Speaker Panel
Horticultural Guest Speakers for Clubs, Societies and Groups

In support of the horticultural welfare charity Perennial, helping people who have retired from, or working in, horticulture; including their families.

Garden Designers • Propagators • Seed Producers • Viticulturists • Garden Centre Staff • Gardeners
Landscapers • Tree Surgeons • Nursery Staff • Greenkeepers • Turf Growers • Parks and Grounds Care Staff •
At the heart of horticulture for more than 175 years; Perennial is the only UK charity that supports people working in and retired from the industry including their families, in times of crisis. We provide free, confidential advice, support and financial assistance to people of all ages. Our help extends out to a wide range of horticulture trades such as gardeners, nursery staff, parks & groundscare staff, botanists, landscapers and many more horticulture professions.

The Speaker Panel is one of our many fundraising activities and all speakers donate their time and fees to the charity. By booking a talk you will be supporting professional horticulturists who find themselves in difficulty and your group will be provided with an entertaining and informative presentation. For booking information and contact details please see the last page of this leaflet. We look forward to hearing from you.

The 2017 Speaker Panel

**Ray Broughton (Winchester, Hampshire)**
Ray trained at RHS Garden Wisley and has been teaching a wide range of horticultural subjects for the last two decades. Awarded a Fellowship by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture for his service to horticulture, Ray is currently a Senior Lecturer at Sparsholt College. Ray shares his passion for his work with a wide range of available talks including *Organic Gardening, Pests and Diseases, Vegetable and/or Herb Gardens, Propagation* and *The Garden Year – a Month-by-Month Guide*.

**Benjamin Pope (Petersfield, West Sussex)**
From a child, Ben has enjoyed gardening. He completed an NCH in Propagation and Nursery Practice, a Wisley Practical Diploma and the RHS Diploma in Horticulture, attaining awards at Wisley. He then travelled abroad, working in nurseries while studying various flora and garden styles. Ben returned to the UK and is now Head Gardener for a West Sussex garden consisting of a 15th century walled garden and the surrounding estate.

Ben’s talks include: *Making the Most of What You Have*, looking at effective horticultural practice, plant selection and clever design; *Moving Yet Frozen Still*, creating movement, structure and interest in the garden during the quiet winter months; and *Gardening to Save Time*, making the most of your garden maintenance practices.

His opinion, always coming from his own experiences and practical background, looks to maximise the rewards of gardening while increasing enjoyment and creativity.

**Stuart Lees (Hook, Hampshire)**
Stuart trained as a horticulturist and worked for the Cadogan Estate in Chelsea before progressing to various Head Gardener positions. He now runs his own Garden Design and Consultancy business and will entertain you with *Adventurous Container Gardening* – daring you to be different!
Gareth Manning (Hook, Hampshire)
Gareth is Senior Gardener at West Green House in Hampshire and is the current Vice President (Branches) for the Chartered Institute of Horticulture. Gareth is pleased to offer you a chance to discover the Far East with his talk *A Brief History of Japanese Garden Design from 650AD to the Present Time as Demonstrated by the Gardens on Kyoto*. Closer to home, Gareth’s talk *West Green House; The Opera Garden* covers a brief history of this quintessentially English Queen Anne house, the garden and the people who created it over the last 100 years, from the hangman to the Opera Diva, combined with a virtual tour.

Neil Miller (Croydon, Surrey)
Neil, an ex-insurance broker from the City of London, decided to follow his lifelong passion for horticulture. He’s now Head Gardener at Hever Castle, Kent and is responsible for 65 acres of formal Edwardian pleasure grounds including topiary, Italian gardens and the famous Rose Garden. Neil also spends one month a year in Israel, working and training the gardening team at Jerusalem Botanical Gardens. Join Neil for an entertaining and informative look behind the scenes with his talk, *Secrets of Hever Castle* or discover the challenge and delights of desert planting on his *Jerusalem Botanical Gardening* talk.

Iain Pentney (London)
Iain has worked in horticulture since the age of 16, working with salad crops, fruit trees, growing pot plants and flowers for Her Majesty the Queen, at Windsor Castle, and working as a Planteria Manager for various garden centres. Iain now runs Classiflora Imports and is responsible for the purchasing and selling of Mediterranean specimen plants such as palms, cypresses and photinias. He will be delighted to entertain you with talks on *Container Gardening* or *Mediterranean Plants – Why Buy from Abroad*.

Harvey Stephens (Windsor, Berkshire)
Harvey is Deputy Keeper of the Gardens at The Savill Garden, one of Britain’s greatest ornamental gardens. While training at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, he was chairman of the Kew Mutual Lecture Society and won the inaugural award from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for his contributions whilst a student. Harvey has lived and worked in Russia and Israel, and will delight you with talks on *Great Russian Gardens*, *The Treasures of South Africa* and *The Himalayan Blue Poppy*.

Guided Tours – Behind the Scenes at Hampton Court

Martin Einchcomb (East Molesey, Surrey)
Martin is Head of Nursery at the historic Royal Palace of Hampton Court. The on-site nursery provides many of the plants for the Palace’s gardens. Join Martin for a behind the scenes tour of the nursery and gain some insight into producing plants for the Palace’s formal and public gardens. Martin is pleased to conduct private tours for groups of up to twenty people from March until the end of June. A donation of £15 per head goes to Perennial. Please contact us for further details.
Adding Colour To Vincent’s* Retirement

“I did not think I would ever be able to enjoy gardening again but Perennial has made it possible for me.”

Vincent spent almost his entire working life as a gardener on private estates. When a stroke dramatically changed his retirement plans, Perennial has been there to help him look forward to a brighter future.

*Vincent’s name has been changed to protect his identity. Photo posed by a model.

Read Vincent’s full story at: perennial.org.uk/home/success-stories

Enquiry Line: 0800 093 8510  Casework Advice Line: 0800 093 8543
Debt Advice Helpline: 0800 093 8546

Perennial, 115-117 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7SU


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