



# THE SIXTH YEAR

April 2021 - March 2022



Worshipful  
Company  
of Gardeners

**BANKSIDE  
OPEN SPACES  
TRUST** 



Cover images:  
Top Future Gardeners 11  
Middle Future Gardeners 12  
Bottom Future Gardeners 13



## FOREWORD

**The sixth year of Future Gardeners has seen the programme recovering from the pandemic and running three courses, Future Gardeners 11, 12 and 13.**

I am very pleased to see that in its sixth year, Future Gardeners is still helping with the very real skills shortage in the horticulture industry. Future Gardeners offers a golden first step to one of the most fulfilling careers imaginable and has been one of the most successful of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners initiatives. This project is run in partnership with Bankside Open Spaces Trust and delivered by our Project Manager Louisa Mansfield, who coordinates the programme and inspires the students. Our goal is to continue to touch as many lives in this way as possible. As Master it was both a privilege and a highlight of my year to play a part in Future Gardeners and I was particularly inspired by the many and varied stories from successful students at the graduation events. I'm impressed that the programme has now achieved its own charitable status and I am looking forward to following its continuing success.

**Peter Waive,**  
*MASTER, The Worshipful Company of Gardeners*

Future Gardeners aims to provide horticultural training to people who have been long-term unemployed or faced challenges in their lives and who would benefit from gaining confidence, skills and the opportunity of training and employment.

## WHAT IS FUTURE GARDENERS?

Developed by prominent organisations in the industry, including Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), The Worshipful Company of Gardeners, The Royal Parks Guild and Walworth Garden, the course now works in partnership with numerous other organisations to ensure its success.

Participants are given the opportunity to gain the skills they need to be work-ready and get an entry level horticultural job or go into further training in the industry. Although the course is suited to a wide variety of people, it targets those with the most need, such as people not in education or training, the long-term unemployed, those who cannot afford other horticultural courses, and people who have learning needs or disabilities.

The course is practically focused, and includes the following:

- A City and Guilds Award Qualification Level 2 in work-based horticulture at Walworth Garden School of Horticulture.
- Practical experience in BOST community parks and gardens.
- Work experience with horticultural industry leaders including Royal Parks Greenwich, Gold and Wild, Chelsea Physic Garden, Crown Estates Paving Commission and Nurture at Jubilee Gardens.
- Research visits and workdays with outside organisations in the horticultural sector: Chiswick House and Gardens, Landscapes, Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Garden Wisley, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and the National Trust's Morden Hall.
- Horticultural industry expert talks to inspire students about their future careers.
- CV building, help with applying for jobs and interview techniques to ensure students are work-ready once they complete the course.
- One-to-one individually tailored mentoring and support aimed at building confidence.

# THE NEED FOR FUTURE GARDENERS

- **The shortage of skilled professionals entering the horticultural industry in the UK has now been deemed 'critical' by the RHS.** This is due to three factors: the current ageing workforce, lack of apprentices going into the industry at entry level and difficulties in recruiting for skilled vacancies. *(The 2019 Horticulture Sector Skills Survey undertaken by Pye Tait for the Ornamental Horticultural Roundtable Group (OHRG)).*
- **With the OHRG predicting that the skills shortage will seriously restrict future business growth** and with horticulture contributing over £9 billion to the UK economy each year, there are sound economic reasons to address this skills shortage.
- **Unemployment can affect mental health, confidence and self-esteem as well as lead to debt and poor physical health.** A study from 2017 (BBC) showed that if you are young and unemployed you are more than twice as likely to have mental health needs. At the same time there is a need for horticulture to be presented as an accessible (no barriers to entry), fulfilling career choice to many who may not have thought of it as being an option for them, especially those who have limited or no qualifications and who would prefer to have a career outdoors. Horticulture is an accessible, healthy and fulfilling career option for those looking for a change from indoor jobs, or those who have not yet achieved the qualifications to begin a career. There are a wide variety of opportunities from garden design, landscaping, floristry, arboriculture and tree maintenance, plant propagation and growing, working in nurseries and garden centres to maintaining sports pitches and golf courses, the list goes on...

# COURSE OUTCOMES

## Outline of Future Gardeners April 2021-March 2022

### FUTURE GARDENERS 11 MAY TO JULY 2021

**Jennifer Edwards** – secured a seasonal job with Gavin Jones in Greenwich Park.

**Danielle Hartley** – working part time at Bartholomew Landscapes and on her own gardening project 'The Lost Plots' in East London.

**Tiziana Lia** – now working full time for Gavin Jones at Potter's Fields.

**Alex Swinfen** – secured work with Bartholomew Landscapes.

**Kaveh Atri** – volunteering at Victoria Park while studying at Capel Manor environmental college.



**Paras Sanghavi** – secured employment with Gavin Jones at Jubilee Gardens.

**Myles Martin** – working full time at Willerby Landscapes.

**Stephen Carolan** – self-employed garden maintenance.

**Natalie Clapham** – moved out of London to join a food growing project in Devon.

**Sadik Hussein** – withdrew from the course due to personal circumstances.

**Clinton Adogbeji** – withdrew from the course due to personal circumstances.

11 PARTICIPANTS  
9 GRADUATED



14 PARTICIPANTS  
12 GRADUATED

## FUTURE GARDENERS 12 SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2021

**Linda Harrison** – continued to work part time in her previous job whilst looking for gardening work.

**Jonathan Hobbs** – working full time for Q&S Commercial Landscaping.

**John Constable** – garden trainee at Chelsea Physic Garden.

**Charis Tighe-Doyle** – getting experience doing temporary assignments for Fresh Horticultural Careers whilst looking for permanent work.

**Stanley Case** – working part time, gardening at Richmond Cemetery.

**Aida Aregai** – working part time for Frogal Gardens.

**Joy** – looking for work and looking at further training options.

**Malissa Ritchie** – continuing to volunteer.

**Mary Heelan** – doing some ad hoc private garden maintenance work and continuing to volunteer in her local community garden.

**Marilyn Wynter** – looking for work.

**Paul Walters** – looking for work.

**Kimberley Cumberbatch** – looking for employment after a period of ill health.

**Jimmy May** – didn't complete the course due to personal circumstances.

**Joanna Psoinos** – didn't complete the course due to personal circumstances.



## FUTURE GARDENERS 13 JANUARY TO MARCH 2022

**Larissa Young** – starting an apprenticeship with The Royal Parks in Regents Park.

**Joseph Coffey** – starting an apprenticeship with The Royal Parks in Greenwich Park.

**Divya Scialo** – moved to work on a food growing site in Somerset.

**Elizabeth Parker** – working for Bankside Open Spaces Trust running corporate volunteer gardening days.

**Charlotte Elvin** – moved to Snowdonia for a trainee food growing position.

**Alice Elias** – working in garden maintenance for Bartholomew Landscapes.

**Patrick Salafia** – working in garden maintenance with Maylim.

**Jessica Reeves** – working as a community gardener for Bankside Open Spaces Trust.

**Lauren Rigby** – interviewing for gardening roles and looking to continue her studies.

**Kevin Monk** – withdrew from the course due to personal circumstances.

**Mark Woods** – withdrew from the course due to personal circumstances.

**Nader Ayyadi** – withdrew from the course due to personal circumstances.

12 PARTICIPANTS  
9 GRADUATED



“A fantastic experience.  
The course has really  
helped me.”

“I really enjoyed my time with BOST,  
I think the Future Gardeners program  
is a really important program as many  
people (myself included) face barriers  
to getting involved in horticulture  
through lack of funds. I think the  
course structure is great and the trips  
especially were excellent.”

“Thank you for the  
experience, it has been  
amazing getting to know  
other people starting out  
in horticulture, and going  
around all the beautiful  
gardens and just seeing  
what is out there for  
future jobs.”

## STUDENT FEEDBACK FROM

“I have really enjoyed the work experience,  
visiting different places and gaining knowledge  
in horticulture.”

“I have really enjoyed the Future Gardeners course.  
I cannot stress enough how important the whole  
experience has been to me, in terms of opening  
doors to potential careers and giving me the  
confidence to pursue something I have a genuine  
passion and interest for. I have looked forward  
to both days every week, the trips and the visits to  
Walworth Garden have been so interesting and I'm  
so glad I was able to join the course with so many  
nice people.”

“I am more aware of careers that are out there. I am more aware of the conflicting demands within the industry, and how my work could help to alleviate issues caused by the barriers to sustainability in the commercial sphere.”

“I would highly recommend the Future Gardeners course to anyone wanting to pursue a career in gardening/horticulture.”

## OUR SIXTH YEAR

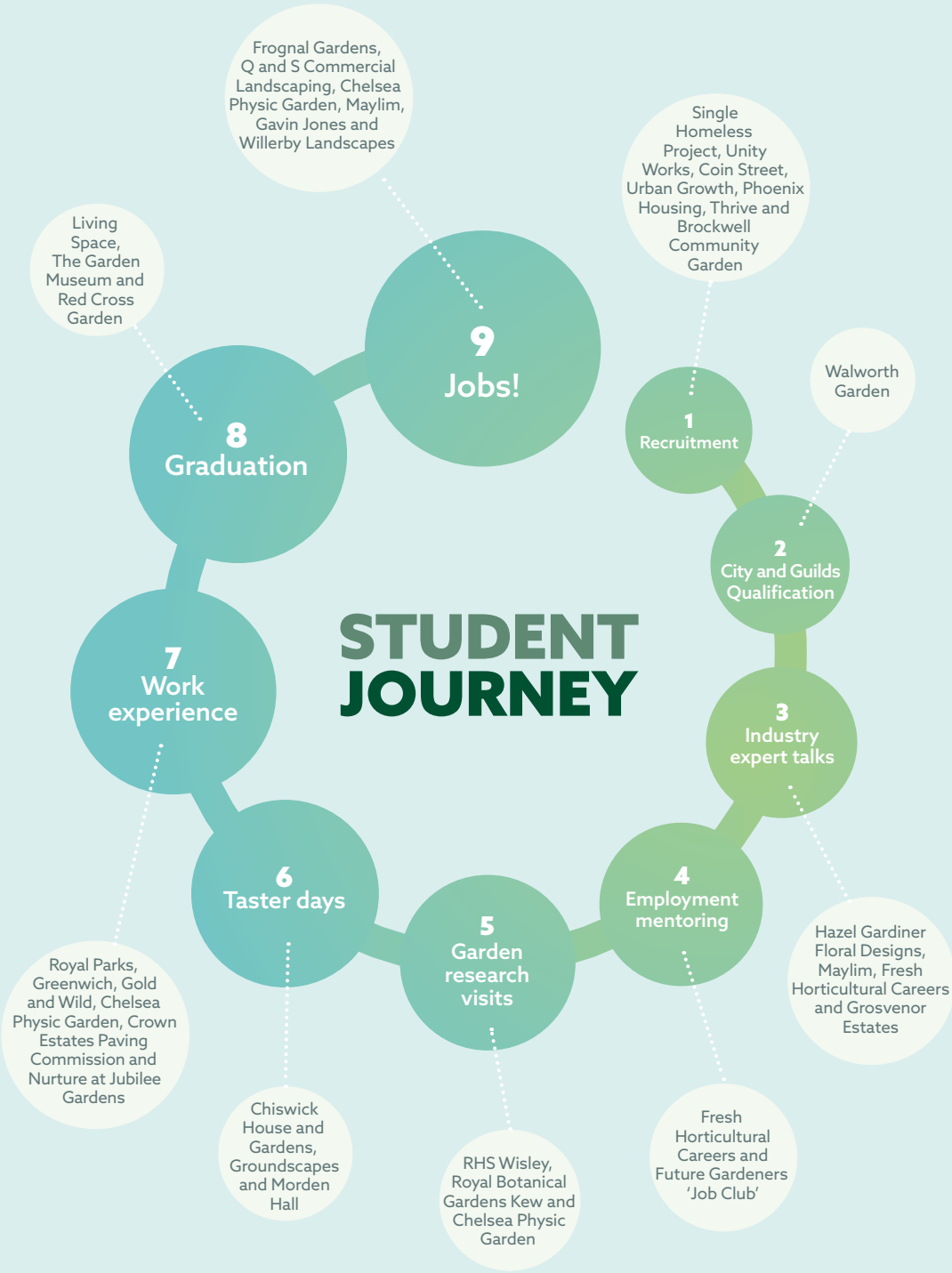
“It’s given me back my confidence and renewed focus on a trade which supports my wellbeing.”

“I feel like this course helped me find a job but also greatly improved my mental health.”

“It has been a very fulfilling experience. I have really learned a lot, and the course has helped me feel more confident and connected to the community and locality of where I live.”

“I enjoyed the practical hands-on approach.”

# STUDENT JOURNEY



# THE PROGRAMME

## City and Guilds Level 2 Award in Work-Based Horticulture

### **The course at Walworth Garden covered the following:**

- Plant nomenclature, terminology and identification
- Establishing propagation material
- Maintaining plants outdoors
- Monitoring and maintaining health and safety
- Maintaining and developing personal performance
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with others
- Preparing the ground for seeding and planting
- Establishing plants and seeds in soil
- Maintaining the appearance of decorative amenity areas
- Maintaining equipment and machines

### **With Project Manager Louisa Mansfield at Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), the students learned the theory and practice of:**

- General garden maintenance at local community gardens
- Working at local BOST sites
- Learning to identify weeds
- Identification of trees in the local area
- Mulching borders at Waterloo Millennium Green

FUTURE GARDENERS  
GROW YOUR CAREER



Future Gardeners 11  
community  
gardening with BOST  
at Hatfield Green.



Future Gardeners 12  
clearing leaves at  
Hatfield Green.



## Industry expert talks

A variety of speakers from the industry came and spoke to the students about their jobs and journeys into the industry – these included:

- **Alistair Bayford** and **Tom Mahoney** from Maylim
- **Marian Barker** from Fresh Horticultural Careers
- **Simon Lewis** and **Andrew Maskell**, Landscape Managers, Grosvenor Estates
- **Hazel Gardiner**, Hazel Gardiner Floral Designs
- **Johann De Brouwer**, Horticulture Supervisor, Jubilee Gardens, Gavin Jones
- **Jon Davies** from Gold and Wild and **Miria Harris** from Miria Harris Garden Design.

Future Gardeners 12 at Living Space for a talk with Jon Davies from garden maintenance company Gold and Wild and Miria Harris from Miria Harris Garden Design.



Future Gardeners 13 at Living Space listening to Tom Mahoney and Alistair Bayford from landscape contractor, Maylim.

## Employment mentoring

**Future Gardeners Project Manager Louisa Mansfield supported students with careers advice and employability skills. The aim is that all students have an up-to-date gardening CV and are confident in both applying for jobs and attending interviews by the end of the course.**

The students were helped in their employment journey with a mixture of presentations, workshops and a weekly 'Job Club'. Held outside of the class, the club offers 1-2-1 help with whatever the students need in their job search. In the post course survey carried out, 100% of respondents who had attended Job Club said it was useful for updating their CV.

All students were also introduced to Fresh Horticultural Careers – a specialist recruitment agency for the gardening, landscaping and horticulture industries throughout the UK – and were assisted in registering for both permanent and temporary jobs.



A FRESH APPROACH TO RECRUITMENT



## Garden research visits

*A visit to RHS Garden Wisley - 17th February 2022*

**Future Gardeners 13 were the first group of Future Gardener students to visit RHS Garden Wisley as part of the programme timetable. They were joined by Future Gardener trustees Paul Rochford and Mike Fitt.**

The day was organised by Chris Moncrieff, Head of Horticulture Relations at The RHS and started with introductions from Shelia Das, Manager of Wisley, and Sue Moss, Head of Education. The Future Gardeners were then shown round the new RHS Hilltop Centre for Horticultural Scientific Excellence and had a lovely lunch where Rowena Wilson, Bursary Coordinator, met the students. Later, RHS apprentices Sam and Lucia led a guided tour of the gardens. This gave the students the opportunity to find out more about the apprenticeships offered by The RHS and how to apply for a position.

The rain held off and a great time was had by all. We are now going to look at applying for a RHS Bursary to fund the costs of a RHS Wisley trip (minibus and lunches) so that future students will be able to benefit from the experience.



Future Gardeners 13 being introduced to the work of the RHS by Head of Education, Sue Moss.

“RHS Wisley was great, the staff and apprentices were extremely knowledgeable. I particularly enjoyed the glasshouse.”



Future Gardeners 13 on a tour of the gardens of RHS Wisley.

“I really enjoyed the tour of all parts of garden, the way it was well looked after and learning from the apprentices about what their course is like. Also enjoyed exploring the woodland part of the garden. I will definitely be back to visit RHS Wisley again.”

“I had a really great day, it was lovely being shown around the gardens, and having some of the vision and reasons behind the changes in the gardens explained to us. I really loved the whole feel of the gardens, and have applied for an apprenticeship with the RHS.”



Future Gardeners 13 on a tour of RHS Hilltop Wisley with Shelia Das, Garden Manager.

“Had a really interesting and enjoyable day at RHS Wisley. The staff were really welcoming, friendly and knowledgeable, and it was great to meet people from varying roles at the garden who could give an idea of the range of possibilities available to people who are interested in gaining an education there. It was great to hear about the garden's interest in the ecological issues surrounding gardening. The facilities were really comfortable and the gardens were very impressive.”



**FUTURE GARDENERS**  
**GROW YOUR CAREER**

Other research visits across the year were to *Royal Botanic Gardens Kew* with current apprentice Tony (past Future Gardener student), *Gordon Square with Nurture*, *Chelsea Physic Garden*, *Royal College of Physicians* and *Cannon Street roof garden*.



*Left:*  
Future Gardeners 13 on a tour of Royal Botanic Gardens Kew with apprentice and former Future Gardener student Tony.



*Right:*  
Future Gardeners 12 on a visit to Gordon Square with Nurture.



*Left:*  
Future Gardeners 13 on a tour of the Royal College of Physicians' Garden.

## Discovery Day for Horticultural Apprentices and Trainees

**Future Gardeners 12 were lucky to be able to go to the Olympic Park for the annual Discovery Day for Horticultural Apprentices and Trainees.**

Launched by The Royal Parks Guild some 12 years ago, Discovery Days began as masterclasses aimed at those starting out in horticulture in the capital. They have expanded progressively to include apprentices and trainees from across the wider London area and, more recently, participants from around the UK. Our students were joined by apprentices from Moor Trees, Devon, who were in London for our exchange programme (See more on this on page 24).

This was a truly memorable and heart-warming event with almost 200 horticultural apprentices and trainees for a day of talking, walking, mixing and

exchanging in an inspiring venue at the London Stadium in the setting of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. We were delighted our students were able to see a past Future Gardener up on stage as part of the 'Emerging Talent' section. Sara Barnes, one of our first Future Gardeners, spoke about her horticultural career journey. Sara completed our course and went onto an apprenticeship with OrganicLea. She is now a diploma student at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

Towards the end of the day another past Future Gardener student featured - Jake Wood, first year apprentice at Greenwich Park, who shared his views on the day. Jake was impressed by the wide variety of opportunities covered in the day, he expressed his hopes as "positive trajectories" for the future.



Moor Trees apprentices speaking at the Discovery Day at the Olympic Park.

## Work taster days

The students went to Morden Hall, Chiswick House and Groundscapes where they worked for the day with gardening teams and volunteers.



Future Gardeners 11 at Morden Hall with Head Gardener Jade.





Future Gardeners 13 coppicing willow at Chiswick House and Gardens.



Future Gardeners 11 learning the tools with Groundscapes.

## Work experience

Work experience placements this year included Royal Parks Greenwich, Gold and Wild, Chelsea Physic Garden, Crown Estates Paving Commission, Willerby Landscapes, Bartholomew Landscapes, Nurture and Hyde Park Nursery.



Future Gardener Jennifer at Greenwich Park with current employees and past Future Gardener students James and Jake.



Future Gardeners Kaveh and Alex with Judy at Crown Estates Paving Commission.





Stephen, Natalie and Tiz at Hyde Park Nursery.

*Right:*  
Patrick and Paras with  
Head Gardener Johann  
at Jubilee Gardens  
under Gavin Jones.



*Far right:*  
Charlotte and Elizabeth  
on work experience  
with Gold and Wild.



Aida working  
with Nurture at  
Gordon Square.

## Work experience at Moor Trees

In addition to our regular work experience options there was also the opportunity for students to go to Devon and work with a native tree nursery, Moor Trees, for a week. This was part of the 'Close the Gap' Hedgerows Project with The Tree Council.

The week consisted of trips to both the nurseries managed by Moor Trees, agroforestry workshops with Martin Crawford, director of the Agroforestry Research Trust and visits to The Eden Project and The Lost Gardens of Heligan.



Future Gardener students and Moor Trees apprentices with Martin Crawford.

“My highlight was the tours with Martin Crawford himself, it was an amazing experience to be able to ask questions about his design and have him tour and describe how and why he designed his forest gardens to fit the site chosen.”

“For our week in Plymouth we spent a week with Moor Trees which was very beneficial for my course studying. Seeing the work that they had to do was very interesting. We removed seeds out of their pods to dry out to plant for another year.”



Seed collecting at the tree nursery with Moor Tree Apprentices.

“This trip helped to prepare myself for a test that I had to do when I returned to London ... lovely experience that I would like to continue learning.”



Seed giveaway on our visit to Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

The Moor Trees apprentices came to London the following week where we went to visit The Sky Garden, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, the Tree Musketeers in Hackney, Red Cross Gardens, and also went to The Royal Parks Guild Discovery Day for trainees and apprentices at the Olympic Park.

“I had many benefits experienced during this week. Not only in terms of learning about horticulture but also in learning more about myself and about life in general.”

“The exchange provided an opportunity to visit a progressive horticultural hub and discuss different approaches. It broadened my understanding of the sector and will enable me to make more educated decisions about working practices and what I would like to be contributing.”



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

A graduation event was held for each group of students at various venues across London with a variety of influential speakers from the industry to welcome and inspire the students.

Venues were BOST's Red Cross Garden and Living Space, and The Garden Museum. Our speakers included : Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture and Learning, Royal Botanical Gardens Kew; Stephen Crisp, Head of Horticulture, United States Embassy London; Robert Halbert-Pereno, Community Gardener at Lancaster West Estate and past Future Gardener, and other previous Future Gardener students.



Future Gardeners 11 Graduation event at Red Cross Garden.



Future Gardeners 12 Graduation event at Living Space.

# PUBLICITY



EDUCATION & TRAINING

## Budding horticulturists find success



In July more than 14 horticultural students gathered at environmental charity Bankside Open Spaces Trust's award winning Red Cross Garden to celebrate passing the Trust's Future Gardeners Programme. With two previous graduations disrupted by covid, the event saw three groups of students mark their successes.

Launched in 2016, Future Gardeners is an innovative training and work experience scheme, giving participants core skills to gain entry level jobs in the horticulture industry without having any previous experience or specialist education. The programme is run by Bankside Open Spaces Trust with support from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, the Royal Parks Guild, Watworth Garden and Roots and Shoots. Future Gardeners is entirely funded by donations and is free for the trainees – giving opportunities to the long term unemployed and those who have struggled to access education.

The speakers at the event included; Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture and Learning at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Dr. Heather Barrett-Mold, Immediate Past Master, Worshipful Company of Gardeners; and Robert Halbert-Pereno, Gardener, Lancaster West Estate and previous Future Gardeners student.

The programme has been running for five years and has seen 115 students through its doors. There is an overall completion rate of 81%. Out of the students who finish the course 75% have gone on to employment in the industry.

Nine students graduated from Future Gardeners 11, the most recent course that ended on the day of the graduation. They had reason to celebrate as seven out of the nine students had already been successful in gaining employment in the industry with the likes of Bartholomew Landscapes, Gavin Jones and Willerby Landscapes.

The Trust will welcome the next round of students in September 2021.



Comment

# My gardening story

Discovering a network of London's community gardens helped **Peter Roake** recover from years of drug use, learn a new vocation and support others in their horticultural journeys



### Peter's three tips for starting out with gardening:

- 1 Don't let age be a barrier** I started my journey at 50 and have no regrets. It's so diverse, there's something for everyone.
- 2 There is always more to learn** It can feel daunting, but embrace it: that is part of the fun.
- 3 Trust your instincts** If I hadn't trusted mine when I found the community garden, who knows where I'd be.

**I**t was back in February 2018 that my gardening journey began. I was coming to the end of a programme that was improving my health after years of drug and alcohol use, and was beginning to feel human again. Having just turned 50, I wasn't ready to give up on life. I didn't want to go back to the stressful world I was in before, as a courier racing to hit deadlines, not being paid for return journeys and being penalised if I was late. I'd often end a shift losing money.

Desperate to find a job with purpose to keep me on track, I started volunteering for a social enterprise called The Community Hub that ran a back-to-work programme and offered subsidised food in return. Here, my interest in gardening was sparked.

The Community Hub was growing food in a mismatch of old and recycled containers, and I was drawn to it straight away. I started to help with the gardening, and after a few weeks they introduced me to Flora, from Urban Growth ([urbangrowth.london](http://urbangrowth.london)). She invited me to volunteer at the newly planted Brixton Orchard, taking care of the fruit trees in a much-needed green space, reconnecting people with food and plants. I began to realise there was much to learn about gardening, and that it brought many possibilities.

### Getting a qualification

Flora encouraged me to apply to a programme run by Bankside Open Spaces Trust, a green-space charity in South London, called Future Gardeners. In 12 weeks I'd gain a gardening qualification, get support with my CV and spend two weeks working for a gardening company of my choice. Perfect. It was April when I applied and though it was full, I was fortunate to get a late place when a space came up that month. I was over the moon.

My work was based at Walworth Garden, where I immediately felt at home. There was a vibe about the place that's hard to put into words. I settled in quickly and decided to do my work experience with them, too. I helped a team that worked in Southwark and Lambeth, taking care of green spaces and gardens of residents who could no longer look after them. My enthusiasm was noted, and at the end of the programme Walworth Garden offered me the position of Trainee Gardener, supporting me to get a diploma in horticulture, and really start to gain some control back over my life.

Today I'm one of the gardeners on the garden services team at Walworth Garden, managing and supporting other new staff and trainees. I'm keen to impart what I've learnt to others who might be struggling in life. But for gardening, I'm sure I would have relapsed. In fact, I'm not convinced I'd still be alive. I've got gardening and the brilliant network of South London's green spaces to thank. The journey has only just begun. **o**

*But for gardening, I'm sure I would have relapsed.'*

# Your Gardening News



Got a story?  
email [ruth.hayes@futurenet.com](mailto:ruth.hayes@futurenet.com)

The latest stories from around the UK .....

## Garden courses help to change lives

Scheme to help the underprivileged gain a career in horticulture is a great success

AN initiative that was launched to give underprivileged youngsters in London an understanding of horticulture has now gained charitable status and is offering jobs and life skills to hundreds of people in the capital.

Future Gardeners was established five years ago by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, a City of London Livery Company, and the environmental and volunteering charity the Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) to encourage youngsters into horticultural careers.

Schoolchildren were the initial target, but the scheme now attracts men and women aged between 18 and mid-60s, from all backgrounds and ethnicities.

With support from the Greater London Authority, Chelsea Physic Garden, the Royal Parks Guild, Grosvenor Estates, Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, the RHS and many other organisations and companies, Future Gardeners runs three 12-14-week courses a year, starting in January, May and September.

Graduates receive hands-on learning, a City and Guilds qualification in horticulture and a certificate from the Gardeners Company to aid their job search. Around 70% find work in the horticultural industry.

### Passing on life skills to students

Project chairman Rex Thornborough said: "For the majority of people on the course, this is the first time that they have been awarded a certificate that says they are good at something.

"At the last graduation, one man stood up and said that without us he wouldn't have been there because he had been on a downward spiral of drink and drugs before he joined the course and turned his life around. "He ended by saying "and tomorrow I start my new job". This came about as a result of the work experience part of the course, as one of the gardening team had been in the same situation as this student."

**"Around 70% find work in horticulture"**



A Future Gardeners graduation ceremony at the Red Cross gardens in Southwark, London

The courses, which are free, operate in London and are financed 50/50 by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners and BOST, though now Future Gardeners has achieved charitable status there are hopes of attracting external funding and opening new courses elsewhere.

Louisa Mansfield, Future Gardeners project manager at BOST, said: "It is wonderful to see how the courses change lives. As well as getting the qualification we also help with writing CVs and job interview techniques, so we are passing on life skills too.

### The courses could work anywhere

"We also want to encourage greater diversity in gardening. The course is open to anyone and everyone who wants to get a job in horticulture."

Rex added: "We have an 80% completion rate, the highest for any course like this and if it works in Southwark and Lambeth there's no reason it can't work anywhere else.

"It also opens the students' eyes to the



Future Gardeners students carrying out horticultural work in Hatfield



The eleventh Future Gardeners course with Groundscapes in Stockwell, London

potential of jobs in horticulture. It isn't just plants and trees – if you are mad about football, a job as groundsman at the Emirates Stadium is a horticultural job!"

■ FOR further details of Future gardeners courses, visit [bost.org.uk/future-gardeners](http://bost.org.uk/future-gardeners) or [gardenerscompany.org.uk/future-gardeners](http://gardenerscompany.org.uk/future-gardeners) or send an email to [louisa@bost.org.uk](mailto:louisa@bost.org.uk).

The phone number for the Bankside Open Spaces Trust is ☎ 020

7403 3393 and the Worshipful Company of Gardeners can be contacted at ☎ 01730 815325.

For details of how to donate to Future Gardeners, please email Louisa on the address above.

The charity number of Future gardeners is 191623.

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# Your Gardening News



Got a story?  
email ruth.hayes@futurenet.com

The latest stories from around the UK

## Horticultural life-changers

How gardeners scheme helped turn Myles' life around

LAST September we wrote about Future Gardeners, a scheme to help underprivileged people in London to turn their lives around and find jobs in the horticulture sector.

Now one of those it helped has spoken to AG about how the initiative transformed his life.

Myles Martin was introduced to Future Gardeners by Jenny Wades of the Single Homeless Project (SHP), a London organisation that helps homeless and vulnerable people.

She and one of her colleagues recommended that Myles approach Future Gardeners and the opportunities offered have changed his life.

He is now working on some of the largest building projects in the capital, including Ilona Rose House in Soho, the Shell Building next to the London Eye and the new Facebook/Google HQ in King's Cross with the architectural and planning company Willerby Landscapes. It is a vast contrast to the life Myles was living before.

### I have a job, a flat, everything is good

"I was homeless and SHP provided me not only with a place to live but also with the ability to start gardening and then to enter the project," Myles explained. "A gentleman called Elliot put my name down to do the course as he wanted to help me find something different to do and take me out of the bubble that I was in, staying at home and not doing anything with my life.

"It has changed everything in a positive way. It's exactly what I needed. Before this I was looking down all the time but now I have a job and a flat and everything is good."

Before he started gardening, Myles felt trapped in a spiral of dead-end technology and retail jobs where he 'had to learn how to fix a never-ending list of things as opposed to living my life in a positive manner'.



Myles Martin at work with Willerby Landscapes, a job he was helped with by Future Gardeners

Both Photos: Rosemary Cook

Now he loves the outdoor life and is constantly learning new skills.

"It's a great job with great people, it's healthy and I no longer smoke or drink, I eat good food, I'm in a good place," said 34-year-old Myles.

"I wouldn't have thought about doing this sort of work, even three years ago, but I love doing it. It is completely different from the life I would have thought I would be living, but it's a great change for me.

"I am a lot happier than I was and things are truly going forward for me in life"



Myles Martin: 'I'm in a good place'

### Learning and qualifications

Future Gardeners was established six years ago by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, a City of London Livery Company, and the environmental and volunteering charity the Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) to encourage people into horticultural careers.

With support from several London institutions, Future Gardeners runs three 12-14-week courses a year. Graduates receive hands-on learning, a City and Guilds qualification in horticulture as well as a certificate from the Gardeners Company to aid their job search. Around 70% find work in the horticulture.

For further details of Future gardeners courses, visit [bost.org.uk/future-gardeners](http://bost.org.uk/future-gardeners) or [gardenerscompany.org.uk/future-gardeners](http://gardenerscompany.org.uk/future-gardeners) or email Future Gardeners project manager Louisa Mansfield at [louisa@bost.org.uk](mailto:louisa@bost.org.uk).

To donate to Future Gardeners, please email Louisa on the address above. The charity's number is 191623.

**"It changed everything in a positive way"**



The Tower of London will have a motif of flowers for the platinum jubilee

Born Alley

## A Tower of flowers

### Tribute for jubilee

WORK is underway on a Superbloom at the Tower of London to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The historic palace on the north bank of the Thames will be encircled by millions of flowers this summer, grown from 20 million carefully selected seeds since this spring.

The floral extravaganza will evolve from June to September, changing colours and patterns throughout the summer.

The historic Tower, scene of much bloodshed and strife through the centuries, has already hosted the 'sea of poppies' installation commemorating the centenary of the First World War.



Poppy tribute at the Tower

### Thriving new landscape in London

This latest display has been designed to attract bees, pollinators and seed-eating birds, and be a biodiverse space to support wildlife.

Superbloom will be the first stage of a permanent transformation of the castle's famous moat into a new natural landscape in the heart of the City of London.

Tom O'Leary of the Historic Royal Palaces who conceived the Superbloom idea, said: "We're thrilled to be bringing some joy, colour and spectacle to the Tower of London in celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

"We hope that this thriving new landscape surrounding London's formidable fortress will celebrate the power of nature to unite us all."

Superbloom will be open every day from June to give visitors the chance to explore and see the spectacle close up.



## THE OUTLOOK IS BRIGHT FOR NEW FUTURE GARDENERS CHARITY

Future Gardeners has recently completed its fifth year of operation and has had approximately 100 people from all walks of life graduate from the course. Of these some 75% have gone on to jobs in horticulture and many have progressed to apprenticeships with organisations such as The Royal Parks or to undertake diplomas at Kew Gardens.

We even managed to get one course in last year between lockdowns!

This wonderful success story has up to now been funded by the Gardeners' Company and Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), our operating partner, on a 50/50 basis. Many of you will recall fundraising dinners in the past and the majority of Company monies for this project have come from events like that as well as private donations.

In order to be able to grow Future Gardeners beyond what it is now capable of it was decided to register it as a Charity with the Charity Commission which was achieved last October with the registered number 1191623.

It is hoped that in due course the charity will be able to fund itself so as to allow the Gardeners and BOST to continue to fund the other ventures that they run without the take on funds for this project.

To this end, for this year only, you will have received details of reduced Quarterage and a request that you donate the balance between the normal quarterage rate and this year's reduced one to Future Gardeners. Details were sent by the Clerk in his quarterage email. Email acceptance of this to the Clerk will be sufficient but we need to get

your confirmation that you make this donation to Future Gardeners so that we can claim Gift Aid on it in order to gain maximum value for the project.

Future plans are for us to grow the project from its current single site in Southwark to another one in London and to hopefully expand it into other areas of the country in due course. Graduates currently attain a City and Guilds certificate on completion of the course and we are presently talking to potential employers to see what they might require in the future and if there are alternative accreditation providers. As we all know the jobs market has changed dramatically because of the pandemic but the need for green space and its proper maintenance has never been greater so the future is looking good for Future Gardeners.

We have some amazing partners offering work experience to the courses and jobs when people have graduated. There is now a Future Gardeners tag on the Company website and we will be developing our own site over the coming months. We will continue to work with BOST as our partner in this exciting venture and look forward to keeping the Company in touch with developments as we progress. Thank you all for your support, it puts the Company at the forefront of social achievement in the Livery movement.

**Rex Thornborough**  
Chair, Future Gardeners

**Molly Gadenz from BOST and Guillaume Tremorin from Future Gardeners 9 busy with pond work at the Diversity Garden in King James Street, Southwark.**





## FUTURE GARDENERS CELEBRATE SUCCESS AT HISTORIC GARDEN

Fourteen horticultural students gathered in Bankside Open Spaces Trust's award winning Red Cross Garden\* in Southwark in July to celebrate passing the Future Gardeners Programme. With two previous graduations disrupted by Covid, this event saw three groups of students mark their success.

Recently established as a charity in its own right (see Spade issue 56, Summer 2021), Future Gardeners was launched in 2016. An innovative training and work experience scheme, it gives participants core skills to gain entry level jobs in the horticulture industry without having any previous experience or specialist education.

The programme is run by Bankside Open Spaces Trust with support from the Gardeners' Company, the Royal Parks Guild, Walworth Garden and Roots and Shoots. It is entirely funded by donations and is free for the trainees – giving opportunities to the long term unemployed and those who have struggled to access education.

The speakers at the July event included Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture and Learning at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, IPM Dr Heather Barrett-Mold and Robert Halbert-Pereno, Gardener at Lancaster West Estate and previous Future Gardeners student.

The programme has now seen 115 students through its doors. There is an overall completion rate of 81%. Out of the students who finish the course 75% have gone on to employment in the industry.

Nine students graduated from Future Gardeners 11, the course that ended on the day of the July graduation. They had reason to celebrate as seven out of the nine students had already been successful in gaining employment in the industry with employers such as Bartholomew Landscapes, Gavin Jones and Willerby Landscapes.

A new group of students enrolled in September.

**\*Red Cross Garden is an award-winning open space which BOST renovated and restored to its original Victorian layout in 2005. Steeped in history, it was built along with its neighbouring cottages in 1886. Designed by Octavia Hill (1838-1912), a social reformer and one of the three founders of the National Trust, this park was her flagship project and at the time Red Cross Garden demonstrated the importance of improving housing for the poor and the need for meaningful occupations for poor workers.**

*Bankside Open Spaces Trust is a registered environmental charity working to protect, preserve and enhance parks, gardens and other amenities in London's SE1 and surrounding areas. It aims to improve people's lives by making where they live and work greener and more beautiful.*

*It was set up in 2000 by Bankside residents and it welcomes volunteers from both the community and the corporate sector. It runs regular gardening groups, supports park steering groups, organises and takes part in public events and educational projects, and offers advice to others. It collaborates closely with local residents and businesses to champion green spaces.*

*Its spaces include Red Cross Garden, Marlborough Sports Garden, Waterloo Millennium Green and Tate Community Garden. Many are award-winning. It holds more than 32 awards, including the UNESCO Man and Biosphere award, London in Bloom Champion of Champions and the MPGA London Spade for its community gardening partnerships.*



Paras Sanghavi receives his graduation certificate from IPM Heather Barrett-Mold and Future Gardeners Project Manager Louisa Mansfield.

PHOTOGRAPH JOHN GILBERT

# SUCCESS OF FUTURE GARDENERS

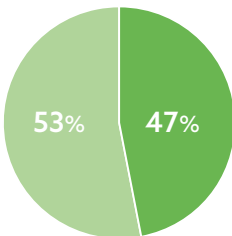
During the 2021-22 year, 37 enrolled and 30 completed the course, a completion rate of 81%. This is an increase in student numbers from both the 2019-2020 and 2020-21 years when we were only able to run one course due to Covid-19.

83% of those who have completed the course have now gone into employment or further training in the industry. Employers include Frognal Gardens, Q and S Commercial Landscapes, Chelsea Physic Garden, Maylim, Gavin Jones and Willerby Landscapes.

**81%**  
completion  
rate

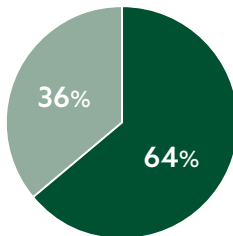
## Demographics for the sixth year students

Gender 2022



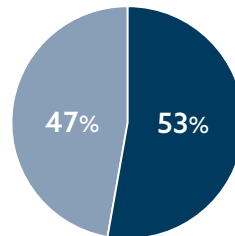
- Male
- Female

Nationality 2022



- White British or other white background
- Ethnic minority background

With/without disability/  
health condition 2022



- No disability/health condition
- With disability/health condition

# IMPACT EVALUATION

At the beginning and end of each course students are asked to complete an anonymous survey about their current levels of physical activity and fitness as well as their sense of life satisfaction, happiness, self-confidence, being appreciated, connection to nature, community belonging, anxiety and loneliness.

On average 80% of students reported the same or improved feelings in each of the areas. The biggest improvement reported was in life satisfaction with 75% of participants reporting an improvement.

Students rated the following areas the most enjoyable/important to them:

- Learning about horticulture
- Learning new skills
- Doing gardening
- Getting a qualification

When thinking about impact statements:

**100%** agreed or strongly agreed they have more knowledge of plants and gardening.

**89%** agreed or strongly agreed their gardening abilities had improved.

**81%** agreed or strongly agreed they were more aware of environmental issues.

**67%** agreed or strongly agreed they felt prouder of where they live and work.

**70%** agreed or strongly agreed they had more friends.

**68%** agreed or strongly agreed their self-confidence had increased.

**67%** agreed or strongly agreed they were better able to communicate with others.

**69%** agreed or strongly agreed they were better at working as part of a team.

**100%** of respondents said they intend to pursue a career in horticulture

# AIMS FOR FUTURE GARDENERS

After the success of six years of Future Gardeners there is both the need and the demand to develop and expand the scheme. In order to realise this aim, Bankside Open Spaces Trust and The Worshipful Company of Gardeners are delighted that Future Gardeners has recently become a charity in its own right (Charity Number 1191623). This will give us the opportunity to generate more funding opportunities and to grow the programme.

Our targets and impact proposals going forward are:

- **Running three Future Gardener courses per year** in Waterloo, central London. There will be 14 participants per course, three courses per year, enabling 42 people per year to benefit from the course.
- **Out of the 34 students who are expected to complete the course per year**, assuming an 80% completion rate, we aim to support 80% of these participants into jobs in the horticultural industry. This will be a total of 27 students per year going into careers in the industry.
- **Expand the operational capacity** of Bankside Open Spaces Trust to be able to deliver in-house City and Guilds Horticultural Qualifications to all students.
- **Expand the programme to additional London boroughs** and also to other cities in the UK, including but not limited to Glasgow, Belfast and Leeds.

# PARTNERS



## The Worshipful Company of Gardeners

Founded in 1345, the Company was granted its Royal Charter in 1605. A key objective of the Company was to promote horticulture through education. In furtherance of this, members of the Company were permitted to 'bring up' apprentices in the 'Mystery of Gardening'. The Company continues its activities in many ways - the establishment of a library at Guildhall in 1891, scholarships to students, as well as awards to students from colleges of further education. The Company also part-funds apprentices and makes financial grants to outside organisations to promote horticulture.



## Bankside Open Spaces Trust

Bankside Open Spaces Trust is an award-winning environmental and volunteering charity working to provide outstanding green spaces and outdoor activities that enhance the health and wellbeing of urban communities.

We oversee and care for over 19 community spaces across London's SE1 area, including Red Cross Garden, Marlborough Sports Garden, Crossbones Graveyard, Tate Modern Community Garden and Waterloo Millenium Green. We welcome volunteers from both the community and corporate sector, put on free outdoor events and activities, support park steering groups, organise and take part in public events and educational projects, and offer advice to others. We collaborate closely with local residents and businesses to champion green spaces.



### The Royal Parks Guild

The aim of The Royal Parks Guild is to support and promote London's Royal Parks in a manner that befits their status, unique heritage and cultural value through the input and support of Guild members, whilst developing and maintaining a range of social activities that benefit its membership. Its objectives include promoting 'The Guild' and the Parks' heritage and diversity, supporting horticultural excellence, supporting education and vocational training, supporting volunteering and outreach working and maintaining and enhancing links with The Royal Parks. The Guild's members have a desire to keep the parks at the forefront of horticultural, landscape and cultural excellence.



Walworth  
Garden EST. 1986

### Walworth Garden

Walworth Garden is a unique charity dedicated to improving lives through horticulture. Open to everyone, their award-winning gardens provide an oasis in the heart of Southwark. It's a place people come to relax, learn and grow.

Through gardening education, training and therapy, Walworth Garden provides opportunities and support for members of the local community, including vulnerable and disabled adults, those who've suffered traumatic experiences, and unemployed people looking to improve their professional skills and qualifications.

Their twin aims are to enable public access, understanding and enjoyment of horticulture, and to help people develop the skills and confidence they need to find their way back to work, independence and wellbeing. In support of these goals, learning underpins everything they do. Whether people simply want to sit and enjoy their surroundings, take part in training programmes, or find out more about themselves through therapeutic activities, Walworth Garden gives them the space, time and help they need.

## With thanks to our supporters and partners



The Birrane  
Foundation



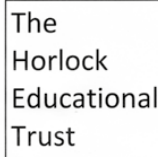
CROWN ESTATES PAVING COMMISSION



CHISWICK  
HOUSE & GARDENS



GREATER  
**LONDON**  
AUTHORITY



Royal Botanic Gardens  
**Kew**





PEER GROUP PLC



**FUTURE GARDENERS**  
GROW YOUR CAREER



**The first year**

Louisa Mansfield Project Manager  
Year ending March 2017






Louisa Mansfield Project Manager  
Year ending March 2018

**The second year**







April 2018 – March 2019

**The third year**







**THE FOURTH YEAR**

April 2019 March 2020






**THE FIFTH YEAR**

April 2020–March 2021






**THE SIXTH YEAR**

April 2021 – March 2022









## CAN YOU HELP?

The project requires ongoing funding for future expansion plans. If you would like to help us raise funds for this deserving initiative, make a donation or can help in any other way please contact **Louisa Mansfield** at [louisa@bost.org.uk](mailto:louisa@bost.org.uk) or call **020 7403 3393**



Bankside Open Spaces Trust  
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Charity reg 1085454

[www.bost.org.uk](http://www.bost.org.uk)