

Barbara and Philip Denny Trust report by Alfonso Moreno

The Walled Garden

It has been a really busy time since I last wrote to you. Spring has come and gone and the garden is now fully planted with all sort of vegetables and flowers all of which were grown, by us, from seed!

This year I am responsible for the brassicas and leaf salad beds and, so far, so good! In April, we had an early crop of broccoli and cabbage from the seed bed we planted September last year and transplanted, to the right spacing, just before winter settled in. After seeming dormant for a couple of months it started sprouting and growing in size and volume and it has been producing beautiful broccoli heads and huge cabbages, the last of which we sold just last week.



We have now planted two new beds to give continuity to the crop. I'm especially proud of how the red Kale and the Brussel Sprouts are looking. Planting from seed, then pricking out into 9mm pots and finally planting them under the protection of nets to avoid the cabbage white butterfly and the voracity of pigeons. Overall it has been a really satisfying and great learning experience.

In addition to vegetable growing we also attended a number of workshops and were able to put our learnings straight into practice. These included:

- Hard wood cuttings and grafting
- Wisteria pruning
- Apple and trained fruit tree pruning
- Rose pruning workshop with an expert from David Austin Roses

We also had the opportunity to share some of our experience and learnings with the general public during "An introduction to vegetable growing" hosted by Lucy Hart our head gardener. Where I had to explain how to direct sow seeds in drills after preparing the ground.

Ever mindful of the importance of wildlife and pollinators in the garden we were also busy building bird boxes and planting a new pollinator border (below).



Planting



Mulching



Enjoying

Around the palace

It has been a really exciting time for the Palace with its relaunch in May following the extensive renovation work. I've really enjoyed being part of the team! Working with my colleagues and a dedicated group of volunteers, as we return the palace gardens back to its former glory and support the various events such as the Tudor Family Day. I especially enjoyed working in the new Compton bed, just outside the south gate of the walled garden, where we planted many of the species that Bishop Compton introduced to the UK.



In parallel my studies continued with regular Plant Idents at Fulham Palace and the completion of the RHS level 2 in Horticulture.

Until next time,
Alfonso