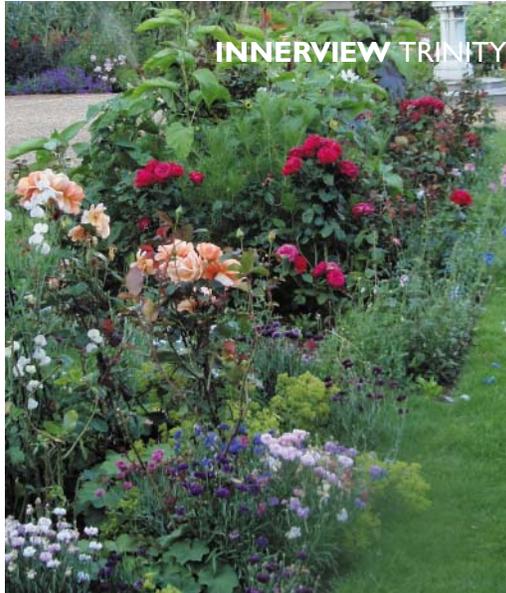


# GARDEN NEWS

## A WALK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

**ANDREA BRUNSENDORF**  
HEAD GARDENER



In the 'current climate' of financial chaos and uncertainty, it was fitting that the garden had to endure the worst winter for some decades, yet it lifts the spirits to see that after a season of snow, hard frosts and sodden soil its plants now flourish in the early summer sun – even the echiums came through it all, their tall blue spires again arousing the curiosity of passers-by. The best response to the steady drip of pessimistic gloom emanating from every television and radio set is to walk through the Inner Temple Garden and revel in its natural regenerative rhythm.

The tulips in the High Border were glorious, and included my favourite Tulipa 'National Velvet' – rich, red and plush. We had made the unusual choice of under-planting some of these with columbine or Granny's Bonnet (*Aquilegia chrysantha*). Its fresh, blue-green leaves set off the colour of the bulbs and that their cheerful yellow flowers took over when the tulips faded, before giving way to the dahlias. Also in April and May the Peony Garden was in its prime, and this year the glorious, blowsy blooms of both the herbaceous and the tree peonies were surrounded with dense plantings of Tulipa 'Spring Green', Marsh spurge (*Euphorbia palustris* 'Zauberflöte') and brunnera (*Brunnera macrophylla*), all against the magnificent backdrop of the wisteria

(*Wisteria sinensis*) – the fruit of our pruning during a particularly freezing week in January.

As summer progresses we will be planting the 'War of the Roses' or 'Long' Border with *Zinnia haageana* 'Aztec Sunset', and in the rose beds there will be a mixture of sunflowers, 'kiss-me-over-the-gate' and castor oil plants. There will be much staking of the tall perennials in the High Border in case we have a recurrence of the winds we had last year, but the most exciting task will be to arrange what I am intending to be an inspirational pot display by the main gates. This will be a more ambitious version of the small arrangement we set out by the King's Bench Walk gate last summer, which everyone seemed to appreciate (and which will be repeated this year as well). I also have plans to improve and embellish the 'Mediterranean' beds on either side of the lawn steps, and in other parts of the Garden the on-going renovation work will not be neglected.

So it will be a busy few months in the garden as it will be for the rest of the Inn, but before you leave for your summer break I hope the glories of the garden will cheer your working life and provide an antidote to the drone of the doom-sayers, and that you will return refreshed at the start of the Michaelmas Term to enjoy the beauty of the High Border in its prime.

## YOUR INN NEEDS YOU...

The Garden will be open on Sunday 4 October between noon and 4 p.m. as part of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) Open Day. Proceeds from the entry fee and from the sale of tea and cakes will go to the NGS's chosen charities,\* and we are in search of volunteers to make sure the day goes smoothly and shows the Inn and the Garden in its traditional welcoming colours.

To raise as much money as we can for the NGS charities we need cakes – loads of them. We also need people to help on the gate selling the tickets,

to act as marshals in and around the Garden, and to sell and serve the teas. If you could provide a tasty cake, or if you are available on October 4, even if it is just for an hour, could you please contact the Head Gardener Andrea Brunsendorf on [abrunsendorf@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:abrunsendorf@innertemple.org.uk)

\* The NGS support several well-known charities, including Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses. A full list of their beneficiaries and of all NGS activities can be found on their website [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)