

REJUVENATION OF HARE COURT

BY ANDREA BRUNSENDORF,
HEAD GARDENER

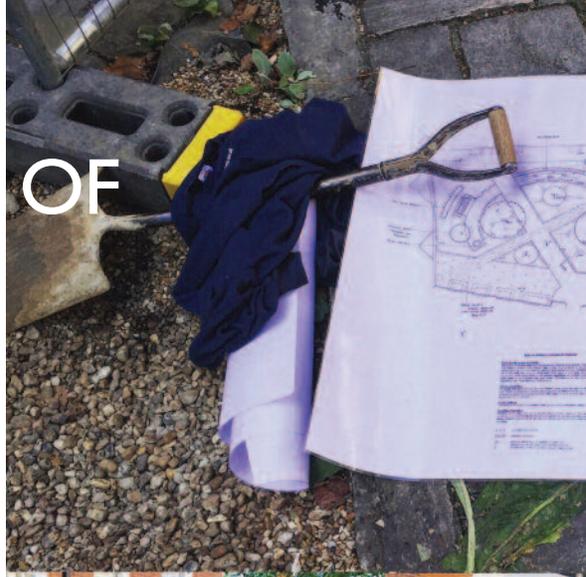
Traditionally one of the quietest times in the Inn is mid-summer but this year the garden team have been beavering away on a new planting scheme to rejuvenate the courtyard in Hare Court, intended to be completed in early October with the final planting up of the herbaceous layer.

Hare Court is a planted courtyard in a historic setting, it has a network of old Purbeck stone paths and draining channels that date back to the era of the Great Fire of London. There are four birch trees which are symbolic of the four Hare brothers who were members of the Inn in the late 16th and early 17th Century. The statue 'Justice' by Tanya Russell, commissioned in 2005 and unveiled in 2010, and the successful *Sarcococca ruscifolia* hedge, providing winter interest and a solid back bone to lower side of the courtyard, are the two other elements which will be retained in the new design.

We are transforming what has been a very functional 'corridor', providing access to Chambers and apartments, into an inviting and enjoyable landscape, inspired by Scandinavian woodland scenes. To achieve this, the new design includes a sinuous brick path to complement the elements of the surrounding buildings and to encourage exploration of the space. The path varies in width to accommodate seating areas and a small terraced area around the sculpture.

The shrub-layer will consist of multi-stemmed Amalancier skirting the courtyard, providing spring interest of white blossom and autumn interest of luminous foliage. Multi-stemmed and airy river birches (*Betula nigra*) will be planted around the existing four Himalayan birches to form the core and enhance the woodland atmosphere.

The under-planting will be denser and



lusher on slightly mounded contours to add further interest to the shrub-layer. The northern end will have planting tolerant to drier and sunnier conditions, such as grasses like *Stipa gigantea*, *Pennisetum alopecuroides*, and sun-lovers such as agapanthus and hardy Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis russeliana*). The planting at the southern end will be reminiscent of a more shade tolerant woodland edge and will comprise of favourites of the garden team, which have been successful in the main garden in both interest and longevity. We will use a combination of *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Alba', *Hakonechloa macra* and Japanese anemone (*A. × hybrida* 'Honorine



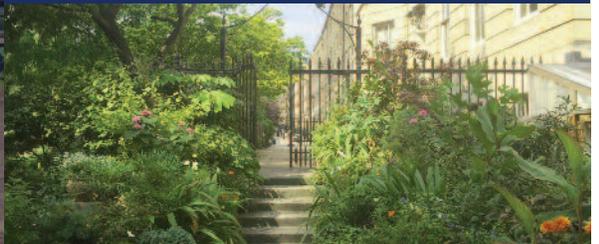
who wait, but we can enjoy the development of our design as it unfolds in the first 12 months of establishment. The garden team is looking forward to our weekly excursions up to Hare Court to tend the long-awaited rejuvenation of this unique space.

For more information on the renovation works schedule and to view the master design plan please visit our webpage www.innertemple.org.uk/hare-court

FOBS

The Inn is taking measures to improve the long-term security of the Estate, whilst also preserving the Garden for its members and tenants.

In mid-October 2016 a security access system will be installed on three of the Garden gates to incorporate the Garden into the existing electronic access system used on all buildings within the Estate. Access readers for registered fobs will be replacing the current locks on the Easy Access Gate on Crown Office Row, the Middle Temple Lane Pedestrian Gate and the gate opposite 11 King's Bench Walk. The exact launch date for the fob system is still to be confirmed, however, further information will be posted on the Garden section of the Inn's website, under the 'Visiting Us & Access' tab. Questions about the fob system should be directed to: Porters@innertemple.org.uk



GARDEN USE AND ACCESS

We believe it would be helpful to articulate expectations as to access and use of the Garden in the form of a short and common-sense set of Guidelines. The Draft Guidelines can be viewed in the Garden section of the Inn's website, www.innertemple.org.uk/index/the-inner-temple-garden/visiting-us-access. If you wish to comment on the Draft Guidelines, please send your views by email (marked 'Guidelines') to Andrea Brunsendorf, Head Gardener, pottingshed@innertemple.org.uk, by 17 October 2016.

Jobert'), cow parsley (*Anthriscus*) and the old-time favourite *Helleborus x hybridus*. Not to forget our reliable geophytes, such as daffodils and allium which will bring the space to life with a sea of colour each spring.

I am finding it hard to contain my excitement for this project, day-dreaming of the final product, however, I have to remind myself that we will all need to be patient for full vision to come into its own. We will be using young plants in the design to ensure successful establishment and durability by giving the plants the opportunity to adapt to their new environment. Like so many things in horticulture, good things come to those