of over five meters. Four are amongst the largest and probably oldest in England. Alijos then showed us the largest oak in Oxfordshire with a huge 10.4 meters circumference; ancient oaks are invariably hollow. The oak was surrounded by very high bracken, giving the feeling of being in a wilderness!

We returned to the palace for a welcome lunch. The afternoon was

free to explore the grounds again or visit the staterooms in the palace. The latter had many portraits, clocks and tapestries, and you could see the bedroom in which Winston Churchill was born, as well as the extensive library. We were lucky with the morning weather, as it absolutely tipped it down later in the afternoon!

Our visit coincided with the publication of a revised edition of Alijos’s book:

‘Ancient Oaks in the English Landscape’, the story of how England’s iconic tree has shaped the landscape over the past 1,000 years. It is the first detailed study into why England has more ancient native oak trees than the rest of Europe combined.

Report by Katarina Heldring-Morris



CALLING ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ST PAUL'S

Liveryman Katy Rochford writes:

The Gardeners have long held the honour of arranging a pedestal of flowers in St Dunstan's Chapel, St Paul's. Would you like to join the volunteer rota?

"If you think squash is a competitive activity, try flower arranging."

Alan Bennett's words may hold a grain of truth in the outside world, but St Dunstan's Chapel is a haven of peace and a place for quiet reflection amidst the bustle of visitors

to St Paul's Cathedral. Arranging a pedestal of flowers beside the beautiful altar is a privilege and a sense of competition struggles to flourish in such surroundings.

Whether you are a seasoned flower arranger or a beginner who would like to learn the craft, please consider joining the rota for St Dunstan's chapel. You would be called upon once or twice a year and in return for your efforts, you will be rewarded with a chance to be part of one of our greatest buildings.

It is great fun to be given a key to the vestry and to be allowed to enter parts of the cathedral not open to the public. I was a complete novice when I first joined the rota and am lucky to be able to bring a very clever friend who guides and teaches me. If you would like to share the work or are happy working on your own, it is a wonderful thing to do.

For more information contact Ron Froud on 01580 241523 or send an email to ronwfroud@aol.com.

POLLINATOR TALK CREATES A BUZZ FOR CITY SCHOOL STUDENTS

A group of lucky pupils from City of London Boys School attended a fascinating talk on pollinators, their complex biology and the beauty of their design.

The talk was held at St Vedast alias Foster Church near the historic St Paul's Cathedral and Churchyard. It consisted of two segments, each featuring some incredibly innovative work by the fantastically talented Alex Hirtzel.

One of the segments was led by her and focussed on the techniques and fine attention she uses to create her art. She explained that she begins by taking a closer look at the fine details of different plants and animals. Using some high-magnification close-up lenses, we were able to take a close look at the anthers of some daffodils and the fine fur of some tree bumblebees among other things.

Alex explains that having a good technical appreciation for the design

of plants is fundamental to drawing them well. Many of the pieces shown focussed on the interconnected relationships between different types of pollinators and the plants they pollinate. Some interact with many and some go to extreme lengths to find the right plant.

This was shown through her use of bright colours and was highlighted by the Augmented Reality aspect of her works which could be accessed via a QR code and Instagram. 2D works of art were brought to life with bumblebees and butterflies flying out of the page and an array of colourful plants, from geraniums to daffodils.

The second portion of the talk was led by Dr David Lawson from the University of Bristol's School of Biological Sciences where he is a lecturer. The art in his section of the exhibit focused on the mechanisms by which different pollinators were able to locate their desired plants.

A very clever beam of scent is employed by some plants to help

guide bees and other insects to their nectaries.

Others use brightly coloured petals or different arrangements of scent on their flowers to draw pollinators to the nectar and pollen. A large plaster model of a flower petal and some very strong-smelling essential oils demonstrated how bees perceive flowers, highlighting how targeted these mechanisms can be.

Underpinning the whole talk was the increasing threat to pollinators in the UK and across the world which has resulted from the loss of habitats and changes in the use of different pieces of land. By bringing attention to this problem both Alex Hirtzel and Dr Lawson are helping to address this be it through research or art. We were all very grateful for this opportunity and thank Schools Outreach and Pollinating London Together massively for arranging it.

Report by Louis Chenot (CLBS student)

FUTURE GARDENERS MAKE THEIR MARK IN HISTORIC GARDEN

Eight Future Gardeners students graduated on a lovely sunny afternoon at Red Cross Garden in Southwark in July and received their certificates from the Master.

Some of the students had already found jobs: two at Frognaal Gardens in Finchley and one at Camden Garden Centre. Ashley Edwards, Head Gardener at Horatio's Garden, Stanmore, gave an inspirational talk and Tim Wood, Chair of Bankside Open Spaces Trust, chaired a fascinating conversation with two previous students, Kiran Bonardi-Murzello, an apprentice at idverde and Mark Knibbs, gardener at Willerby Landscapes. Food and drinks were enjoyed afterwards with lots of networking and catching up. Red Cross Garden is an award-

winning open space which BOST, the Gardeners' Company's partner in Future Gardeners, 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.



GREENING THE CITY: A NEW SERIES OF FREE WEBINARS

Following a highly successful series of eight free webinars last year Green City Briefings have launched a new programme for 2022-23 highlighting examples of effective urban greening from cities around the world.

The initiative, a partnership between the Gardeners' Company and AIPH (the International Association of Horticulture Producers) is supported by the City of London Corporation. It provides evidence and examples of the power of 'living green' in delivering multiple solutions to city challenges with international speakers and audience.

AIPH Green City Briefings 2022/3 is continuing this theme of online webinars that connect knowledge to practice. Twelve webinars feature

cities that demonstrate significant progress in including plants and nature in the city's form and function. Each one-hour webinar starts with an expert presenting the principles that explain how urban greening benefits a city, its residents, and nature. A second presentation follows from a city to show how the principles are put into practice and how their success is transformational.

The new series began in September with Buenos Aires. The webinars can be joined in real time or watched on demand: see the links below. The cities featured are winners in a range of awards made each year by AIPH. Still to come are the following:

6th December 2022 Feature City: Winner of the 'Living Green for Climate Change' category

February 2023 Feature City: Winner of the 'Living Green for Water' category

March 2023 Feature City: Winner of the 'Living Green for Social Cohesion' category

April 2023 Feature City: Winner of the 'Living Green for Biodiversity' category

May 2023 Feature City: Winner of the 'Living Green for Health and Wellbeing' category

June 2023 Feature City: Winner of the 'Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth' category

July 2023 Feature City: TBC

September 2023 Feature City TBC

October 2023 Feature City TBC

Last year's webinars and the new ones are free. Register through Green City Briefings 2022/23

WHICH 'NEXT BIG THING' WILL GET CONSUMERS SPENDING AGAIN?

We have been living with the painful adjustment to excessive inflation this year. This has required higher interest rates and an end to money creation and bond buying by the main central banks. As rates rise so investors think the shares of the great growth companies are too expensive and have sold them down to reflect the need for more income or return to reflect the rise in returns available on risk-free deposits.

Investors also need to consider the impact of economic slowdown on the growth rates of turnover and profit of the digital giants. As recent results have shown, revenue growth is now slowing and, in some cases, profits are falling as big rises in costs exceed the rise in income. This period of adjustment can end once markets are convinced central banks have raised rates enough to tame inflation, and as inflation starts to come back down.

The more difficult question to answer is what are the sectors and businesses that will grow to help fuel the recovery from the current slowdown? There are the two revolutions – the 'digital' and the 'green' – that have characterised recent years. Neither is going away. The public is likely to stay wedded to smart phones, laptops, more home working and more online living. Governments are going to continue to promote a transition to a lower-carbon-dioxide future. What is more in doubt is how consumers will respond.

The green revolution is finding it difficult to transit from being driven by big business and government to consumer-driven growth. Whilst most people wish to be 'green' and express concern about environmental

matters, we have still not seen the popular heat pumps or electric vehicles fly out of the factories to transform the homes and lives of the many.

Many people still like the convenience of their gas boilers and do not want to make a big outlay on electric heating. Many drivers are still reluctant to commit to a new electric vehicle.

Whilst governments are keen, they are also reluctant to say how they will tax electric vehicles to recoup the lost revenue from fuel duties – and to commit to enough new reliable electric generation to allow many more people to switch to electric heating and transport.

The digital companies still put out numerous service changes and improvements but are struggling to find a big new breakthrough in the way Amazon did for online shopping or Netflix did for streaming, or Apple did with its launch of smartphones and iPads. There will be plenty of replacement demand for phones and pads, and there is still the opportunity to widen the numbers of people owning these devices in emerging-market economies. That is all helpful, but implies a lower overall rate of growth than was seen in the last decade.

As many advanced countries are now exploring how to make more for themselves and grow more food for themselves due to security issues, it is likely there will be increased focus on automation and robotics. Factories in high-wage economies need to be highly automated, and high safety standards and quality requirements needs machine

precision for many repetitive functions.

There is plenty of scope for more breakthroughs in artificial intelligence as experiments continue with self-drive vehicles, computer-assisted medical diagnosis, home system controls for busy people away from home and for computers that can do more of the work that businesses need done.

To sustain growth there will need to be more advances in what products and services can offer to users so all those consumers who already have iPads, smartphones, business computers and the rest are also drawn into the need to spend extra on something 'different'.

Those building investment portfolios have always had to study consumer trends and watch out for those with winning new products.

Governments want to buy more defence technology and companies need to consider how they can raise their game and lower their costs by relying even more on ever-smarter computers. But choices made by consumers will be the primary driver of "the next big thing".



GARDENING ON THE GRAND SCALE WITH LORD HESELTINE

Clear blue sky and glorious sunshine welcomed the Gardeners to Thenford, where Lord Heseltine introduced us to his home, his son Rupert, and the story behind this 40-year-old garden project.

Then, armed with maps to the estate, we set out to enjoy the Heseltines' creation in its full spring glory, with so many trees and shrubs bursting into flower and leaf.

This is tree planting on a huge scale with over 3,000 trees in 70 acres, and apparently very few duplicates. There are more than 250 different acers alone. The planting is not traditional – no pinetum or oak glade here. The trees are mixed together to ensure a succession of interest throughout the year in every area of the grounds. The new leaves of the acers popped with colour against the blue sky, the later magnolias still showed off their flowers and the strong structures of trees just coming into leaf provided a wonderful backdrop.

But trees are just part of the story. A long, dramatic herbaceous border set against the outer wall of the walled garden is now being mirrored on the opposite side of a grassy avenue: a recently planted beech hedge will one day mimic the brick wall. The scale and ambition of the concept is truly impressive.

As you walk into the two-acre walled garden, a stone plaque bears a quote from Cicero reminding the visitor "If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need". Apart from the fruit trees lining its walls and some fruit cages, this garden is not the usual productive area. It has the feel and formality of a Victorian pleasure

garden with blocks of monochrome planting, hedging, an aviary, domes and domed rose cages, mirror pools and a fountain. An acquired taste for some.

Outside, the rill and adjacent pond glistened attractively in the sunshine. Not a place for quiet contemplation though as small fountains played noisily on every level disturbing the water surface to sparkling effect. If you were looking for calm, the hedged compartments of the sculpture garden were a more tranquil environment showcasing works by Modern British sculptors such as Elisabeth Frink and Lynn Chadwick, though a vast head of Lenin jolts the visitor back to the moment. Apparently, it came from the roof of the KGB headquarters in Latvia.

Then there was the Mound and the Trough Garden – why buy troughs in ones or twos when you can buy them in tens or twenties to recreate what turned out to be a false memory for Lord Heseltine? There never was a wisteria growing in a trough in the garden he remembers: now at Thenford there are several...

Meandering back through the trees a waft of scent from a hidden bush needed tracking down (a mahonia, as it turned out) and we discovered the exquisitely delicate flowers of an Acer negundo. Another first among so many, on a joyfully uplifting afternoon. The whole garden is an incredible achievement for which all gardeners owe thanks to the dedication and vision of Anne and Michael Heseltine.

Report by Helen Potts



The fountain in the Walled Garden: an acquired taste?

THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE AND ENGLISH GARDEN DESIGN

This year's Fairchild lecture was given on 7th June at St Giles Cripplegate by Robert Peel, a geographer, horticulturist and garden historian. His subject was the gardens of Italy. He spoke of the different influences Italian gardens had exercised on garden design generally and how it had developed in Italy.

In the 15th and 16th Centuries the English, and others too, made use of balustrades, statuary, fountains and sunken gardens, all as a result of Italian influences.

The two Royal families of Italy each had their influences on garden design. The Savoy family, outside Turin, embraced the concept of a landscaped park while the Bourbons in Naples favoured an English style of garden. The Villa Borghese, in Rome, was also seen to favour the English style. This was followed by an architectural approach, with hard and soft landscaping, and a parkland setting. But spaces were treated with less formality, sometimes creating a domestic feeling, with roses and stone fountains and favouring the opening up of the garden into the surrounding landscape.

The problems of the designer included, in some cases, the need to incorporate an engineering project into the landscaping, for example to provide a reservoir to supply fountains and to control the flow of water in a stream (to prevent the garden being washed away in the event of a sudden flood).

Another problem to be overcome was the difficulty of providing plants in Italy, where there were few nurseries. The landscape might itself

be a problem where the design had to suit the topography which might include mountains, hillsides or valleys.

With the restoration of the gardens at the Villa Medici, the owners were also motivated by different and important philanthropic considerations such as the need to prevent soil erosion by planting trees, as well as providing local employment, which led to a vastly improved agricultural scene.

Following the lecture there was a surprise dedication of a small new stained glass window by Caroline Swash, commemorating William Catesby, a prominent horticulturist. It included representations of Catesby's skillful illustrations around the borders of the window, including

some now extinct birds, a green tree frog and a butterfly. These alternated with Willow Oak, Bald Cypress, Laurel Greenbriar and Hercules Club, and with the red blossomed Leopard Lily (*Lilium catesbaei*) and the Bahamian Lilythorn (*Catesbaea spinosa*), both named after Catesby.

The window was thoroughly blessed with a large sprig of Rosemary which delivered a serious splashing of water, made holy before our eyes, and the Master received his share of the blessed water.

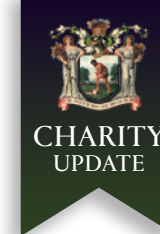
Afterwards we adjourned for a most agreeable supper at Manicomio City in Gutter Lane.

Report by Diana Uff



The new Catesby window at St Giles Cripplegate.

GARDENERS' CHARITY NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



David Aitchison-Tait explains changes to the trustees and the drive to communicate and continue the Charity's good works.

Back in November of last year when Peter Waine was the Master, he asked if I would become a Trustee of our Charity. The bit I missed in our conversation was *"and be Chair"*. It's been a hard act to follow the Chairmanship of Norman Chalmers who served for many years. I would also like to thank the many years of service by Brian Porter (Treasurer) and Trevor Faris (Secretary), both of whom have also retired. The Charity Treasurer is now David Balfour and the Secretary is Helen Potts.

How your money is being used

Like, I suspect, other members of the Company, I have been paying an annual donation to the Charity for many years without knowing how my donation was used and which good causes were being supported.

New presence in The Spade

To rectify this, every future edition of The Spade will contain four pages of Charity news. Readers will learn where grants are going and, most importantly, the impact they are having.

From time to time, we will invite our sister charity, Future Gardeners, to tell you about its work and how it is helping to change the lives of those who attend its courses.

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity (to give it its full name) now has a grant application form on the public side of the Company website which can be found under the Charitable Activities tab. We Trustees encourage Company members to act

as a sponsor to grant applications, provided that the organisation fits the Charity's criteria which are: Education and training in horticulture, conservation, maintenance and improvement of the environment, changing public attitudes towards the natural environment for the better, advancement of horticulture through science, and charities connected to The City of London.

Do you know of a worthy cause?

So, if you know of an organisation or charity that would match the criteria, please do ask them to apply for a grant. We can't promise they will be awarded one, but nothing ventured nothing gained!

Revised constitution

Within the last few months, the Charity has revised its constitution. The original one was written in 1962 so we felt it was high time for an update. We have moved to a modern form of charity known as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our new constitution, along with various policies and the last set of accounts, can be found on the members' side of the Company website under the Committees tab. (Please note: the Charity is a separate entity from the Company and it is listed under Committees only for convenience).

Charity is the mainstay of the Livery movement

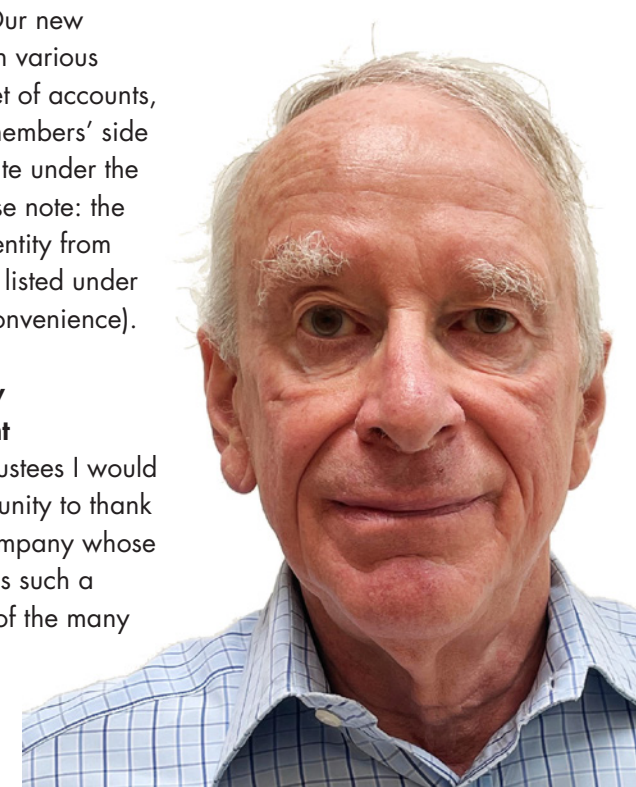
On behalf of all the Trustees I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Company whose annual donation makes such a difference to the lives of the many people helped by the grants that we award.

Objectives of the Company

May I remind you of one of the Objectives of the Company? *"Support charitable activities especially those connected with horticulture, primarily through the Company Charity but also through other associated charities"*. As a Livery we have a proud history of charity which is only made possible by your donations. Charity is a mainstay of the Livery movement in which all members of our Company have a part to play. There is a small minority of members whose donations have lapsed, no doubt unintentionally. Reminder letters have been sent out and I would urge recipients to respond.

Enjoy reading the following pages where you will learn about some of the Charity's work.

David Aitchison-Tait, Chairman



HELPING EX-SERVICEMEN IN THEIR REHABILITATION



In November 2021, The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity awarded a grant of £1,000 to Care for Veterans.

Care for Veterans is a charity based in Worthing, West Sussex, which provides care and rehabilitation for disabled ex-Service personnel and their dependants.

Many residents have an Acquired Brain Injury or other neurological condition, with most needing a wheelchair to move around their facility. As part of their ongoing therapies to improve and maintain quality of life, engaging in light gardening activities is widely

encouraged by the team and has become a key part of many of the residents' routines.

Improving their mobility

This grant has helped with the costs of running the Gardening Club at the charity, enabling them to buy essential supplies such as seeds, compost and seed trays. With these funds, residents have been able to continue reaping the benefits of gardening. Planting, pruning, and weeding all improve finger-thumb dexterity, hand-eye coordination, and upper limb and body strength. The skills learned will help other aspects of daily living and improve their mobility and independence.

Furthermore, gardening has added a sense of purpose and focus to the lives of veterans, as they enjoy giving something back to the charity by helping to create and maintain lovely floral displays that other veterans can enjoy.

Craig Burley, Rehabilitation Technician at Care for Veterans told us: *"Residents gain a real sense of achievement seeing how the flowers have grown, with the garden and floral displays providing the perfect setting for other therapy and relaxation activities. We are hugely grateful for the kind support given by The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity."*



Members of the Gardening Club help to create displays for other veterans to enjoy



Gardening has added a sense of purpose to their lives



Wheelchair using veterans are able to improve their dexterity

RAISED BEDS TO HELP THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS



The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity awarded £755 for the purchase of four wheelchair-friendly raised planters.

Plant Pots and Wellies is a voluntary community project providing horticultural therapy for people of all ages with additional needs including neurological, mental health and physical challenges.

Rowen Saunders of Plant Pots and

Wellies said: *"The raised beds that we were able to buy with the money you granted enabled us to provide wheelchair accessible growing beds (the triangular design in the base means that wheelchairs can be pushed in close, so that leaning over to get to the beds isn't required). The beds are also great for other mobility issues and physical restrictions such as bad backs. Our gardeners all built and painted the beds. We also designed and built cages to fit onto the top of the beds,*

to reduce pest damage."
"Thank you to the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for helping us achieve all this."



Special raised beds for wheelchair users allows access for gardening

HELPING VULNERABLE WOMEN TO REGAIN CONFIDENCE

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity recently donated £500 for horticultural materials and equipment to the Church Homeless Trust

Since 2016, Church Homeless Trust has run therapeutic gardening sessions at Queen Mary in Westminster, a scheme providing housing and support to homeless women with complex mental health issues between the ages of 16 to 65.

Sessions with horticultural therapist

The sessions are led by a horticultural therapist from Thrive who applies a range of psychologically-informed techniques as she leads the group in activities that benefit their mental and physical health and social skills. The sessions at Queen Mary, and the garden itself, have become a central part of life at the service, and have been instrumental in the mental and physical recoveries of many of its residents. The horticultural therapist noted: *"Many of the residents had increased in stamina and confidence*

since they started attending the sessions and were volunteering to do much harder work than before".

What the residents said: (names withheld)

"This was my saviour, I would have killed myself otherwise" - D

"So relaxing, watering, it's feeding life" - P

"I like doing gardening, it keeps me occupied and gives me a sense of purpose" - D

"When I was really bad, the garden calmed me down. The jasmine smells divine, I really cherish it when it flowers" - M

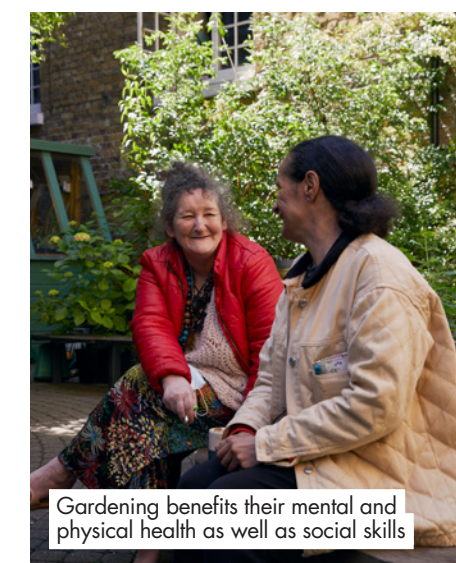
"Gardening makes me happy and calm. It's very therapeutic, it's a bit like meditation" - P

"I'm grateful for the gardening group" - S

Church Homeless Trust fundraiser Phoebe Abbott said: *"The grant of £500 was very much appreciated by all of the staff at CHT, Thrive, the hostels, and of course the participants of the gardening project."*



Sessions in the garden have been instrumental in helping residents



Gardening benefits their mental and physical health as well as social skills

3-YEAR GRANT TO THRIVE'S GROWING OUT PROGRAMME



This year The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity granted the Thrive charity £30,000 in annual £10,000 tranches to fund their Growing Out programme. Becs Baumber of Thrive explains how the project works.

Helping with mental health

Growing Out consists of two courses – Pathways and Level 1 (leading to City & Guilds Level 1 in Practical Horticulture Skills). It provides an accessible, structured and purposeful opportunity for adults living with mental ill-health. Trained social and therapeutic horticulture practitioners use the safe environment of our gardens in Battersea Park and jobs in the garden to build programmes to address the needs of each participant in order to improve health, wellbeing and become more active in their community.

Gaining qualifications

Starting on Pathways, clients attend weekly sessions for up to 26 weeks. As they benefit from this non-qualification environment, the practitioner can assess them and route them to the appropriate level of qualification or onward progression. The City & Guilds Level 1 qualification in Practical Horticulture course involves both theory and practical assessment of various aspects of working in the horticultural world, including plant identification, health & safety as well as the garden maintenance tasks such as pruning, mulching, weeding etc.

Focussed support

A key aspect of what makes our programme special is that our Client Services Coordinators support our clients for their onward progression to their next opportunity. They work

with a wide network of organisations and these strong connections ensure there is a sense of continuity for clients to feel supported as they take their next steps from Thrive.

A case study

One example is Tony who since childhood has lived with severe and complex OCD, depression and anxiety that completely took over his life. His intrusive obsessions and somewhat controlling thoughts around cleanliness had left him feeling reliant on medication and lengthy visits to psychologists, something he no longer wanted to depend on. Fortunately Tony found Thrive and he enrolled onto the Growing Out programme. Tony was able to use activities like potting and mulching to improve his health and promote wellbeing.

A calming environment

He found the garden a calming place where intrusive thoughts were replaced by positive ones. It might be surprising that with Tony's experiences of OCD around cleanliness, being surrounded by so much soil and dirt could have been a trigger, but it wasn't. Thrive's practitioners worked with Tony to face his challenges and empower him to use horticulture to manage and escape invasive thoughts. It shows how a garden's rich sensory intake can help replace a negative mindset and build a positive one.

What Tony gained from the Growing Out programme

Tony said: *"Before joining Thrive I felt isolated, lost and unsure of the world. But that changed when the Thrive programme was recommended to me by my GP. This amazing opportunity was very much out of my comfort zone, however, I*

quickly settled into the environment with the support and encouragement of the Thrive staff, volunteers and my fellow client gardeners. Gardening at Thrive has helped me enormously, providing a positive routine and that little bit of energy to step outside of my home. Working in the Old English Garden has given me a sense of happiness within myself. Not only can I give back to the community with the work that I do, but I can also see the growth within the garden and myself."

Becs Baumber concluded: *"We are deeply grateful to the Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity for their generous grant over 3 years, which enables us to deliver our Growing Out programme in our gardens in Battersea Park."*



Before joining Thrive, Tony felt "Isolated, lost and unsure of the world." He now has a sense of happiness within himself

A COMPANY PILGRIMAGE TO THE GLORIOUS GARDENS OF ROME

Andrew Peck, Lucy Stewart Van Liew, Angela Chambers and Joy Roscoe report on the Master's action-packed five-day trip to Rome in May

DAYS 1 & 2

Torrechia Vecchia, deep in the countryside south of Rome, is a converted farmhouse and barn next to the remains of a medieval village and surrounded by a beautiful garden which makes full use of the contours of the site.

Entering the courtyard, we were immediately hit by the aroma of orange and lemon flowers on trees which were also already in fruit. Then, turning the corner into the lawn, there was the almost overpowering perfume of wisteria floribunda growing over the pergola under which the party was due to have a light lunch.

The party then moved on to Ninfa, another garden in the countryside built around a ruined village but the atmosphere and the feel of it were very different, being flatter with fewer enclosed spaces and with pathways.

The following day took the party to the headquarters of the Order of the Knights of Malta at the top of the Aventine hill. We walked there via the Roseto of Rome, a municipal rose garden planted with hundreds of different roses from around the world. The afternoon was spent visiting the Villa Wolkonsky, the residence of the British Ambassador.

DAY 3

We spent Friday absorbing Rome's cultural layers in the Borghese Gardens. This large park in the centre of Rome, provides shade and cool green spaces, stunning views

over the city, and many examples of Roman and renaissance monuments. We began at Villa Giuliani's, admiring the stunning 16th Century frescos depicting grape pergolas, friezes in the grotesque style and fern laden grottoes.

We spent time in the Villa Borghese, where paintings and sculpture including Bernini and Caravaggio are set within richly decorated rooms.

At Villa Medici the gardens have been undergoing restoration to both reflect their 16th Century formal design and current ecological and conservation concerns, particularly the health of the iconic Umbrella Pines.

DAY 4

We started our day in the impressive Vatican Gardens, which have a viewpoint of St Peter's Basilica from almost every part of its 57 acres. The grounds date back to Pope Nicholas II (1277-1280) and include gardens, parks, buildings and monuments. The 'English' garden has a relaxing woodland landscape planted with cedars, cypresses, holm oak, olive, bay and myrtle, and contains numerous statues and fountains.



The Italian Garden at the Vatican (photograph Angela Chambers).

By contrast the 'Italian' garden is formal with two huge flowerbeds and fountains, mirror images of each other, bordered by box hedges. Inside the beds evergreen hedges create arabesques.

In the afternoon we travelled 30 kilometres southeast of Rome to visit the Barberini Gardens of Castel Gandolfo, which Pope Francis opened to the public in 2014.

DAY 5

"Quick, quick! Keep moving! Ants!, ants!" The calm air of La Landriana's Grey garden was shattered. Hopping from foot to foot we moved swiftly through the Mediterranean planting, with its broad beds, symmetrical design and olive trees pruned like candelabra. But our arrival had been delightful, walking up an avenue of olives, into a gravelled courtyard graced by a rare Pink Pepper tree, *Schinus molle*.

La Landriana lies in the campagna 55km south of Rome. Not yet suffering from global change, it has a mild climate - min 10C, max 32C, rainy, humid – and the garden continues to grow many of the original plant varieties chosen by Marchesa Lavinia Taverna.



THE IPM REFLECTS ON HIS YEAR

A year as Master can be summed up in a mere five words: a year like no other. Neither the anticipation nor the long and detailed preparation will prepare one for the almost endless and disparate activities and experiences of those magical and unique 12 months.

Friends who say they never see you simply don't understand. New friends are made, places visited, often as a principal guest of another Master, conversations around the banquet tables flow readily under the steady gaze of long dead Masters in halls that never disappoint and each is different.

We are the means of adding to a long and noble tradition, temporary custodians of the legacies of legions of others who served before us. There is a constant mixture of juggling livery affairs, of the responsibilities that come with the plethora of ex officio roles one holds, including that of Vice President of various bodies and committees, bestowed on the Master as if by magic.

As Master, Court has an added poignancy, sitting in a semi regal chair whilst presiding over the matters of today, our day, one of many days in our long history.

Some of the other events and roles have origins almost lost in time, such as the Trial of the Pyx, checking that the currency has not been debased, a role we have carried out since Saxon times.

St Paul's plays a central role. Sitting under its great dome accompanied by the silent presence of the tombs of the great and in some cases the now forgotten; placing a cross in memory of our fallen fellow gardeners; the seasons roll by, their spades are hung up but they are never forgotten.

There are lectures to attend, music to enjoy, fairs to visit - those hosted by the Goldsmiths and the Turners are to experience tomorrow's heritage.

We are fortunate in the Gardeners as we have gardens to visit, no excuses needed. We have the opportunity of having young gardeners to nurture.

The liveries combined constitute the biggest charitable giving group in Europe. We are steeped in the past, but we are relevant to the present and we influence the future. Long may that be the case as I slip back into the ranks of the Assistants having been given the opportunity by my kindly fellow Gardeners to serve, something I will always cherish and with gratitude.

Peter Waine

THAMES REFLECTIONS

SPM Stephen Bernhard was still making waves for the Company during the Thames Reflections Flotilla held on 24th September in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II. One hundred and fifty craft took part in an illuminated procession down the Thames.

Stephen's barge 'Leonie' was honoured to lead the Royal Row Barge, 'Gloriana' from Chelsea to Tower Bridge where a salute was taken to His Majesty King Charles III. Leaders of the City of London were guests on board 'Gloriana'.