

2023 Seminar

Under the Canopy: Future Proofing Green Spaces in the City

Every year the London Gardens Network connects with a wide range of industry experts. We invite them to share their experiences, knowledge and advice with LGN Members, at our events. Find out more about our wonderful speakers;

- **Charlotte Harris, Harris Bugg Studio**
- **John Grimshaw, The Yorkshire Arboretum & Tree Health Centre**
- **Errol Rueben Fernandes, Horniman Museum and Gardens**
- **Mar Pelaez Munoz, Heston Action Group**
- **Greg Packman, Senior Tree Inspector and Consultant**
- **Charlie Harper, Knepp Castle Estate**
- **Sheila Das, RHS Garden Wisley**
- **Nick Mole, Pesticide Action Network**



Charlotte Harris, Garden and Landscape Designer

Harris's partnership with Hugo Bugg is one of the most interesting in gardens, with a confidence to pick and choose provocative and worthwhile projects, from 1930s housing estates in London to Scottish islands. Their 2021 Chelsea garden was notable for the pipework sculpture by architects McMullan Studio. Harris is becoming a voice pushing the profession to try harder. (Gardens Illustrated, December 2022).

Harris Bugg Studio is designing a new, permanent garden for Horatio's Garden at the Princess Spinal Injuries Centre in Sheffield, which will benefit thousands of patients, relatives and NHS staff for years to come. The brief for Sheffield is to transform what is currently a car park space into a hopeful, accessible and therapeutic space. The design is inspired by the stunning Rivelin Valley, which links Sheffield to the Peak District and the history of craftsmanship found at Kelham Island, one of the oldest industrial sites in Sheffield. The garden will be a beautiful, immersive, restorative haven – the antithesis of a busy, clinical hospital environment – providing a sense of hope and comfort to all those affected by spinal cord injury. (harrisbugg.com)

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John Grimshaw, Director of The Yorkshire Arboretum

John has been interested in plants his entire life, as both gardener and botanist. He holds a first class degree in botany and a doctorate in the ecology of the forests of Mt Kilimanjaro from Oxford University. His Tanzanian connections remain important and he's proud to be an honorary elder of the Maasai community of Lerang'wa, Tanzania. African plants remain an important botanical interest but he is fascinated by all plants and has grown a huge diversity in his gardens. He has travelled widely to see plants growing in habitat. His first book; *The Gardener's Atlas* (1998), recounts the journeys plants have made from their source to our gardens.

Working in The Netherlands for the seed company K. Sahin, Zaden. B.V., John was responsible for developing perennials and other plants for the seed trade. This gave him invaluable experience of commercial horticulture and management. Following that he joined Colesbourne Park in Gloucestershire as Gardens Manager, where he was responsible for maintaining and developing the historic Elwes family garden, especially the snowdrop collection. He co-authored the monograph *Snowdrops* (2002) with M Bishop & A Davis, published by Griffin Press. Between 2004-2009 he was lead author of a major book on trees introduced in the past 35 years, entitled *New Trees, Recent Introductions to Cultivation*, with co-author Ross Bayton. It was sponsored by the International Dendrology Society and was published by RBG Kew, in May 2009.

In August 2012 he became Director of The Yorkshire Arboretum, North Yorkshire, with responsibility for the 120-acre arboretum and 20-acre Ray Wood, on the Castle Howard estate. This involves a wide range of management and administrative duties, fundraising and networking as well as active curation of the extensive collection. John is a member of the RHS's Nomenclature and Taxonomy Advisory Group, the RHS Woody Plant and Gardens Committees and in 2012 led the RHS review of the Award of Garden Merit. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the International Dendrology Society's Trees and Shrubs Online, an encyclopaedic work covering all temperate woody plants.

In his own garden in North Yorkshire, England, he grows far too many plants, but shares their space with bantams, ornamental pheasants and a visiting peacock.

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Errol Reuben Fernandes; Head of Horticulture, Horniman Museum and Gardens

Errol is the Head of Horticulture at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in South London where he manages 16 acres of stunning gardens. Prior to this role, he was Senior Gardener for the, 112 acre, Kenwood House Estate in Hampstead, North London that is in the care of English Heritage.

With a background in fine art, curation, gallery education and psychotherapy as well as being botanically trained, Errol's approach to landscape management, horticulture and design is creative, thoughtful and sensitive. Errol is particularly interested in ecological and sustainable horticulture and develops planting schemes that sit comfortably alongside nature and have a low impact on the environment both in terms of implementation and maintenance. He also strives to push the boundaries of contemporary horticulture and design practice.

The Horniman Museum has an overarching climate and ecology manifesto that directly influences their practice. Working with communities, sharing knowledge, nurturing collaborative working practices and inspiring the next generation of horticulturalists are principles that are central to his work.

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Mar Pelaez-Munoz; Community Garden Co-ordinator, Heston Action Group (HAG)

Mar is a social activist and an environmentalist involved in bringing up change through a grassroots organisation called Heston Action Group. She is designing a food forest in her community garden as well as local street pocket gardens.

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Greg Packman, Tree Officer and Consultant

Greg is a tree officer and consultant working around London covering tree management for a variety of organisations. Greg has previously been involved with the tree management of The Royal Parks, Islington, Epping Forest, City of London, Inner & Middle Temple Gardens, Dulwich Estates and London Wildlife Trust.

In addition, Greg leads regular tree walks and presents on a number of tree management issues; particularly London plane trees and Massaria disease of plane, of which Greg has internationally recognised expertise. Greg also sits on the London Tree Officer's Association Executive Committee and co-chairs the Ancient Tree Forum London group as well as being part of the London Tree Partnership. Greg was also part of Pro Landscaper magazines '30 Under 30: The Next Generation award in 2018 and the 2022 Young Arboricultural Professional of the Year award.

Contact:

Greg's new website www.gregtalkstrees.com



Charlie Harpur; Head Gardener, Knepp Castle Estate

Photo of Charlie by Libby Drew

Charlie Harpur is a plantsman and landscape designer. Having trained as an architect, he worked for the landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith for several years. Charlie then gained practical experience in horticulture and ecology at gardens including the Chelsea Physic Garden and RGB Kew, graduating with a Kew Diploma in Horticulture before returning to Tom's studio in a more horticultural role.

Charlie is now Head Gardener at the Knepp Castle Estate where he oversees the re-wilding of the Victorian walled garden, as well as the development of a new, regenerative market garden.

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Sheila Das; Garden Manager, Education, Edibles, Seed and Wellbeing, RHS Garden Wisley

Sheila is a Garden Manager at RHS Garden Wisley with responsibility for learners on Wisley's practical training programmes, Edibles, the RHS Members' Seed Scheme and the Wellbeing Garden. After time with English Heritage and as a student at Kew, Sheila has worked with the Edibles and Wellbeing teams to deliver the new gardens at RHS Hilltop. The team are now moving forward with an exciting project to develop the wider edible landscape to promote sustainable practices, build biodiversity and share a 'planet friendly' approach with visitors and professional colleagues.

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Nick Mole; UK Policy Officer, PAN

Nick has been with PAN UK since 2007 working on all aspects of pesticide policy in the UK and EU. The area of work has included working on new EU and UK pesticide legislation and regulation, assessing the levels of pesticide residues in UK food and particularly in the area of making our towns and cities pesticide-free. Nick works with councils and others across the UK to help them establish plans for phasing out the use of amenity and urban pesticides.

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