

Barbara and Phillip Denny Trust

Patricia Stadler 4<sup>th</sup> report 7 November 2022

There are so many reasons why a horticultural career is exceptional, and one of them is the seasonal rhythm. Although time shamelessly flies by, the change in seasons naturally guides gardeners to switch to different tasks, adjust their habits and find new working patterns. Light is spare, rain is abundant, harvesting is minimal and the growth rate of plants is remarkably slowed down.



*My miscellaneous plot in August in comparison to the cleared and mulched plot in November*

Fulham Palace Trust's apprenticeship is all about learning and growing a good foundation of horticultural knowledge. This report being my fourth one, I realise that my learning skills are getting more precise, allowing me to suggest new ideas in addition to trying out new projects. The Barbara and Philip Denny Trust has enabled me to fulfil so much during my time at Fulham Palace. Thanks to this past year, I feel much more at ease instructing and looking after our volunteers, delegating tasks and answering their questions.

As part of my learning curve, Lucy, Pete and I led a 2 hour gardening session for a corporate group of 75 people. Divided into three groups, my task was to instruct, one group after the other, to weed around our Cedar tree. Different age groups, different interests and different skills, many of them had never used a garden hoe nor had weeded before. This challenged me to give out clear and concise instructions and to motivate the groups to get their hands dirty.

While learning an awful lot on the ground, the Trust offers us also more direct learning means such as the "dealing with difficult situations" workshop and staff training on "Bishop of London, colonialism and transatlantic slavery project".



*Participating in the 98th Fulham Horticultural Society autumn Show, many of our products made it onto the podium! A true success as organic growers!*

Growing vegetables in the garden, but also a wide range of cut flowers, senior gardener and former florist Franziska has been extremely generous by sharing a lot of her skills and knowledge.

Putting those new skills to trial while helping her during her cut flower workshop, I've had the opportunity to use them while picking and arranging the entire floral



arrangement of a private wedding. Cutting the flowers in the early hours, choosing the ones that will last, transporting them through London and arranging them in a tight schedule, the event pushed me to use all of my initiative and knowledge.



Thanks to Franziska, I felt extremely confident to do it and was rather proud of the result.

Maintenance jobs, cutting down and rejuvenating are all jobs undertaken in autumn at Fulham Palace. As feedback from the ecological survey research from Dr. Mark Spencer and Joe Beale, we have left 1/3 of the meadow within the moat long during the winter, to maximise the habits and food sources for invertebrates and birds. We have been taught by Pete to scarify, aerate and sow seeds as lawn maintenance before the temperature drops.

Autumn comes hand in hand with apple harvesting, which we have done for several days. Labelling and storing them in provision to our apple day fair, we showed more than 47 varieties of heritage apples at the very successful event.

Last but not least, we've welcomed four new members at Fulham Palace four Pekin Bantam hens.

# Fulham Palace House & Garden



*Phyllis, Matilda, Coco  
and Myrtle*



# Fulham Palace House & Garden

Many thanks to The Barbara and Philip Denny Trust  
for one year of learning at Fulham Palace

