

THE SPADE

A NEW MASTER

Heather Barrett-Mold on her programme for the year

NO PLANTS NO PLANET

Encouraging school children to consider horticultural careers



Dates for your Diary
Flowers in the City
Trips to Jersey & Basel...



THE MASTER'S EDITION 2019 - ISSUE 48
GARDENERSCOMPANY.ORG.UK
ISSN 1473-091X

THE ALL NEW SPADE



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Welcome to the new-look Summer Spade featuring the installation of our new Master, Heather Barrett-Mold. From now on we will be publishing four 12-page issues a year. This means more pages in which to report on Company events and matters of interest to the Livery.

Written contributions, ideas for articles and help in gathering material and preparing it for publication are all very welcome.

Most of the items in this issue are available at greater length and with more photographs on the Noticeboard on the Company website. The public page of the website also features a steady stream of news items about events in the City.

THE MASTER

Dr Heather Barrett-Mold

RENTER WARDEN

John Gilbert

SPADE EDITOR

John Gilbert

UPPER WARDEN

Peter Waine

SPADEBEARER

Nicholas Woolf

SPADE DESIGNER

James Bernhard

THE CLERK

Major Jeremy Herrtage

01730 815325 | clerk@gardenerscompany.org.uk

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th September

Guided tour of the World Garden by Tom Hart-Dyke. The world garden at Lullingstone has, perhaps, one of the most unusual stories behind it of any garden. In 2000 its creator, Tom Hart Dyke, was held captive in the Columbian jungle, and began to plan in his mind a garden to contain plants from around the world planted in their respective continents, echoing and paying tribute to the plant hunters of old.

29th September

Sheep Drive over London Bridge. Come and enjoy seeing this ancient Privilege of being a Freeman of The City of London enacted. The Master and nine Freemen will take part.

8th October

Tour of East Malling Research Institute, Kent ME19 6BH with our Nuffield Scholar. The Research Institute has a significant international reputation for strategic and applied research, development and innovation in horticulture, with particular emphasis on perennial and clonally-propagated crops. The new technology used for irrigation of strawberries is incredible.

10th October

Harvest Festival and lunch at St. Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4R 2RL. Speaker: Dr Henry Oakeley, FRCP, FLS, Garden Fellow, Royal College of Physicians, London. Lunch at The Little Ship Club, Bell Wharf Lane, London EC4R 3TB.

6th November

Autumn Court Dinner, Ironmongers' Hall, Shaftesbury Place, off Aldersgate Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA. Our annual awards to horticultural students will be presented. Speaker: Prof Owen Doyle.

13th November

Linnean Society, Lecture and optional Supper. Visit to the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF. An opportunity to delve into the archives and see some of Linnaeus' original work and specimens as well as attend a talk by Mike Gunton. Mike is an Executive Producer at the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol. You will readily recognise his programmes. To use a shortcut which really doesn't do justice to the series, many will remember the Emperor Penguins in Dynasties and the role the team played in cutting steps in the ice to allow them to escape from a gulley.

16th November

Red Cross Fair Workshop (venue tba). An opportunity to help make articles to be sold as part of our contribution to the Red Cross Fair – a biannual event opening on the 25th November in the Guildhall.

4th December

Christmas at Kew. Kew in winter with the dramatic lighting of the trees. Followed by supper. Kew Gardens, Richmond, London, TW9 3AE.

19th December

Carol Service at St Stephen, Walbrook, London EC4N 8BN. Join us for our annual Carol Service in this beautiful candle-lit church, in the late afternoon. Light refreshments after the service. Children very welcome.

February 2020 (date tbc)

Mansion House Banquet, The Mansion House, Walbrook, London EC4N 8BH. The highlight of the Company's year. A privilege to entertain family and guests in the splendour of the Lord Mayor's home.

14th March 2020

Woodland Archaeology, Piggots Wood, Piggots Hill North Dean, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 4NF. John Morris of the Chilterns Woodland Project will guide us round this ancient woodland to show us the clues that tell of the past use of the woodland.

2nd April 2020

Spring Court Dinner at Barber Surgeons' Hall, Monkwell Square, Wood St, Barbican, London EC2Y 5BL. The Prince Edward Award for horticultural excellence will be presented at this lunch.

3rd April 2020

Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 4HS. Coffee followed by an introduction from Liveryman Sue Medway, the Director of the garden, and a guided tour.

INSTALLATION AT CARPENTERS' HALL

It was a pleasure to attend this year's installation dinner at the charming and most beautiful Stationers' Hall, in the shadow of St Paul's, where the Company and guests celebrated the installation of our new Master, Dr Heather Barrett-Mold OBE.

Before we sipped our fizz, we were fortunate to have young musicians from the Royal Academy welcome us to the wonderful courtyard garden where the receiving line gathered and greetings commenced.

Upon entering the hall, we were delighted to see stunning table decorations with watering cans and trugs overflowing with the fragrant pastel presence of Lillium, Rosa, Echinops, Scabiosa and Alchemilla, a most fitting choice which brought a real sense of summer joy to the occasion

In procession with the Master were her guests Lady Salisbury, Lt Gen Sir Bill Rollo KCB CBE, former Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff and Vice Chair of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), Victoria Wallace, Director General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Adam Donnan, CEO at the Institution of Environmental Sciences.

This year's winner of the Prince of Wales Award was announced by the Master with the trophy presented to Frankie Kennett. The new partnership with the CWGC will see Frankie take up a work placement soon.

The Master gave a short address, praising the work of the of the Immediate Past Master. We were reminded of the successful trips abroad and at home, and how the sun shone brightly wherever IPM Margaret Holland Prior and



the Company visited. In particular the Master praised her work in partnering with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who are a perfect match for the Gardeners.

New Liveryman welcomed by the Master this year included: David Richardson, Philippa Burrough, Ursula Lancaster and Jonathan Adams. The new Spadebearer, Nicholas Woolf, was also welcomed into this important post.

The responsibility of welcoming the Master's guests fell to Assistant Richard Capewell. The links between esteemed guests and the important partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission were eloquently and powerfully described, as he said: "No other nation gardens its cemeteries like the British."

Of course, no installation would be complete without a toast to the Master and Mr Adam Donnan certainly put forward a most complete and emphatic account of her achievements.

These sentiments were emphasised by Senior Past Master Stephen Dowbiggin who spoke of her achievements and character and finished by saying: "During the year to come I would ask all here not to lose sight of the quiet, unassuming force that is Heather Barrett-Mold – Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. In my view Heather is a Master Gardener in every sense of the word."

THE NEW MASTER

My thanks to those who were able to be at the Installation Dinner and my first event at Milton's Cottage and Chenies Manor. I enjoyed both and I think others did as well.

For a very long time I have tried to explain to others the impact what we do has on the environment and I have been a firm advocate for Sustainable Development.

I was an expert for the Commission for Sustainable Development 2012 which was the body overseeing quality assurance of the sustainability of the 2012 Olympic Park and its planting.

I would like to shine a light on these areas, continue to develop links with our industry and encourage new entrants to a career in Horticulture. The preparation of those entering the industry is hugely important.

Horticulture has so much to offer in terms of the economy, food production, the environment, health and wellbeing and combatting climate change. My events throughout this year tend to reflect these thoughts and, I hope, will provide something for everyone.

“

HORTICULTURE HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER IN TERMS OF THE ECONOMY, FOOD PRODUCTION, THE ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE

PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL WARREN



THE GARDENS TRUST

Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer, explains the work of the Gardens Trust

There is nothing better than time spent in a garden, or park, in fresh air, with thriving plants, beautiful designs, and perhaps an architectural whimsy or two. At the Gardens Trust we are a particularly curious bunch, so we particularly like to understand the history behind these special places, to know who made them and why and how, and what tribulations or triumphs they may have experienced over the years.

The Gardens Trust was formed in 2015 from a merging of the Garden History Society, an academic organisation and statutory consultee in the English planning system, and the Association of Gardens Trusts, the umbrella group for the grassroots County Gardens Trusts.

The GT organises garden visits, study days, conferences and tours to enjoy interesting places with like-minded people. It also publishes the leading international journal *Garden History* and acts as a vital conduit of information through its various newsletters.

Critically, our role as a statutory consultee in the planning system means that our tiny professional conservation team is notified of planning applications that may affect a historic park or garden. For a small charity, we punch hard! But we can't do this alone so we invest heavily in supporting our friends in the County Gardens Trusts. These are all independent charities, working with local remits to research, conserve and enjoy historic parks and gardens in their areas – one for each county of England, as well the Welsh Historic Parks and Gardens Trust and a group for Scotland called Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage.

These extraordinary volunteers not only organise vibrant and tempting garden visits, but also run all kinds of unique research projects looking at subjects from walled gardens to Capability Brown, and conservation campaigns focussing on anything from misunderstood 20th Century landscapes to 18th Century parks threatened by quarrying.

At the Gardens Trust, we support these initiatives with a capacity-building programme that organises networking and training opportunities. Recent training subjects include the planning system, social media, and Statements of Significance – understanding of the significance of the history of a garden is essential for any conservation plan.

And our most recent adventure? We are so proud to be working with Lottery funding to learn how to reach new audiences – more people and from different backgrounds – so we can better share our enthusiasm. The Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All project has enabled us to pilot a range of inclusive activities, from family excursions to entry-level workshops to multicultural open days and mini-research projects.

The Gardens Trust relies on income and support from members to continue its mission to change the world one garden visit at a time.
Do please consider joining us!



A JOLLY TRIP TO JERSEY

Our visit began with a reception at Government House where we were the guests of His Excellency Sir Stephen Dalton and Lady Dalton. Other Liverymen and their partners living in the Channel Islands were also invited.

We arrived to find a charming early Victorian House, sitting comfortably amongst handsome trees, ablaze with lights and people already arriving.

In the Drawing Room, Sir Stephen welcomed us and we talked and chatted to our new friends while enjoying canapés and drinking champagne. Sir Stephen spoke of the Liveries and his links with them.

We then drove to the Royal Yacht Hotel for dinner. We were joined by Sir Stephen and Lady Dalton, the Channel Island Liverymen, their partners and our group of Gardeners, 68 of us forming a very jolly party.

Day 2 - In the morning we visited the Eric Young Orchid Foundation which

exists to develop and further the orchid species. The foundation was set up and is maintained by a legacy from Eric Young, a 1960's jeweller and today has a staff of 10, five of whom are orchid judges. The staff administer the Trust and oversee the cultivation and development of the eight computer-controlled orchid houses.

Orchids form one of the largest plant families with approximately 25,000 species and more than 60,000 man-made hybrids which have been developed from the 1860's. Some hybrids are still being used going back to the 1890's.

The Foundation library is one of the top five orchid libraries in the world, holding records of the hybrid breeding systems, over 40,000 slides, many original botanical drawings and the collection of awards and medals over the years

In the afternoon we visited Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (also known as Jersey Zoo).

The writer and conservationist Gerald Durrell founded Jersey Zoo in 1959. Today his mission and pioneering work to save species from extinction continues through the international charity. The zoo is home to over 1,000 wild animals in large, naturalistic enclosures densely planted to mimic their natural wild habitats.

Day 3 - Another glorious Jersey day and we headed off to the garden of Mrs Sue Lea, a friend of the Master who she described as 'a marvellous gardener' which proved to be true. Mrs Lea and her husband moved into the house in 1990 when "he read the books and she did the gardening".

The result is a large terraced garden, kept immaculately, which has wonderful views of the sea. They planted three quarters of the plants we saw that Sunday morning: camellias, magnolias, Jersey lillies, hellebores, ceanothus (which was just coming out) and a selection of plants from Australia and New Zealand which thrive in the Jersey environment.

WARM WELCOME IN BASEL

Cindy Peck, Helen Potts and Adrienne Waterfield report on Master Margaret Holland Prior's trip to the historic city of Basel

To make our first visit on our Basel trip we had to use three trams. We took this in our stride because we were expertly shepherded on our journey, and indeed throughout the weekend, by members of the Basel Guild (Zunft) of Gardeners. They could not have been kinder or more welcoming.

The Guild was in existence by 1260 and continues to flourish as a political, professional and social force within Basel to this day.

When we finally reached the Beyeler Foundation on the outskirts of the city, we understood straightaway why it is considered one of the world's most beautiful museums. The building was designed by Renzo Piano (the designer of London's Shard), and is located in the middle of cornfields, vineyards and the foothills of the Black Forest with a lily pond abutting it and linking to the huge Monet painting inside.

Once indoors we were able to admire works by Picasso, Andy Warhol, Cezanne, Vincent van Gogh and Francis Bacon amongst others.

Day Two - Whilst a visit to the largest cemetery in Switzerland might not be top of the "must-see" list of your average visitor to Basel, it certainly got our day off to a great start. The impressive 52 hectares of the Friedhof Hörnli are laid out in a grid, scored by impeccably clipped evergreen hedges with some

200,000 annuals planted in the graveside beds over the year.

We continued on to Die Schwarzpark, the newest park in the city. This small gem, together with its large herd of fallow deer, was created in 2014 from the previously private grounds of a 19th Century villa. Britte, a delightfully enthusiastic landscape architect from the Basel Gardens Department, told us of their plans to restore the former orchard. Our Master and the Master of Den Zunft zu Gartnern advanced this project by planting a glockenapfel, an old apple variety, to mark our visit.

Day 3 - The first port of call was the Historical Museum of Basel, housed in an ancient Franciscan monastery. The collection was first controlled

by the Bishops from 1216, then by the Hapsburgs together with the Guilds, before Napoleon ended the involvement of the Guilds.

The oldest collection came from the estate of Erasmus of Rotterdam, which had been inherited by Bonifacius Amerbach together with a large collection of coins and paintings by Holbein. There was much to see but we had time only for the collections of coins, gold and silver cups, tapestries and statues of St Ursula, an English Princess who was martyred, and St Pantalus.

The sun was shining with not a cloud in the sky as we finished our day with a boat trip on the Rhine.

The full version of this report can be found on the website Noticeboard.



NO PLANTS NO PLANET

Two thousand primary and secondary school children from across London attended the Livery Schools Link Annual Careers Showcase at the Guildhall on 18th and 19th June.

The event, opened by Lord Mayor Peter Estlin, saw City Livery Companies showing their trades on more than 40 stands and inspiring the next generation into varied and time-honoured professions.

The Gardeners once again lent their support to this worthwhile event, speaking with children and sharing their knowledge and experience.

Master Margaret Holland Prior was in attendance alongside IPM Paul Rochford, PM Stephen Bernard, Liveryman Sue Ireland, Liveryman

Jonathan Matheson and Liveryman Marjorie Dowbiggin.

Pupils had the opportunity to speak with representatives of the Company, enthusiastic apprentices from Kew Gardens and Louisa Mansfield, Project Manager of our Future Gardeners scheme.

The Company stand – 'No Plant, No Planet' – was designed to be interactive so that pupils could get memorable and informative first-hand information.

The overarching message of the Gardeners' stand was that horticulture and its relationship to the environment is fundamental not just for their future, but for the future of the planet.

The Master said: "The Livery Schools Link is a brilliant showcase to attract youngsters' attention. It was a pleasure to be joined by such a young sparky team from Kew and Future Gardeners. There was lots of diverse conversation and the pupils were all enthused by what they had learned; hopefully there were future horticulturalists among them!"

Liveryman Jonathan Matheson said: "I was delighted by the interest and enthusiasm both age groups showed in saving the planet and their understanding that a career in horticulture would be the most positive thing they could do to help.



WINTER COLOUR

Results of the Flowers in the City Winter Competition 2018-19 were announced at a special ceremony at Cutlers' Hall in April. The winners were:

The Edmund and Annie Hart Trophy:
3-4 New Street EC2.

The Annie Hart Trophy:
Lloyds House, Lloyds Avenue EC3.

The Roger Payton Trophy:
Beaumont Bridge House, Queen Victoria Street EC4.

The Cutlers' Trophy:
Rolls Building EC4.

The Colin Downie Trophy:
Cutlers' Hall 4 Warwick Lane EC4.



CUTLERS' HALL, WINNER OF THE COLIN DOWNIE TROPHY | PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL WARREN

THE BIG CURRY LUNCH

The Gardeners' Company has been supporting The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch for the last five years by installing a themed garden display in Guildhall Yard. The Lunch is a major fundraiser for the members of the Armed Forces who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. All three armed services of the Crown benefit.

Funds raised this year will go towards the work of the King Edward VII Hospital, with a focus on the mental health of veterans. The garden, designed by Gianna Utilini, illustrates the difficulties faced by veterans suffering both physical and emotional pain. The route through

the maze symbolises a journey from a dark to a light place with obstacles and challenges to be overcome.

Help is not always easily accessible: the Box maze and the *Prunus* 'Kojo-no-Mai' depict the seemingly impenetrable barriers faced along the way. The three mosaics in the middle represent the Hand, which is derived from an ancient North American symbol representing physical, emotional and spiritual healing; the Sun, which is a source of life, light and energy and the Rainbow, which brings the promise that the troubles of today will disappear tomorrow. The seat at the end offers a place of rest and reflection at the end of the journey.

Members of the Company, along with staff from Rochfords Nursery and students from the Future Gardeners Project, built the garden

on 3rd March. It was opened the following day by HRH the Duke of Kent, patron of the King Edward VII Hospital, the Lord Mayor and The Master. Liveryman Paul Burnage agreed to look after the maintenance of the garden which remained in place until 4th April when it was dismantled at the end of The Big Curry Lunch.

Inside the Guildhall, the Gardeners' stand at the Lunch was adorned with orchids, hydrangeas, pelargoniums and azaleas and trade was brisk. Bouquets were given to the Duke of Sussex and to the Lady Mayoress, presented by children of a Future Gardener.

The event overall raised £250,000 and over 12 years it has now raised in excess of £2m.

MANSION HOUSE

The Company enjoyed a splendid February evening of conviviality, entertainment, speeches and food and appreciated the opportunity to be in the Mansion House, thanks to the generosity of Lord Mayor Alderman Peter Estlin.

On entering the Egyptian Hall we were greeted by that glorious room and the stunning flower arrangements created by Miles Watson-Smythe. The 'trees' with hanging blooms were an innovative delight and the large, clear glass bowls of yellow and cream daffodils were eye-catching.

The evening was further enhanced by the presence of the Portsoken Volunteers in their resplendent uniforms. They attended with our thanks to John Mead, Liveryman, and joined us for dinner.

The flowers enhanced the five songs sung by our own Charlotte de Rothschild. The combination of her exquisite voice and beautiful Japanese songs was a great pleasure. Charlotte gave us detailed descriptions of the songs as well as amusing observations of her own. We were also very grateful to Mark Troop who accompanied Charlotte on the piano. Together, they were a memorable entertainment.

Upper Warden Heather Barrett-Mold delivered an informative speech during which we were able to honour the special guests.

The Lord Mayor Locum Tenens Sir Roger Gifford presided over the evening. He has a deep and abiding interest in environmental conservation and explained green mortgages – an unknown concept to many. As he spoke about the



MASTER MARGARET HOLLAND PRIOR WITH SOPRANO CHARLOTTE DE ROTHSCHILD.

significance of the natural world and the consequences of not protecting and expanding it, one couldn't help but be moved by his passion. Sir Roger described and promoted the Lord Mayor's Appeal, entitled 'Shaping Tomorrow's City Today', concentrating on Innovation, Technology, Digital Skills, and Digital and Social Inclusion. He presented our Learned Clerk with a Mayoral Spoon. Our Master was given a credit card holder for Masters and a box of Mayoral chocolates, much to her delight.

Master Margaret Holland Prior rose for her address to warm applause. In her thanks to Sir Roger she made special mention of the scope of his work concerning the environment and his music interests, including that with the City Liveries, referring to it as 'The flower of the City'.

She then reviewed for us the various achievements of the Company focussing especially on education for young people and "growing new talent" including the courses that are available. It was good to have such a thorough reflection and a great compliment to the Company.



GARDENS OF EXCELLENCE

At the end of March the Master led a six-day trip to Galicia. Barry Barrett-Mold, Wendy Bentall, Kate Jones, Helen Knight and George McCombe recall some of the highlights.

Our first stop was the impressive medieval Castillo de Soutomaior where we were treated to coffee and local pastries. The gardens are one of a number we will visit over the next few days that are on the 'Ruta da Camellia' connecting gardens recognised as Gardens of Excellence across Galicia.

We then transferred to the Parador in Pontevedra for our two night stay in the region.

Day 2 - We began with a walking tour of the pedestrianised medieval city centre, built almost entirely from local granite. After lunch in the fishing village of Combarro, we arrived at the small 18th Century manor house, Pazo Quintero da Cruz.

Among the many camellias in flower we were shown the 26 historical camellias brought in via Portugal in the 19th Century. Our host Beatriz proudly showed us the yellow *Camellia nitidissima*, collected by

her father, which took 16 years before it flowered.

Day 3 - We left the Parador at Pontevedra in beautiful sunshine after an enjoyable stay and made our way to the Armenteira Monastery in the hills and then to a beautiful 14th Century manor house, Pazo de Rubianes. The garden was divided into English, French and camellia areas and a field of vines.

Day 4 - The Parador of Santiago, known as Hostal dos Reis Católicos, was a real highlight of our tour. It was originally established as a hospedale for pilgrims in 1499 during the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella whose cameos are featured on the famous baroque portico.

On this morning, the group drove to the nursery Viveros Denoy where we were greeted by Marta Quinoy and Enrique Argibay. The business was started in 1987 and is now in its second generation, primarily growing camellias.

We returned to Santiago where we walked through the covered market and the maze of narrow medieval streets which make up the old town. No trip to Santiago would be

complete without a visit to the cathedral reputedly built over the site where the apostle St James was buried and the final destination of pilgrims travelling the Camino de Santiago or the Way of St James.

Day 5 - On our last full day we set off for the Palacio de Oca a short drive out of Santiago on the Pilgrims 'Silver Way' route from Seville to Santiago.

The Palacio is often referred to as the 'Galician Versailles', which becomes evident after walking through the imposing entry doors and courtyard. The view, behind the courtyard fountains, with the gardens spread out before us, and out over the fields, to the hills in the distance, instantly told us we were going to see very special gardens.

Day 6 - We returned to Porto airport and stopped on the way at the Estacion Fitopatolocixa de Areeiro, a state-run garden and laboratories.

Of particular note in the gardens is a collection of *Camellia 'Higo'*, with one example of each cultivar grown for the Emperor of Japan by his Samurai.