

THE SPADE

A BOUQUET FIT
FOR A QUEEN

A NEW MASTER
IS INSTALLED

MEET THE
NEW CLERK

VIEW FROM
THE CITY

CHARITY UPDATE:
NEWS OF
OUR GIVING



DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY

THE INSTALLATION EDITION 2023 - ISSUE 64
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THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Welcome to the Spade Installation edition. 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 on Instagram to Assistant Barbara Segall.

www.instagram.com/gardenliveryco

THE MASTER

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(The Office is open Monday–Wednesday)

A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

Dear Fellow Gardeners, all new Master's years start with a major event and 2023 has been no exception. A report of the Installation Dinner appears on page 5; as your new Master it was a great privilege and honour to be in the Chair. I have received numerous comments on the success of the occasion, including the organ musical interlude when Adrian Mumford, Clerk of the Plumbers' Company, played a selection of four classical pieces. The gifts of small pewter Spades were well received. My thanks to everyone who came.

John Gilbert has had a wonderful year as Master, including his very last day. A small party led by David Longman, the Father of the Company (Master in 1975!), travelled to Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh for a private audience with Her Majesty Queen Camilla. See page 7 for a report and photograph. It poured with rain outside for the Scottish Garden Party but inside we all enjoyed a special moment.

The Gardeners' Company is a busy company with many events for us all to enjoy and look forward to. I am sure Simon Milne, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and principal guest at the Installation Dinner, whetted the appetite of members joining the September visit to Edinburgh, a joint trip with the Wax Chandlers' Company.

The Autumn programme is designed to provide variety – a City Walk, two garden visits as well as our Annual Linnean Society event and later on some virtual events. The visit to Nymans on 17th October is intended to be a garden lunch occasion in the upstairs space in their new restaurant facility, as well as a morning visit to a very

interesting garden. Not all lunches or dinners need to be in the City!

If you have not visited the Linnean Society please consider coming to our annual lecture on 15th November as this is a very special event for us. As well as the main lecture there are several different elements, making it quite different from our other events. It is easy to get to in the West End and there will be an optional supper. Full details will be found in the flyer.

It's never too early to think about Christmas. We are having a completely different Christmas Carols event this year so please put 6th December in your diary to start your Christmas. We are joining the Wax Chandlers' Carol service at St Vedast Church in Foster Lane, which has an outstanding choir enriching the service. Both Companies will then dine at the adjacent Goldsmiths' Hall with its candlelit chandeliers. You will not wish to miss this special occasion. Before that of course the Autumn Court Dinner will be held on 24th October, but please choose between it and the Spring Court Lunch, both at Wax Chandlers' Hall. Tell the Clerk your preference.

We said goodbye to our long-standing Office of the Clerk team, Major Jeremy and Nicky Herrtage, and have made them Honorary Freemen.

Our new Clerk, Ollie Finn, is bringing his own skills and experience to managing the Company and has made a good start.

It will take time for him to get to know everyone so do take every opportunity to meet and talk to him. His normal working days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Yearbook was distributed with the previous Spade and this included the full year Diary of Events, including Court and Committee days. The Spade will continue to show the Diary of Events and the electronic Trowel will also be a means of communication between Spades and will include the event flyers. These will also be on the website, which will be the normal means of booking.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the various events.

Nicholas Woolf



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 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 & 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
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

THE COMPANY WELCOMES A NEW MASTER AT MERCHANT TAYLORS’ HALL

On a pleasantly warm evening some 140 Liverymen and their guests assembled at Merchant Taylors’ Hall, one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies, for the Installation Court Dinner of the new Master, Nicholas Woolf.

After being received by the Master and Wardens, many Liverymen and guests spilled out into the delightful courtyard garden, before taking their seats in the lofty and magnificent Merchant Taylors’ Hall. It is the only Hall large enough to house an organ and the instrument was put to good use by Senior Past Master Tom Gough, playing a selection of music as we all took our places and the Master and his guests processed in.

During the evening the Master welcomed several new appointments made at the Court meeting that afternoon: two new Assistants (Katarina Heldring-Morris and Simon Catford); two Liverymen (Dame Elizabeth Corley and Professor Jane Anderson) and three Affiliate Gardeners (Lili Barras Hargan, Adam Stoter and George Hudson). The Affiliate Gardeners are among the first in a new membership category designed to encourage younger people in the horticultural industry to take their first steps in joining the Company.

The Master presented the Company medal to Mike Fitt for his many years’ service as a co-opted Assistant and his work with Apprentices. John Gilbert was also presented with his Immediate Past Master’s badge.

After the main course there was a musical interlude on the splendid organ built by Renatus Harris in 1722. Adrian Mumford, Clerk of the Plumbers’ Company, played a selection of four classical pieces,

finishing with the Grand March from Aida. The organ was originally built for the Wren church of St Dionis Backchurch, on the corner of Fenchurch Street and Lime Street. It was moved to its present position in 1966.

After dessert Assistant Sue Medway skilfully proposed the toast to the Guests. In response, the principal guest, Mr Simon Milne MBE, Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, stressed the importance of botanical gardens, both in the UK and worldwide and said he was looking forward to welcoming those Gardeners who would be going on the Master’s trip to Edinburgh in September.

The Master then brought the assembled company up to date. He welcomed the new Clerk, Ollie Finn, who had very recently joined us, succeeding Major Jeremy Herrtage, our Clerk for nearly 12 years. In honour of that service, the Court unanimously voted that he be created ‘Freeman Honoris Causa’ along with Assistant Clerk Nicky Herrtage.

The Master reported that, in partnership with the Plumbers’ Company, whose Master Air Commodore Paul Nash OBE was a guest, two lead planters had been commissioned to mark the Coronation. They will be presented to the King and installed at Sandringham. He thanked those Liverymen who had donated to the cost of the planters and noted that Liverymen could still donate via the website.

The Master outlined his programme for the coming year, including visits to Edinburgh in September and Northern Ireland in June 2024, noting that there would be several joint events with the Wax Chandlers, whose new Master is his wife, Dame Fiona Woolf. To commemorate this probably unique occurrence, they presented all the assembled company with ornamental miniature Spades, beautifully decorated with twining roses and insects, and suitably inscribed.

Report by David and Sue Balfour



ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS WILL REQUIRE HUGE LEVEL OF INVESTMENT

Investors and governments are going to need to find a lot of capital to back alternative technologies to the fossil fuels that currently dominate everything from home heating to transport and from the fuelling industry to making synthetics such as plastic.

The aim of most governments is to carry out a huge switch from oil, gas and coal to alternatives. They will need a range of them. Whilst electricity from wind and solar has proved to be most popular with the authorities, there is a realisation that in many uses there may need to be some other means of replacing oil and gas.

The US is the world's largest producer of nuclear power, capable of generating around one fifth of its electricity from the 92 installations that are still working. Russia runs 37 power stations, France 56, China 53, Ukraine 15 and UK nine. France, Turkey, Russia, UK, Ukraine, and the US are all building nuclear plants at the moment. It is a fairly mature technology that is well understood, with a few past disasters triggering improvements in safety in more recent designs.

Nuclear will be part of the answer on the road to net zero. Uranium will be in greater demand in the years ahead, as the US reconsiders its decision to take uranium off the list of critical minerals made on the grounds that it is a fuel.

Hydrogen is one of the main rivals jostling for money and attention as a potential 'wonder fuel'. Many people are reluctant to replace gas boilers for home heating with heat pumps. They are perceived as expensive to install and run and may not offer sufficient heat and hot water in

older homes with poorer insulation standards. Many wish to see if they can continue with their existing boiler working on hydrogen or a natural gas/hydrogen blend.

Experiments are underway to see how hydrogen in the home can meet safety standards. There are also issues with leaks from existing pipes and with the volumes of hydrogen needed to achieve the required energy. It is possible that all this is resolved – and hydrogen becomes a domestic fuel.

Meanwhile, there is serious interest in hydrogen as the alternative fuel for heavy plant and large trucks. Batteries are difficult for such vehicles given the size and weight of battery they would need and the downtime for recharging is prohibitive. There are good working vehicles running on hydrogen. To make them more universal the market will need more extensive distribution of hydrogen and more hydrogen stores.

To qualify for net zero, the hydrogen used will need to be produced by using renewable electricity to generate the gas. There would need to be a huge scaling up of the production to make enough to heat most homes, and a large scaling up to fuel trucks and heavy plant.

Meanwhile there is more work being undertaken on biofuels, especially by the aviation industry. They do not see a route to a battery plane

capable of taking a commercial load of passengers over long distances, though think with improved battery technology they may be able to run shorter haul and smaller planes for other flights. Biofuels derive mainly from plant oils and are already being included within oil-based jet fuels as a small part of the blend. Biofuels could play a wider role than just in aviation. Biomass, typically wood, is already used for power generation in substitution for coal.

Nuclear power is a fairly sure bet as being part of the energy mix in a decade's time. It will need an active programme of new stations even to keep as much as we currently have given the age of plants. Money will be made from supplying the fuel and building the stations. The other winners are less clear but may well include more hydrogen and more biofuels with a race to prove good products and scale up production.



A CORONATION BOUQUET FOR QUEEN CAMILLA CONTINUES A PROUD TRADITION

On the now Immediate Past Master's last day in office the Company was honoured with a private audience at Holyrood Palace in order to present Her Majesty Queen Camilla with a bouquet to mark her Coronation.

A small party led by David Longman, the Father of the Company (Master in 1975), travelled to Edinburgh to join his daughter Lottie, the resident florist in Holyrood House, for the occasion. The Gardeners' party comprised David, the Master, Almoner Tom Gough and Upper Warden Nicholas Woolf. We were graciously received by Her Majesty who took great interest in the bouquet flowers and the history behind our presentation.

In modern times at least, our Coronation Bouquet tradition began in 1911 when the Gardeners presented a bouquet to Queen Mary. This was followed by a bouquet presented to Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation. Martin Longman of Longmans the Florists and his son David made the 1953 bouquet.

The latest bouquet was made by Lottie Longman, granddaughter of Martin and daughter of David and Clare. This bouquet was less formal than earlier ones. It was known that Queen Camilla likes her flowers to be natural so Lottie decided to create a simple hand-tied bouquet made of Scottish flowers which she had grown in her own Scottish garden.

It comprised Sweet Pea, Mammoth Lavender Blue and Bordeaux, Nigella, Eryngium (spray - Blue Hobbit), Phlox drummondii grandiflora 'Sugar Stars', Sweet William, Poppy heads, Briza grass, Forget-me-not, variegated Pittosporum (pink edge), Achillea 'Summer Berries Mix' and Astrantia.

The Late Queen's coronation bouquet was a very formal wired affair containing Cattleya orchids, Odontoglossum orchids, Cypripedium orchids, (which are probably unobtainable these days), Lily of the Valley, Stephanotis, white

Carnations and Veronica and Myrtle foliage. It was made by wiring every stem into a mossed "bodge" or ball of wired moss and finished with a wired handle (from the flower stems) which was covered in satin ribbon. The Lily of the Valley were provided by the then Master R.B. Ling.

In 2003 on the occasion of the late Queen's 50th Anniversary of her Coronation, Master Tom Gough was invited to Buckingham Palace to present Her Majesty with a true replica of the original. It is interesting to note that the Lily of the Valley in this replica were taken from the same plant as the original Lily of the Valley and presented to the Company by R.B. Ling's son Liveryman Ricardo Ling.

In May 2013 Master Rex Thornborough presented the late Queen with a replica to mark the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of her Coronation. This too was made by Lottie Longman at Tom's home.



Her Majesty the Queen with, from the left, David Longman, Tom Gough, John Gilbert, Nicholas Woolf and Lottie Longman. Photograph David Cheskin

FAREWELL FROM JEREMY THE GALLANT CLERK AND HIS ASSISTANT NICKY

Jeremy Herrtage reflects on his years of service to the Company:

If anyone had told me that I would end my 53 years of working life as Clerk to a rising 800-year-old London Livery Company I should have been at first curious then wondering, to say the least.

My first introduction to the Gardeners was in November 2011 with the then Past Master Ian Flanagan asking me to lunch to sign my contract (nobody had at that point offered me the job!). My handover at that lunch was “here’s the Badge you’ve got my number good luck...”

There are so many good things I could relate of my experiences that I could probably write a book not just a couple of paragraphs. Organising all those dinners (77 in total I think with from 70 or so to 360 guests); helping Masters organise and run their years and events. My favourites trips are the Dutch Bulb Fields (Daniel), North Cyprus (Rex), Slovenia (Bernard) and Pennsylvania (Paul).

All those wonderful garden visits the length and breadth of Britain and indeed overseas too. Nicky joins me in sharing many of those memories not just as my wife but also as my Assistant Clerk. Thank you all for making it so.

Well here we are almost 12 years on and I know where the bodies are buried. I have handed on to the next generation to take you forward – good luck Ollie! And many more happy years to all you Gardeners that I have had the pleasure and honour of knowing.

Major Jeremy Herrtage

...And welcome to his successor **Ollie Finn. Our new Clerk, who took up his post immediately before Installation, introduces himself:**

I was born and raised in Tooting Bec, south-west London. I was educated at the London Oratory School, followed by a gap-year choral scholarship at Gloucester Cathedral. I then studied English Literature at Cambridge, where I was a Choral Scholar with the Choir of King’s College. (I still sing part-time, undertaking freelance work as well as performing regularly at St Anne’s, Kew and St Mary Brookfield, Dartmouth Park).

Although this is my first role at a Livery Company, I had been introduced to this world before. My previous employer, Pembroke House – a community-development charity based in Walworth, south-east London – received funding from a number of Companies, and two of its Trustees were Liverymen (both Past Masters, in fact). So I already knew something about Livery Companies – particularly their charitable endeavours – before I started work here.

During my time at Pembroke House I held several positions, including Company Secretary, trust and foundation fundraiser, and project manager. Previously I worked at Malcolm Reading Consultants, which organises design competitions. There I managed a number of projects in the UK and farther afield.

With many of these having a significant landscape design element, I became interested in the question of how gardens and other outdoor spaces can be cultivated to boost biodiversity and sustainability, as well as human happiness and wellbeing. The Gardeners’ Company’s approach to exploring similar questions and promoting the importance of horticulture to society was therefore a significant draw for me.

But for me, perhaps the most appealing aspect of the Company’s work is its promotion of fellowship. Having already benefitted from this at Installation, I look forward to meeting and getting to know many more of you over the coming months.



The Master enrolls Jeremy as Honorary Freeman of the Company at Installation Court. Photograph Ryan Prince.

GLYNDEBOURNE, WHERE THE GARDENS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

It doesn’t matter how grand the building, monument or, dare I say, even the people, we Gardeners tend to give the first fruits of our attention to the green and the growing.

One exception, certainly in my case, is Glyndebourne. A place where the gardens form a special backdrop to glorious summer picnics and social frolic all set around the Christie’s glorious Sussex summer pudding of brick and sandstone. We laugh, nosh and imbibe thinking of the musical delights to come, at times without stopping to appreciate the garden in the way it deserves.

The first visit of our new Master’s year has certainly changed this for me. We were guided through centuries of gardening history and strategy by the Head Gardener in a series of remarkable stories, often centred around the life and times of the Christie family.

We marvelled at ancient trees which included an evergreen oak and a

Mulberry which had between them looked on for almost a millennia. The textured layering and graduated colour, with blocks of white, blue and purple all glowing against the floating summer dresses, each a homage to these very flowers. I was particularly struck by the troika of allium, agapanthus and cornflower, all very calming like so many blue flowers are.

The great meandering beds took much of our focus, easily done with such a great flowering. The Inula flowers or rather starbursts resembled the fiery breast star of an ancient Persian Order of Chivalry. The masterful use of height and substance is very clever, creating an artful weave throughout the garden which – when seen from a vantage point - acts as a soft, swirling mantle of delicate colour around the formal lawns.

The gardeners clearly have fun and their playful whimsy pops out everywhere. From a series of

Lavatera silver cups studded with frilly poppies to the swaying grasses in between the kiss-me-over-the-garden gate.

The gardens at Glyndebourne work remarkably hard, not many have to endure so many feet (and occasionally fingers!). They are supported by a remarkable kitchen garden and cut-flower garden both of which supply the theatre and restaurant. The re-establishment of the surrounding meadowland has dealt a death blow to the worst of the summer pests as birds and more helpful insect life are enticed back.

As the sun dipped, we turned our attention to the cads and bounders of Don Giovanni’s stage, an assortment of hilarious wickedness, concluding with a lick of hell’s fiercest flame before we slipped off back into the garden for a final encore.

Report by James Bromiley-Davis



More than just a nice place for a picnic.

COME INTO THE GARDEN AND I WILL TELL YOU A ROYAL STORY...

Let me take you on a journey along the Thames to a gracious curve in the river at the village of Hampton, where the bed is flat and the waters easy to cross. Here Cardinal Wolsey builds his palace, and the vengeful King Henry snatches it from him. Large fishponds, alive with silvery scales, are close to the busy kitchens. Courtiers practise jousting and sword fighting in the Tiltyard. Listen, can you hear the sound of the balls bouncing from the walls in the tennis courts? Perhaps it is the King who is playing today.

Blink and a new monarch from over the sea has arrived at the palace – William of Orange with his bride Queen Mary. They add to, they don't tear down. See how the fishponds are now sunken gardens. South facing and walled, they shelter Mary's collection of tender, exotic plants. She admires her rare specimens while visiting her private zoo of unusual creatures. She feels safe observing their antics from a distance, through a window cut, especially for her, in the garden's hedge.

William likes formality. He is Dutch. He wants discipline over nature and has ordered a garden with identical conical shrubs, statutory in equal measure and organised path patterns – a satisfying display of power he can view from his newly built Wren apartments.

He is equally content with his theatre of fountains, a technical masterpiece in the palace's great garden to the east. Of the theatrical performances in the Wilderness, the dubious pleasure gardens of his wife's uncle Charles II, he says nothing.

Time passes, and Victoria is on the throne. Capability Brown, in the

last century, directed nature to take back its control, and the gardens are now less formal, overgrown even in parts. He planted a thriving vine that provides the Queen's table with delicious, sweet black grapes.

Victoria has opened the gardens to the public, and hundreds pass through the gates to admire. A new exotic vine flower from China has been planted near the grapes. The beautiful fronds of soft lilac petals filled with a dreamy fragrance are a delight. It is so lovely; it stands the chance of becoming a firm favourite in the British Isles.

We are nearing the end of our journey. It is the last day of March 2023, and a happy group of Gardeners are visiting the palace gardens, listening attentively to the Head Gardener. The blossoms

and daffodils in the Wilderness are magnificent despite the grey day. They marvel at William's reconstructed Baroque garden and admire the mistletoe hanging in enormous balls in the trees beyond the palace's walls, where nature jokes with the garden's formal shapes.

They scratch their heads and consider what mite could be eating the leaves of the potted oranges in the greenhouses, glad that they are not the gardeners in charge of placing all the pots back outside in their summertime positions. They smile at the sculptures of jousters, bent into shape from birch, that stand in the kitchen garden 'Tiltyard' as they go in search of their tea and cake to complete their visit.

Report by Zoe Jasko



It rained, a lot. Head Gardener Graham Dillamore guides the Gardeners through the wonders of Hampton Court Palace gardens. Photograph John Gilbert.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

There have been some changes to our trustees. The charity has four ex-officio trustees: The Immediate Past Master, The Master, both Upper and Renter Wardens. This year Peter Waine steps down as Immediate Past Master and Robert Howard joins as Renter Warden. This means that they serve for four years on the board.

Grant process

We had a busy meeting in May with some 14 grant applications to consider. Not all of these were passed as some of the applications were from organisations with plenty of funds. As a general rule, Trustees like to support organisations which are structurally sound and have a connection to horticulture or, in a few cases, The City. Finally, ones where we can achieve the best outcome for our funds are selected.

Trustee visits

Trustees have also been out and about visiting some of the recipients, two of which had Chelsea gardens this year. The first of these, The Teapot Trust, aims to enhance the lives of children, young people and their families suffering the impact of any chronic or long-term conditions. Their Chelsea Garden will go into an NHS hospital in Glasgow.

The second is Horatio's Garden which won best show garden at Chelsea. Horatio's Garden nurtures the wellbeing of people after spinal injury in beautiful, vibrant sanctuaries within the heart of NHS spinal injury centres. Their garden is also destined for an NHS hospital. Although Trustees visit some grant recipients we don't manage to visit them all.

How you can get involved

So, we would like to invite any Company member who would be interested in visiting a grant receiving organisation to get in touch. We would give you the grant information including contact details and for what the grant was given. It would then be up to you to contact them, visit and send a short report. If you would be interested do contact me by email: david@a-tait.co.uk.



Charity Secretary Helen Potts (far left) and Chairman David Aitchison-Tait (far right) visited Horatio's Garden which helps people with spinal injuries.

HOSPICE GRANTED A NEW MOWER

Head Gardener of St Wilfred's Hospice, Kevin, proudly displays the new lawnmower which has been provided by The Charity's donation of £1000. This will help to keep the grass neat and tidy so the residents can enjoy their outdoor environment.



FOREST FARM PEACE GARDEN

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity have granted £1500 to help with an ecotherapy project

Forest Farm Peace Garden is a unique mental health and environment project. Our garden in Hainault offers a welcoming space for people to connect with nature and meet other people, writes Karen Smallwood, Director of Forest Farm Peace Garden

Our mission is dedicated to improving health and wellbeing, building a thriving community and promoting environmental sustainability. Since its foundation in 2004 it has evolved and grown into a specialist provider of ecotherapy for people with defined needs. We support a broad range of people, including those experiencing mental health support needs, adults with learning disabilities and refugees and asylum seekers.

Core values

Our ethos stems from the permaculture values of care for people, care for the earth and sharing of resources. We aim to create volunteering opportunities that foster personal development, a sense of belonging and an understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Growing diversity

Activities that people can get involved in at our garden include gardening and food growing, caring for our large fruit orchard, growing medicinal plants, caring for wildlife, woodwork and arts and crafts. Our garden is around two acres in size, and is part of the local authority allotment site. We are based in a very diverse community and like to grow fruit and vegetables from

different cultures. This makes people feel welcome by seeing produce they are familiar with, but also enables others to learn and value what different cultures have to offer.

Health-focused workshops

We run educational and health-focused workshops, such as organic gardening, mindfulness in nature, making herbal remedies and home-produce, healthy eating and cooking, and art and creativity.

Mental health programme

Our mental health programme lasts for 12 months and people can be referred via their General Practitioner or a Social Prescriber. We undertake an initial assessment

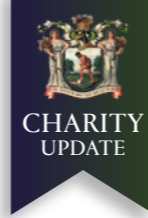
and they will then work with a buddy on a one to one basis or as part of a team. We have had great success on this project over the last 19 years, with 89% of our service users reporting less social isolation and 94% showing improved self-esteem and confidence.

Thank you for your support

Many thanks to the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for their grant support. Your contribution to the gardener's costs is very gratefully received. As a small charity, every bit of funding we receive is vital. Please visit our website www.forestfarmpeacegarden.org for more information about our project.



The Forrest Peace Garden is unique mental health and environment project



2023 CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW GARDENS WITH LINKS TO THE WCOG



We would like to congratulate Horatio's Garden for winning Best Show Garden at this year's Chelsea Flower show, (pictured above), with their wheelchair-friendly garden. In 2022 The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity agreed a three-year grant of £1000 per annum to support the excellent work Horatio's Garden is doing to help people with spinal injuries.



The Teapot Trust's 'Elsewhere Garden' (see above) won a gold medal at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. The Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity granted £1,500 towards this garden which will be relocated to an NHS hospital in Glasgow. The Teapot Trust supports children in Glasgow with chronic or long-term conditions.

Helping adults with autism and learning difficulties

Gardening with Disabilities Trust gained a grant of £7,000 from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners of London Charity in December 2023. Here is an update of their activities

"Our modus operandi is to fund micro-projects and we react to applications, rather than proactively seek out projects writes Rosie Kefford. To date this year, we have awarded two grants totalling £2400, benefitting over 70 families thanks to the generous grant from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. Below we have highlighted two of the projects."

Project 1

A community project in Milton Keynes which helps 20 adults with learning difficulties and autism through social and therapeutic horticulture. They requested £900 and purchased long-handled trowels, a 'kikka digger' (a digging aid), a wheeled seat and motorised trolley. We were impressed with their application, in which they explained 'We grow a wide variety of seasonal, speciality, artisan cut flowers & foliage. We sell our flowers both online and from our Botanical Boutique, where we also have a wonderful range of botanically inspired gifts. We supply our flowers to both the public and to florists. Every person that attends our sessions will improve their self-confidence, learn new practical skills, and enjoy a relaxed social atmosphere where they can meet new people and make new friends; all of this whilst helping to grow top quality British cut flowers to be sold on-line.'

Project 2

Supporting adults with learning difficulties and their families in Somerset, Project 2 requested £1500 to purchase a greenhouse, topsoil and gardening gloves for their allotments. This is part of a larger project of refurbishment of the allotment area and is still very much a 'work-in-progress'. Around 50 families will benefit. We particularly liked this project as there is an element of training and education; although it will not result in tangible qualifications for most participants, I understand that there are discernible improvements in soft skills such as self-confidence or dexterity. Full reports are due from both participants within six months of awarding the grant. We are currently assessing further applications for their suitability for a grant.

THRIVE GROWING OUT PATHWAY 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 their update on the programme

Growing Out activity from 1st April - 30th June 2023

- 36 client gardeners attended the programme
- 12 client gardeners were working towards the Level 1 City and Guilds Practical Horticulture Skills
- Client gardeners in total attended 266 garden sessions across the four days a week of programme delivery
- 10 Client Gardener Support Volunteers gave 373 volunteer hours to support garden sessions

Case Study Women's Pathways client gardener:

Suffering mental health issues

The client said of their experience: "I've been attending Thrive sessions for several months now. So far, Thrive has given me so much. I've been learning a lot about gardening and skills which I didn't have before. Nature is one of my passions, which is really ideal for my recovery. The last three years of the pandemic have caused detrimental effects on my wellbeing, although I had existing mental health issues. Lengthy lockdowns and the whole fearful situation aggravated my social anxiety and OCD, which took me so long to come out of."

Regaining confidence

However, it wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous help of staff and volunteers and the other participants, with their welcoming smiles and care. Their warmth and non-judgemental attitude has enabled me to attend. I finally began to feel safe as they eased my fears and anxieties. Being in a peaceful and beautiful garden also helps tremendously, as it gives me joy and pleasure. Since I've begun attending regularly I'm feeling better, getting more active and more confident about gardening. So I really cannot express my gratitude enough to Thrive for giving me this opportunity and all the benefits for my wellbeing. Thank you."



Thrive's Growing Out programme helps those with mental health issues towards their recovery by leaning gardening skills and working towards a gardening qualification

CHELSEA PHYSIC, A 350-YEAR-OLD JEWEL BY THE SIDE OF THE THAMES

Chelsea Physic Garden, celebrating the 350th anniversary of its founding this year, is one of the jewels of Chelsea and we were given a warm welcome on our mid-April visit. Right up by the side of Old Father Thames, it is surrounded by houses with amazing views looking down on the eye-catching plants in this beautiful garden. It has helped us through the centuries, working with plants, science and medicine.

The day was absolutely stunning. The sky was so blue and warm and cosy, a lot of coats were peeled off. As an introduction for a day talking about medicine and plants, I have to mention we were given the most delicious little cakes, straight out of the oven with fresh flowers sitting on the top and all different colours. On top of the custard cream biscuits were embossed curled-up ferns, which made us all laugh.

Many Gardeners brought guests and it is always interesting meeting new people. We started our tour with a look at the first of a collection of Victorian greenhouses to be restored and replanted under the current £2.75million Greenhouse Restoration Project which is nearing completion. Now restored to its former glory, it is home to a collection of magnificent and very rare ferns.

Nell Jones, who started as a volunteer working in the garden and who is now, years later, head gardener was a very amusing and entertaining guide, and you could sense an absolute passion for the garden and for keeping its history intact for future generations.

We were told that the garden has been experimenting with peat-free compost and that they use a

company called Petersfield, which a lot of the Gardeners noted.

Two very old Rose trees caught my eye. I loved the peace and tranquillity, and to think they have 4,500 plants that go back generations and have given lots of people peace, calm and education in the treatment of the sick.

After a very good lunch we went up to the lecture room where we were given a talk by Eve Barro who

is researching the history and use of 350 different plants to celebrate the garden's 350 years. One of her chosen plants was the genus Aloe which she described in great detail.

Catching my train home, I felt that I had the most wonderful day catching up with my fellow Gardeners, some of whom I had not seen for many a day.

Report by Sue Bailey-West



Eve Barro is researching 350 plants to mark the Garden's special anniversary.



Hon Archivist Lady Georgina Craufurd examines modern botanical paintings by the Physic Garden's Florilegium Society.

THE IPM REVIEWS HIS YEAR OF OFFICE

Many immediate past masters, looking back after the installation of their successor, would I suspect share with me two simultaneous but contrasting views of their time in office: one that their 12 months in the limelight was so absorbing that it seemed to have taken them over for a very long time; the other that it all flew by in a flash.

Whichever way I look at it, it has been a great honour and a privilege to be Master of our wonderful Company. I've enjoyed a very busy year, a demanding combination of Gardeners' business and events, City commitments and engagements with other Livery companies.

Wherever I have gone, conscious that I am representing the Company, I have been delighted that Masters, Consorts, Clerks and Lord Mayors

all appear to hold the Gardeners in high regard and harbour warm feelings towards us. I hope I haven't done anything to damage that reputation!

It would be dishonest to say that the year has been one of unalloyed joy however. A year ago the shadow of Covid hung over us, not surprisingly discouraging some members from venturing forth to events in the numbers we have been used to. Rail strikes were particularly frustrating. But I believe we have come through that difficult period – a little leaner and meaner perhaps. I certainly look forward with anticipation to the unfolding of the new Master's programme.

Several people have asked me what the highlight of my year has been. The various garden visits

have been a delight. We have visited some wonderful gardens and been guided round them by truly knowledgeable and committed gardeners, people who are a true credit to the horticultural profession. And these garden visits have all been well attended, providing great opportunities to get to know members and enjoy the good fellowship that we relish and for which as a company we are famous.

Planning and managing a Master's year involves many people and I have been given incredible support by friends, colleagues, the Office and, of course, my wonderful Consort Lynne. Thanks to everyone. It's been a blast.

John Gilbert

BARONESS FOOKES HONoured FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HORTICULTURE

The Right Hon. the Baroness Fookes DBE is one of the first three recipients of the new Elizabeth Medal of Honour awarded in recognition of commitment to championing horticulture.

The awards were made by King Charles and Queen Camilla at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. The RHS introduced the new medal with the gracious assent of His Majesty in perpetual remembrance of the late Queen's reign.

The Elizabeth Medal of Honour is for British non-horticulturists and International non-horticulturists and horticulturists who have made a significant impact to the advancement of the science, art or practice of horticulture for the

benefit of all generations and the environment. The Medal will be confined to 70 recipients at any one time in reference to the 70 years of Her Majesty's reign.

Liveryman Baroness Fookes has long been a leading voice in Parliament on the importance of horticulture for its role in supporting healthy lives and communities, sustainable landscapes, and protecting the environment against pollution and climate change alongside its significance for the economy. She is a passionate supporter of horticulture, calling on Government for greater support to unlock the immense benefits it brings for society, young people and the environment.

The other recipients are garden designer Piet Oudolf and environmental champion Judy Ling Wong CBE.

