

THE SPADE



SPRING COURT DINNER
PAYS TRIBUTE TO TONY
KIRKHAM, MAN OF TREES

CHARITY UPDATE:
MORE NEWS OF
OUR GIVING

POLLINATING
LONDON
AT THE LORD
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THE CITY:
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THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



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

Do visit our recently refreshed website. The public or first page 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

Dear fellow Gardeners, His Majesty the King is taking a keen interest in the design of the two lead planters which, in collaboration with the Plumbers' Company, we are planning to present to our new King and Queen to mark the Coronation.

The planters will be installed at the front of Sandringham, the Royal Family's country retreat, where they will be seen by visiting members of the public. A delegation has visited the site to discuss the positioning and the plants to go in them with the Head Gardener.

We hope Company members will wish to contribute to the cost of the lead planters. It has been agreed that members contributing £50 or more will have their names inscribed on a special page in the Company's Golden Book. The Golden Book in the main contains the signatures of distinguished guests at formal functions and is one of our treasures. Go to our website's Events page to make your contribution.

My year of office continues to speed by with almost every day providing a new, intriguing or unexpected experience. Recent weeks have seen me with my Consort Lynne at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party where it didn't rain and where despite catching no more than a glimpse of a Royal head we had a wonderful time eating seriously good sandwiches and cake and admiring the costumes, the shoes and the immaculate gardens.

I was privileged to be part of a huge congregation at St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate and mark the 900th anniversary of the founding of St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great. I learned that both were

founded by Rahere, a courtier, pilgrim and favourite of Henry I.

On a pilgrimage to Rome, Rahere fell ill and had a vision of St Bartholomew who directed him to establish a religious hospital. Upon his return to England he followed this calling and founded the church and priory at Smithfield. He was installed as prior, a position he held until his death. The chosen site was described at the time as "very foul... like a marsh... abounded with filth and muddy water". Dry land was reserved for executing thieves.

We had a very successful outing to Hampton Court Palace and Gardens at the end of March. A group of stalwart Gardeners braved the rain to enjoy an excellent tour by Head Gardener Graham Dillamore. When I first met Graham a year ago he advised late March as the best time to enjoy the huge tulip displays for which the garden is justly famous rather than going in April. Such have been the vagaries of our recent winter and early spring that we arrived on the last day of March, too soon for the tulips but just in time for the last of the daffodils.

In April we spent a very full day at Chelsea Physic Garden where the sun shone, our various guides inspired with their knowledge and enthusiasm and one felt privileged to enjoy these remarkable four acres which are this year celebrating 350 years of continuous contribution to botany, medicine and horticulture.

The serious work of the Company has continued too. Past Master Sir David Green has completed the review I asked him to carry out into our involvement with the Nuffield Foundation and the question of us sponsoring future Nuffield Scholars.

His recommendations will be shared with the membership following presentation to the Fairchild Court.

Spadebearer Robert Howard continues his consultations across the Company in order to produce a Strategic Review of all our activities. He is due to report by the end of this calendar year. The object is to inform our planning for the future, to help us shape the Company so that it is fit and ready for the challenges of our changing world. To make sure that it continues to flourish root and branch for ever.

We have also been busy recruiting a new Clerk to replace Major Jeremy Herrtage and his assistant Nicky who step down at the end of my year. I'm delighted to tell you that we have found a very promising candidate. Full details will be revealed in due course.

There are lots of exciting things still to come. One engagement that stands out for me is that I will be leading a small party to Holyrood Palace on 4th July in order to present on behalf of the Company a coronation bouquet to Queen Camilla. The 4th July is my last full day as your Master. How about that for a last hurrah!

John Gilbert



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 June 2023	THE WORSHIPFUL GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME Zoom	David Domoney will chair a panel of expert Company members to answer your thorny gardening questions.	The Company, Partners & Guests
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, Scampston Hall and Breezy Knees. We will visit the medieval hall of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York and spend a day at Bishopthorpe Palace, home of the Archbishop of York. Those who wish to may attend the Eucharist.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 5th July 2023	INSTALLATION COURT DINNER Black tie	The start of the Gardeners' year with the installation of the new Master in this splendid hall with an enclosed garden and the organ on which we will be entertained. Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Threadneedle Street EC2R 8JB.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 13th July, 2023	DON GIOVANNI and his GARDEN Black tie preferred	An early afternoon visit to the gardens of Glyndebourne with the head gardener followed by tea before the performance of Mozart's Don Giovanni. Bring your own picnic for the Long Supper Interval. Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex BN85UU.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 29th August, 2023	ULTING WICK and FURZELEA Comfortable attire	Liveryman Philippa Burrough has invited the Company for a day visit to her award winning garden Ulting Wick and the nearby Furzelea garden in Essex showcasing late summer colour in the driest part of England. Ulting, Maldon CM9 6QX.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 5th – Sat 9th September 2023	EDINBURGH AND THE BORDERS Comfortable attire; jacket and tie/ equivalent for evenings.	Arrive on 5th September for a three-day visit centred around Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and its Arboretum in the Borders as well as other specialist gardens. The Master Wax Chandler, the Master's Consort, is bringing her Company as well.	The Company, Partners & Guests.
Thurs 14th September 2023	GARDENS SPACES AND SURPRISING PLACES Comfortable attire	City of London Guide Robert Woolf will lead us on a late morning City walk which meanders past some lesser known sites and unexpected survivors conveniently finishing for a pub lunch.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 5th October 2023	PETTIFERS Comfortable attire	Pettifers is an outstanding garden in Wardington, Banbury, Oxfordshire created by Gina Price. OX17 1RU.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 17th October 2023	NYMANS GARDEN and LUNCH Comfortable attire	Nymans is a National Trust garden in Handcross, West Sussex set around a romantic and partially ruined house. We will have a morning visit followed by lunch in their new restaurant space. RH17 6EB.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 24th October 2023	AUTUMN COURT DINNER Black tie	Both the Autumn Court Dinner and the Spring Court Lunch will be held at Wax Chandlers' Hall, being the hall of the Master's Consort in her capacity as its Master. Members are invited to provide advance notice as to which of these two events they would prefer to attend, given that the capacity of Wax Chandler's Hall is only 75. At the Autumn Court dinner we will as usual be presenting our student craft prizes.	The Company and Partners
Tue 7th November 2023	COMPANY CATCH UP Zoom	The first of the year's Company Catch ups will showcase our long-standing competition Flowers in the City.	The Company & Partners
Wed 15th November 2023	LINNEAN SOCIETY LECTURE Smart casual attire	Assistant Katarina Heldring-Morris has once again organised a fascinating late afternoon lecture to be given by Dr Jonathan Drori, author of Around the World in 80 Plants, also the subject this year. There will be other activities beforehand at the Linnean Society. Supper afterwards locally.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 30th November 2023	MY JOURNEY THROUGH THE PALMS Zoom	Robin Clark, until recently a resident of Kauai, has developed three major personal gardens, two in California and one in Hawaii. He will discuss the establishment and maintenance of these gardens, with a major emphasis on palms. The history and palms of Lord Howe island in Australia will also be included. There may be some practical aspects for UK gardeners!	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 6th December 2023	CHRISTMAS CAROLS and DINNER Lounge suits/equivalent	This year we will be joining the Wax Chandlers Company for Christmas carols at St Vedast Church with its magnificent choir followed by both Companies dining at the adjacent Goldsmiths' Hall.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Mon 18th December 2023	TRADESCANT COURT LUNCH Lounge suits/equivalent	Our annual Court lunch to celebrate the Tradescants and their contribution to horticulture. Ironmongers' Hall.	Court only

WELCOME BACK TO OUR ANNUAL MANSION HOUSE BANQUET...

The Master, his consort Professor Lynne Berry CBE, the Upper Warden and the Renter Warden welcomed guests as they entered the splendour of the Mansion House's Egyptian Room.

In Company tradition the tables were wonderfully adorned with outstanding floral displays created by Assistant Miles Watson-Smyth with Assistant Ron Froud creating the large pedestal arrangements and the Byford Bowl arrangement in front of the Master's table.

Upper Warden Nicholas Woolf welcomed the Master's guests: the Deacon of the Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow, Mr Paul Carnan and his Consort Mrs Fiona Carnan; the Past Deacon, Mr Lorne Scott; our guest speaker the Director General of the RHS Dr Clare Matterson CBE and finally our hosts for the evening, the Lord Mayor The Right Honourable Nicholas Lyons and the Lady Mayoress Mrs Felicity Lyons.

Other principal guests included from the Zunft Zu Gartnern, Basel, Herr Stephan Grassmann and from the Company, Senior Past Master Sir David Howard Bt.

The Lord Mayor responded on behalf of the guests. He spoke of the need for a resilient, resourceful, and responsible City especially in the areas of green and sustainable finance. He highlighted the importance of horticulture and the value he placed on all the work of our Company and in particular the support we give to the Lord Mayor's Charity. He singled out Past Master Paul Rochford for his contribution to the success of the Big Curry lunch.

The Lord Mayor also took the opportunity to present the Lord Mayor's Spoon to our own Clerk, Jeremy Herrtage, for his 12 years of service to the Company.

The Master thanked the Lord Mayor for his kind words and for allowing us to use the Mansion House. He went on to introduce guest speaker for the evening Dr Clare Matterson CBE the recently appointed Director General of the RHS.

Dr Matterson talked about her short time in the post of Director General and commented on it being a great organisation with great people and she outlined her ambitions to take the organization even further in the future. In closing she made special mention of the new RHS gardens at Bridgewater, Salford and recommended we all make a visit there.

The Master then made a special presentation to Senior Past Master Sir David Howard of a gift of the Company crest in the form of a carved oak plaque as a mark of gratitude for his service to the

Company and for his generosity in allowing the Company the use of offices at Charles Stanley over many years.

In recent years Covid has had an impact on much of the Company's activities and rituals especially at dinners where social distancing and reduced social interaction has been necessary. Even the sharing of the Loving Cup has been forgone but not this evening! The Master introduced chocolate treats to the cups instead of wine, these to be plucked from the cup and eaten. A novel and interesting change and one that was enjoyed by everyone.

On the tables were cards from the Master noting that a tree had been gifted and planted for each person attending the banquet. A personal reference number indicated each individual tree, a *Senegalia laeta*, and its location in the commune of Goudiry in the Sahel region of Senegal. The trees are part of a reforestation programme which will be contributing to climate adaptation and mitigation in the region.

Report by Bob Ivison



IT'S A HARD ROAD TO NET ZERO BUT THERE ARE BIG OPPORTUNITIES

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has produced its sixth assessment and report about progress on the road to net zero. It tells us that, on current plans from the leading countries, there will be a larger rise than the 1.5 degrees increase in world temperature it has set as a guide this century.

To stay within the 1.5-degree increase, it says greenhouse gas emissions need to fall by 43% by 2030, or to stay below 2 degrees a cut of 21% is needed by the end of this decade. The IPCC, of course, wants the world to commit to doing much more to cut fossil-fuel use. It points out that there are many available technologies to allow reductions in greenhouse gas output. The remedies are familiar:

- Favouring renewable electricity
- A switch of fossil fuel energy to electricity where possible
- The use of hydrogen and battery technologies
- Changes to diet and agriculture
- Better insulated buildings
- More tree planting and rewilding
- Reducing demand for fossil-fuel intensive travel and industrial processes

Its report implies it is unlikely the world will make such a large adjustment this decade, with national plans as submitted falling well short of what the Panel thinks is needed.

The energy industries that are also in the business of forecasting patterns of energy use still think the world could be using as much oil in 2030 as it is today, with oil and gas demand expected to remain strong.

The IPCC view concentrates on

influencing governments and large companies as agents of change. The two largest emitters after China, the US and the EU, both have substantial programmes to cut their carbon dioxide output. China accounts for 30% of the world's carbon monoxide each year, is investing heavily in renewable and electrical technology, but is also using more coal, oil and gas to drive her faster growth rate.

All the time the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide is still increasing its output it is difficult to get to substantial global reductions. China has promised to reach a peak in output later this decade. India is also a substantial producer of carbon dioxide with a lower income per head than China.

In practice, the green revolution also requires buy-in from everyone as consumers. The IPCC talks less about the need for many people to change their lifestyles and pattern of consumption. To get to net zero people have got to want to travel less by jet plane and petrol car, to eat less meat, to spend on greatly improved home insulation, to change home heating, to buy products from companies that have eliminated or greatly reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

There will be more investment in renewable electricity and electricity grid and cable capacity as people buy and use more electrically driven heating, transport and cooking.

Once consumers flock to buy green products, the private sector can take care of the supply issues and put more people to work making the goods in demand. Consumers are divided in opinions on this topic. Some strongly support the IPCC findings and do all they

can to green their purchasing. Some agree with the general policies but do not think they can make much difference themselves. Some would like to make a difference but do not yet think the products available meet their needs. Some are sceptical of the whole thesis and policy agenda.

Meanwhile, there are plans to adapt to the consequences of a rising temperature as well as investments to remove carbon dioxide output to limit the rise. Places that will get drier as they get hotter need more investment in some mixture of water storage, irrigation and desalination. Places that may get more water than they want from heavy rainfall and enlarged river flows need works to channel the water flows or store excess water in safer areas whilst the floods subside. Locations threatened by sea level rise or coastal erosion need better defences to hold back the sea.

The IPCC tells us the sea level has risen eight inches since 1901 and could rise more. All these plans make work for the worldwide construction industry, for the utility businesses and for the producers of everything from cars to heating units. Investors are needed to back the winners and provide the capital for this immense undertaking.



ROBERT HOWARD'S VIEW FROM THE CITY.

SPRING COURT DINNER PAYS TRIBUTE TO TONY KIRKHAM, MAN OF TREES

Once again at Ironmongers' Hall, the Spring Court dinner was held on Tuesday 28 March 2023. No ordinary event, the evening also doubled for the 2022 Autumn Court Dinner, which fell victim to a rail strike. So we had all the more reason to celebrate.

And we did. In the splendour of the Hall, by tables decorated with flowers and to the sound of Tom Gough on the piano, we applauded the Procession, said grace and the dinner began.

New Liverymen Garry Coward Williams, Zoe Jasko, Marilyn Anderson and Jenny Bolton-Clark were introduced by the Master, then attention turned to the main course. That cleared away, it was time for the Master to present the Prince Edward Award for Excellence in Horticultural Career Development.

This went to Tony Kirkham, former Head of Arboretum at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, in recognition of his illustrious career and service to trees. The prize itself is a copy of The Queen's Mulberries – A Celebratory Book. This is an exquisite, large-format (495 x 349mm) collection of paintings, which the Master kindly held aloft open, so we could glimpse one of the pages.

Mr Kirkham thanked the Master, then gave us an insight into his life as a man of trees. Age 10, and listening to teacher Miss Beazley tell the class about why a horse chestnut tree is so called, his interest was fired and a lifelong passion for all that is tree followed. Leaving school age 15, with three O-levels to his name, he embarked on a career culminating in his role at Kew. It is that inspiration we need to generate in young people today, by whatever

means – he described games he has developed for this very purpose – to ensure a healthy future for trees and in consequence, for the environment.

Held over from Autumn Court, the Master introduced the student prize winners, drawn from Capel Manor College, Kew, Writtle College, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Royal Parks. We applauded Tom Gough for his playing and, following the Loyal Toasts, Jeremy Storey-Walker introduced the guests.

We had the pleasure of the company of Mr Tony Kirkham, the Master Ironmonger, the Master Fruiterer, the Master Needlemaker, the Master Tinplate Worker, Mr Alan Down, President of the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) and Mrs Claire Horton, Director General, Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The response was made by Mr Alan Down, who thanked the Company for supporting a Nuffield scholar, which he fully applauds and sees as very relevant to the development of horticulture. He

gave some highlights of his career at Hillier's, including pioneering the containerised production of nursery stock, and the development of peat-free compost. The problems then were in many ways similar to the problems facing horticulture now.

The Master gave us an update on our Coronation gift of lead planters for Sandringham, mentioned the Coronation Banquet, praised our Livery's continued support for the Big Curry Lunch and concluded by thanking everyone for attending this Spring Court Dinner.

Immediately before the Dinner, in a separate ceremony, the Master presented prizes to the student and apprentice winners. They were: Capel Manor College, Tomas Stehlik, Fabian Hoyte. Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Emily Hazell. Writtle University College, Nathan Smith, Elizabeth Lorck-Schiering. Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Robert Thomson. Royal Parks Apprentices, the George Cook Award, Aimee Spanswick.

Report by Joy Roscoe



Tony Kirkham MBE, VMH, captivated his audience with an inspirational speech at Ironmongers' Hall. Photograph by Helen Potts.

FLOWERS IN THE CITY SUMMER COMPETITION 2022 WINNERS

The Summer Competition awards were presented at the Mansion House on 10th October 2022. Photographs by Nick Evans.

Best Small Display

Hung Drawn and Quartered PH
26-27 Great Tower Street,
EC3R 5AQ

Best Medium Display

Inn of Court PH, 18 Holborn,
EC1N 2LE

Best Large Display

Four Seasons Hotel at Ten Trinity
Square, EC3N 4AJ

Enclosed Courtyard

Fleet Place, EC4M 7WS

Best Small Garden

Vegetable Garden at Temple,
EC4Y 9BT

Howard for Best Large Garden

Middle Temple, EC4Y9BT

James Miller

Reflection Garden
25 Cannon St, EC4M 9AF

Edward Wright for Best Floral Street

Temple Avenue, EC4Y 0HP

Master's Special Award

88 Wood Street, Barbican
EC2V 7QR

Best Indoor Garden

Sky Garden, 1 Sky Garden Walk
EC3M8AF

Livery Hall

Drapers' Garden, Throgmorton
Avenue, EC2N 2DQ

Dick Balfour

Cutlers' Hall, Warwick lane,
EC4M 7BR

Luder

Seething Lane, EC3N 4AT

Skyline

Cannon Bridge House
25 Dowgate Hill, EC4R 2SU

Living Wall

New Street Square, London,
EC4A 3BG

Exuberant planting at Cutlers' Hall
in Warwick Lane, winner of the Dick
Balfour Trophy.

A spectacular indoor display in the
reception area at 88 Wood Street,
winner of the Master's
Special Award.

Vibrant boxes and hanging baskets
at the Inn of Court public house,
winner of the Best Medium
display award.



A POSY FOR THE LADY MAYORESS AND POLLINATORS FOR THE CITY

A posy and buttonholes were
presented to the new Lord Mayor
and Lady Mayoress on the 12th
November last year, continuing a
tradition begun more than 30 years
ago by the late lamented Dick
Balfour when, as Master, he gave
roses from his garden to Liveryman
Lady Winifred McWilliams, the new
Lady Mayoress, wife of Sir Francis
McWilliams.

Accompanied by Upper Warden

Nicholas Woolf, Liveryman Michael
Balfour and PM Rex Thornborough,
Master John Gilbert attended the
Mansion House to present a bouquet
and buttonholes shortly before
Nicholas and Felicity Lyons entered
the gold coach to begin the Lord
Mayor's Show.

The posy for the Lady Mayoress and
three buttonholes for her sons Oliver,
Charles and Alistair were produced
by SPM Nick Evans.

Gardeners then took part in the
parade in the guise of our Pollinating
London Together project, disguised
as pollinating insects and steering
cycle delivery bikes laden with
pollinator-friendly plants. The
amazing costumes were produced
by a team which included artist Alex
Hirtzel, Suzanne Harkins and Jenny
Bolton-Clark



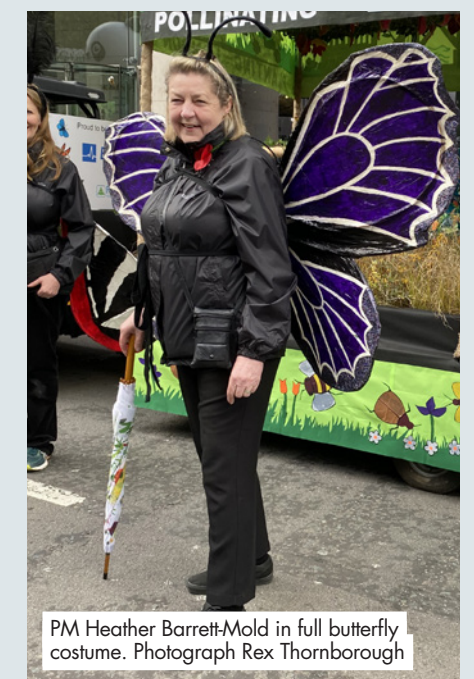
One of the delivery bikes planted with
pollinator-friendly plants.
Photograph John Gilbert.



Ready to roll. The PLT
team prepare to take off.
Photograph Rex Thornborough.



The Lady Mayoress and her sons with the Master, Upper Warden and
Liveryman Michael Balfour. Photograph Rex Thornborough.



PM Heather Barrett-Mold in full butterfly
costume. Photograph Rex Thornborough

TEA, LINNEAN TREASURES AND THE HORTICULTURE OF JAPAN

The Annual Linnean Lecture: 'The Linnaeus of Japan: Carl Peter Thunberg and how the world first came to know Japanese horticulture'

The Linnean Society were consummate hosts for our annual October visit to this learned society. The 30 guests were treated to a fascinating introductory video of the history and work of the Society, an overview of the collections including virtual tours of the Linnaeus archive, the notable works of art and the extent of the library and all of the collections.

The Library

Breaking up into two groups there was then an opportunity to receive an introduction to the Library. With its earliest book dating to 1483 the Society's collections cover every aspect of nature from plant and animals, ornithology, and early mycology to expedition reports, ecology and wildlife conservation.

During our visit we were shown photographs of some of the Society's notable women in their history whose black and white images watched us carefully as we were gathered in the room.

The glazed display cases are full of fascinating arrangements of pressed herbarium sheets, dried and pressed fish, handwritten journals and photographs dating from the 18th and 19th Centuries. The books extend in presses two floors high arranged in every available space. It is a beautiful and impressive collection.

Tea Tasting

Arleen Ouzounian, the founder of Nazani Tea <https://nazanitea.com/> imparted her extensive knowledge of the history and development of tea *Camellia sinensis* first helping us to understand the difference between green and black tea. We were then urged to try three different herbal teas infused from Roasted Spring Barley, Mimosa and Rooboos.

Once all back together Pauline Chakmakjian enthralled us with the history of Japan, its culture and, to an extent, its class system and how this has shaped trade throughout particularly the late 17th and into the 18th Centuries and how certain traditions persist even to this day. Ms Chakmakjian incredible knowledge and enthusiasm held us

in her thrall as she explained how Carl Peter Thunberg (1743-1828), a Swedish naturalist and 'apostle' of Carl Linnaeus, had been able to travel with the Dutch East India Company to Japan in August 1775. He was permitted to develop a network of contacts and be sent botanical samples even though at that time Japan was effectively a 'closed' country.

This came about in part because Thunberg had an understanding of how to treat syphilis, 'the Dutch disease' that was rife at the time. His scientific reputation and knowledge led to a cultural opening-up, giving him access to people and places not allowed to many.

Thunberg used this research and the knowledge gained to publish two scientific works of his findings 'Flora Japonica' (1784) and 'Fauna Japonica' (1833).

Dinner at a local hotel was enjoyed by the group and rounded out the evening perfectly.

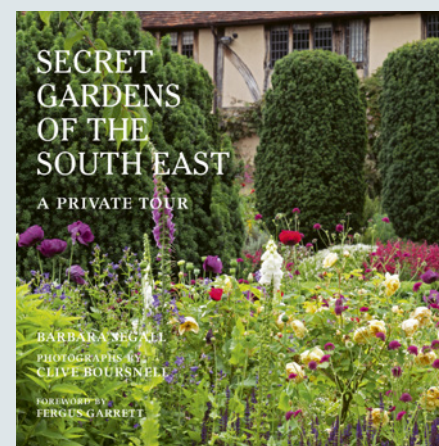
Report by Sue Medway

SECRET GARDENS OF THE SOUTH EAST, A PRIVATE TOUR

There are many beautiful gardens in the South East of England and in her latest book Assistant Barbara Segall has drawn together 20 privately owned gems in Kent, Sussex and Surrey. Among the better-known ones are Arundel Castle, Denmans, Gravetye Manor, Munstead Wood and Sussex Prairie Garden.

Visually sumptuous, the book is packed with some very fine garden

photography by Clive Boursnell which complements Barbara's highly readable text. Each garden is described in detail, its history explored and its owners encouraged to talk in revealing ways about their relationship with the object of their passions.



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the third edition of the charity pages in the Spade, where you can read about some of the grants we have recently made and the progress of those already awarded, says David Aitchison-Tait.

Over the past few months the trustees have continued to make small grants under our scheme. Small grants are applications for no more than £1,500. The trustees feel that organisations asking for these amounts require a decision sooner rather than later, as it is usually needed urgently. Grants over this sum are discussed at our two meetings per year, usually in

June and December. In the following pages you will find articles on some of them.

Grants made by our Charity that you may not be aware of are the prizes handed out at the Spring Court dinner to young people put forward by their tutors for exceptional work. As well as dining with us, a £250 award is given. At this year's dinner 10 prizes went to winners from The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; RHS Garden Wisley; the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; Capel and Writtle Colleges and The Royal Parks Guild.

Over the past few months the trustees have been contacting the handful of members who, due to misunderstanding, confusion or changes in the banking arrangements, missed an annual donation to the charity. This has resulted in almost all members now donating.

Over the summer, the trustees will be visiting some of the organisations that have received grants to ensure they are used as intended.

David Aitchison-Tait, Chairman

COLEGRAVE SEABROOK FOUNDATION HORT TECH AWARD WINNER

Dan Jones is the recipient of the £5,000 scholarship, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity.

Dan first became interested in plants and the environment while helping his grandmother in her garden, writes Jeff Colegrave. This led to him taking on his own garden, and starting gardening jobs for neighbours and friends. Such was his interest in horticulture that he enrolled for a BSc in Horticulture at Writtle University College and is now in his final year.

A talent for research

Dan's dissertation revolved around the study of the use of insect frass as a bio-fertiliser/bio-amendment in soils. His interest in this, and looking at alternative ways of producing high-quality plants in commercial settings, led the trustees to award him the exclusive Hort Tech Award. His course tutor said: "Dan has proactively tackled his

dissertation project in a manner that shows a genuine talent for research and problem solving. I have been impressed by his conscientious approach and his academic ability to think critically across discipline boundaries – something that I feel is essential to the future of horticulture."

Finding solutions to horticultural problems

Dan is hoping to go on to study for an MSc in either horticulture or an environmental-based degree with a strong focus on agroecology. He plans to use his scholarship award funding to help with this ambition. On learning that he had been awarded this scholarship, Dan said: "Being a recipient of the prestigious Hort Tech Award will allow me to continue my passion to find new solutions for current problems relating to the sustainability of our industry. I could not be happier with this opportunity and look forward to contributing further to research into alternative methods to reduce

agrochemical overreliance and emissions for a climate-resilient future."

The Colegrave Seabrook Foundation Hort Tech Award is sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity for £5,000 per annum for three years. Jeff Colegrave said: "We are very grateful to the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for their support of the Foundation and its work of encouraging students in horticulture."



THRIVE'S GROWING OUT PATHWAY PROGRAMME UPDATE



In 2022 The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity granted Thrive's Growing Out Pathway project £30,000 over three years in £10,000 tranches. Here is the update on the programme.

Growing Out programme in numbers

- A total of 62 client gardeners participated in the Growing Out programme over the full year
- 500 garden sessions were attended across the year
- A total of 18 client gardeners were enrolled on the Level 1 City & Guilds Practical Horticulture Skills
- 8 people completed a Level 1 City & Guilds Certificate or Award
- 8 people are currently completing the C&G course
- 11 Client Support Volunteers supported the programme during the year, giving a total of 1,123 volunteer hours

Two case studies

Case study 1 (anonymous client)

Prior to joining Thrive, CG shared that "My life was quite lonesome." She had been living with mental ill health and was introduced to Thrive through her support worker. Her aims for attending Thrive were: "To learn more about gardening and continue learning and feeling useful."

Improving self-esteem

Since her time at Thrive, CG said: "I have been able to improve my self-esteem and feel that I have achieved something at the end of the day." Having a regular day enabled her to focus on attending each week. CG's favourite part was working with people she liked and trusting herself to be able to improve very overgrown gardens outside of coming to Thrive.

Progressing to a horticultural career

After completing her six months on Pathways, CG pursued the Level 1 City & Guilds Certificate in Horticulture. She completed this in September 2022 and has since progressed on to volunteering in Cannizaro Park, working with other volunteers once a week. She has also registered her interest in attending the HUG programme at Chelsea Physic Garden in March 2023 and the Future Gardeners Level 2 City & Guilds horticultural qualification at Bankside Open Spaces Trust.

Case study 2

Christopher was referred to Thrive through his GP after asking for help. He was suffering from mental ill health and thinking of ending his life. Christopher says that deep inside he feels fragile and sensitive when alone. He reached out for support, including attending counselling and going to the gym. He also got a yearly membership to the Wetland Centre, but still felt isolated and missed being part of a group.

Garden therapy

Since coming to Thrive, Christopher has enjoyed learning about gardening, being outdoors in nature, the friendly staff and being in the group. These are all the things he previously liked prior to his change in mood. He said: "I feel like I'm not alone. I'm really glad I came here."

New sense of motivation

Reflecting on what has changed since coming here, Christopher said he enjoys the new sense of motivation he now has. He recently took a friend to see the new planting he'd been helping with at the Winter Garden. He felt proud of what he'd done. He said: "It's opened the door again, giving joy seeing the plants grow." Looking ahead, Christopher hopes to go on to do City & Guilds Level 1 in Horticulture and is really looking forward to learning more about gardening. "I feel at home when I come here. It's helped me a lot, and I would definitely recommend Thrive to others," he said.



A group from the Growing Out programme who recently planted a rowan tree in Thrive's Main Garden in Battersea Park. The area beneath the canopy is being transformed into a forest garden to introduce a different habitat. (None of those pictured is related to the case studies).

ST MARY'S SECRET GARDEN



The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity granted £1,500 for pollinator-friendly seeds and plug plants.

St Mary's Secret Garden is situated in Haggerston, near Shoreditch, and is one of the most green-space-deprived areas in London. The garden has a constant flow of activities designed to meet the needs of the diverse community, including women from the Charedi community as well as Kurdish and Turkish communities. They also help young people with special educational needs, particularly autism and those

with mental ill health, all of whom benefit through being in a restful green space and taking part in gardening-related activities.

Paula Yassine, CEO of the charity, said: "We would like to give a huge thanks to the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for their support. Our greenhouse and our outside work table are a scene of high activity. From schoolchildren with special educational needs, to our older gardeners with learning disabilities, to volunteers with mental ill health and anxiety, everyone has benefitted from your grant."



The garden is situated in one of the most green-space-deprived areas of London

COMPANY PLAYS KEY ROLE IN LIVERY FOOD POVERTY PROGRAMME INITIATIVE

Food going to waste was delivered to 350 charities across the capital.

On a cold but bright February morning, members of 28 Livery Companies, together with many of their Masters and Chairs of their associated charities, gathered in Walbrook. They were there, at the side of the Mansion House, looking at a brand-new van painted with a Union Jack, writes David Aitchison-Tait.

Cost of living crisis

This was the launch of the Livery Food Initiative. It all started back in September 2022 when, at a Zoom 'coffee drop-in' of the Livery Charity Chairs Group, one of the members said that Livery Charities should club together to do something about the cost of living crisis. It was decided that food poverty was an area that Livery Charities could help alleviate.

Campaign launched

In December, a fund-raising campaign was launched to support

City Harvest. You can find out more on their website www.cityharvest.org.uk. They rescue food that is going to waste and deliver it to over 350 charities across the capital. The need for another van was obvious. To put this on the road and run it for three years, the 28 Livery Charities, from Actuaries to Saddlers, raised £150,000 from launch in December 2022 to a van sitting outside the Mansion House in February 2023.

Helping to shape the plans

At midday on that morning, the Master (an ex-officio trustee of the charity), Stephen Bernhard (donations trustee) and I listened to a speech by the Lord Mayor sending the van on its way to help feed hungry mouths in London. The part played by our charity, although not large in financial terms and not being as well off as many Liveries, was however great in its impact. We were among the first to pledge towards the initiative, which encouraged others to grant funds. As well as this, we helped to shape the

plans for the campaign. As ever, The Gardeners continue to 'punch above their weight'.

City Harvest CEO's response

"Your donation will have the potential to transform lives. Because of your support, each individual who visits one of our 375 charity partners will receive not only a healthy meal, but also the support, friendship and hope that form part of the communities we seek to help. Our vital mission could not continue without donations like yours and we are so grateful that you have helped to further the cause." Sarah Calcutt, CEO City Harvest



The Master, John Gilbert, and charity Chairman David Aitchison-Tait, stand by the new van

HELPING TO OVERCOME DISABILITIES THROUGH GARDENING



In November 2022 the Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity awarded a grant of £7,000 to Gardening with Disabilities Trust.

Gardening with Disabilities Trust (GDT) was created in 1968 to facilitate that 'feelgood feeling' for people with disabilities. They pay for raised beds, polytunnels, ramps, access paths, adapted tools, special gloves – in fact, all sorts of items or modifications to facilitate gardening, and help people forget about their physical limitations or mental challenges.

How every penny helps

Every recipient of a GDT grant is asked to fill in a 'grant impact form' and their words demonstrate how fundamental gardening can be to health and wellbeing; both for short-term enjoyment – such as an afternoon in the garden – but also

longer term, for developing new skills, confidence and friendships. A small grant of perhaps £200 can be priceless. One project that they part-funded is particularly inspiring: it involved students with learning disabilities linking up with their local care home for the elderly. Phase 1 was to transform the garden of the care home from an overgrown scrubland into a safe, pretty place. Phase 2 is the ongoing shared maintenance.

What the project leader said

"The project provided valuable real-life work experience for our students, as well as providing the elderly residents of the care home with a sensory garden and usable outdoor space. The project can now be run all through the year with our students and the residents working together to maintain the garden, providing wonderful opportunities

for socialising for everyone involved."

What the beneficiaries said

Other feedback from grantees includes: *"The raised beds mean I can spend quality time with my young son"* (while gardening from a wheelchair); *"gardening has been the saviour of my mental health... I have a space to distract myself from intrusive thoughts and depression"*; *"The joy of watching a small seed grow is truly wonderful whether you are young or old, disabled or not."*

Gardening with Disabilities Trust are immensely grateful to the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for their generous award of a grant to help us continue this work. We will ensure that as many people as possible can enjoy getting the soil under their fingernails once more.



The Gardening with Disabilities Trust was created in 1968 to facilitate gardening opportunities for the disabled



One beneficiary said: "The raised beds mean I can spend quality time with my son"

BLUE MANTLE PURSUIVANT MARK AND THE TALE OF THE WHITE STOCKINGS

Walking along Queen Victoria Street you could easily miss the lovely Georgian building which stands back from the road and thus be unaware of important work that goes on behind the doors. In February 18 members and guests of the Company met there to find out about Coats of Arms and the role of the Heralds within the Royal Household.

We were met by our host for the evening the Blue Mantle Pursuivant Mark Scott. He told us that during the 12th Century symbols of the nobility began appearing on shields and pennants as a means of identification in tournaments and jousts.

The heralds of the time could recognise these but there were often duplications. The system was formalised in 1484 when Richard III granted a Charter of Incorporation to record it all. Henry VII revoked the Charter and it was not until 1557 that a second Royal Charter was issued and the current site was occupied. The building was lost in the Great Fire of London, but the Heralds were able to remove all their documents to safety by barge.

There are 13 Officers of Arms, three Kings Heralds, six Heralds who are named after royal palaces and four Pursuivants named after royal symbols. All Heralds are overseen by the Earl Marshal. Ceremonial duties include making proclamations, the Opening of Parliament, State Funerals and Coronations and the Order of the Garter ceremony.

Most recently Mark was seen in action at the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and at the Coronation of our new king. Mark told us that he found out that for the Coronation he would have to wear

white stockings; he found that the only place he could get them was the Royal Ballet School.

The salary of a Pursuivant is £13.95pa and £40.05pa for a Kings Herald. Their salaries are supplemented from the fees earned in designing new Coats of Arms and from private practice work assisting with genealogical research.

A Coat of Arms must be unique. No computer aided design here. All is done by hand. All records are hard copy. Books in pristine condition going back centuries contain every Coat of Arms ever produced. There is a graphic index that helps in identifying the different categories of design, lions, elephants, etc. to help ensure no duplication.

A fascinating example of a Coat of Arms was one designed for a barrister which featured black and

white vertical bars with six fishnet clad legs. The bars represented prison and the legs represented "ladies of the night" whom he often represented.

Mark showed records relating to the Gardeners' Company. The first Royal Charter was granted in 1605 but it wasn't until 1965 that the right to use the Coat of Arms was granted but it was deemed to have been in use for 300 years.

Coats of Arms were originally only for the nobility but now public organisations have them. Ordinary citizens with a professional qualification now qualify, providing they are not "peasants".

We ended a very interesting evening with a delightful supper and a glass of wine.

Report by Ursula Dancaster



Mark Scott shows off some of the many treasures in the College of Arms archive. Photograph John Gilbert.



The beautiful garden with its theme of Loss, Unity and Hope.

GIANNA'S GUILDHALL YARD GARDEN IS ANOTHER STRIKING SUCCESS

HRH the Duke of Kent graced the formal opening of the Gardeners' Company Guildhall Yard annual pop-up garden on 14th February accompanied by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and many Livery masters and civic dignitaries.

As in previous years, the garden remained in place until the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch on 30th March. Much admired, it acted as a striking advertisement for that fund-raising event.

Each year the Lunch raises thousands of pounds to support veterans of His Majesty's armed forces. This year's total was revealed at a reception at Mansion House on 11th May. Each year the Lord Mayor sets a target and Nicholas Lyons hoped for £325,000. The final amount this year was an astonishing £435,000.

Since its inception in 2008 the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch Committee has handed over almost £3.3 million to the three national single service

charities that support our country's veterans.

Designed by Gianna Utilini, this year's garden was a visual interpretation of Loss, Unity and Hope and included a very effective combination of colour, texture and form. The butterflies flying among the trees signified the progress made by Pollinating London Together in raising awareness of our bio-diversity crisis and promoting pollinator-friendly planting in the City.

Students from our Future Gardeners programme and members of the Guild of Young Freemen led by Assistant James Bromiley-Davis built the garden using plants and materials generously supplied by PM Paul Rochford.

The Company also staged a very well stocked plant stall in the Guildhall during the Big Curry event which raised £977 for the cause.

Photographs John Gilbert



The Company team are ready for serious plant sale action.