



# GARDEN NEWS

OLIVER SELLS QC  
MASTER OF THE GARDEN

## A VIEW FROM THE WINDOW

**N**ormally this page is the sole preserve of Andrea, the dedicated and talented Head Gardener; a space for her to tell us all her plans and her thoughts. I am able to view the changing seasons from my room at 5 Paper Buildings and I know that many other members of the Inn keep a keen eye on the goings on in the garden!

I know too how much her column is appreciated as is the work which she and her team of assistants and volunteers do all year round. She has been in charge for seven years now and the effect has been enormous.

Some gardeners talk of putting the garden to bed over the winter months... Not here!! Winter is a vital time for planting, restoration and tree work and we have a busy plan for each season. The subject of the trees is one which causes us a lot of thought, work and some anxiety. There are a growing number of diseases which afflict trees in England and we have a few vulnerable species. The line of London Plane Trees along the broad walk are fine and mature specimens but they are at real risk from both storms and disease. We may soon have to take some hard decisions as the essential pruning which we do for safety is having the effect of leaving a number of very long horizontal branches, creating “umbrella” trees.

On a happier note I can now report that the

planners have given the green light to our long awaited scheme to make the pavement in front of the garden wider and more accessible and to realign the cars in front of the gate and the railing. I hope that the new emphasis on pedestrian ease of use will not only transform the entrance to the garden but may in time be followed in other parts of the Inn.

As I write this in mid-April we have enjoyed the mildest of winters and an early spring with some wonderful sunny days. A London garden is always at the mercy of the urban climate and poor soil so we must hope that sun and rain in the right proportions will enable the summer season to be enjoyed by all the many visitors. We have many plans for events so keep an eye on the diary and do come and join us.

