



Helping people
in horticulture
Perennial

Perennial's Speaker Panel

The Speaker Panel is one of our long-standing fundraising activities and features an inspirational selection of professional horticulturists, who all donate their time and fees to Perennial. Your club or group will be provided with an entertaining and informative presentation on a chosen subject. By booking a talk, you will be supporting gardeners, greenkeepers, landscapers, groundsman, and all those working in horticulture who find themselves in difficulty.

New experts have come forward to join the panel, increasing the variety of topics and number of speakers available to you with a greater geographical spread across the country. If you are a Horticultural Society, Gardening Club, Allotment Society or any other type of group that organises regular talks for members then please get in touch using the contact details below. In addition to doing face to face talks many of our speakers will also give virtual talks – please see booking details at the end of this document.

Ray Broughton (Winchester, Hampshire)

Ray trained at RHS Wisley and has been teaching a wide range of horticultural subjects for over two decades. Awarded a fellowship by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture for his service to horticulture, Ray was a Senior Lecturer at Sparsholt College. Sharing his passion for his work, Ray presents a wide range of talks including Organic Gardening, Pests and Diseases, Vegetable and/or Herb Gardens, Propagation and the Garden Tour - a Month by Month Guide.



Martin Duncan (Arundel, West Sussex)

Martin has had a fascinating career in horticulture; he studied Commercial Horticulture at Greenmount College, County Antrim and Landscape Construction and Design at the Welsh College of Horticulture, Mould. Working overseas all over the world, Martin has built up a wealth of experience at a number of high-profile gardens such as Audley End in Essex, Royal Palaces in Jordan, Botanical Gardens and Parks in Bermuda. Martin was awarded the Kew Guild Medal in 2018 and is currently Head Gardener and Designer at Arundel Castle, the home of the Duke of Norfolk. Martin has limited availability so please contact us for more information. Martin presents a talk on: 'Arundel Castle Gardens'.

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 20 people from March until the end of June. A donation of £15 per head goes to Perennial. Please contact us for further details.



Louisa Gilhooly (Cambridge, Cambridgeshire)

Following a degree in Fine Art, Louisa started her working life in retail and project management; designing gardens is a second career. Louisa studied garden design at the KLC School of Design and Capel Manor College, and Landscape Architecture at the Writtle School of Design. As the founding member of Cambridgeshire based Supernature Garden & Landscape, Louisa brings more than a decade of experience designing residential gardens to the team. She is a regular contributor to Garden Answers Magazine and teaches garden design at two local colleges. Louisa presents a talk on: 'Garden Design: from Concept to Completion' taking you through all the stages of the garden design process.

Annie Guilfoyle (Midhurst, West Sussex)

Annie Guilfoyle is an award-winning designer and an RHS Chelsea Flower Show Silver Medal winner. After studying horticulture at Capel Manor College, she gained a BA Honours Degree in Garden Design from Middlesex University. Annie combines running a successful garden design consultancy with lecturing and writing on the subject and her design work has featured on several television programmes, such as BBC Small Town Gardens. As Garden Course Consultant at West Dean College near Chichester, West Sussex, Annie is responsible for the development of the educational programme.



Annie teaches a monthly course called The Art and Craft of Garden Design at Great Dixter House & Gardens, East Sussex and lectures internationally and is a regular judge for The Society of Garden Designers annual awards - Moscow Garden Show, Copenhagen Garden Show and Orticolario on Lake Como. Annie's writing includes two extensive open learning courses and regular articles for leading UK magazines such as Gardens Illustrated and the Society of Garden Design Journal. Her work has been featured in several books and her television work includes being a featured designer on the BBC-tv series Small Town Gardens, Gardeners' World and The Garden Makers. Annie presents talk on: What Makes a Great Garden and Designing Small Gardens.



Stuart Lees (Morebattle (near Kelso), Scottish Borders)

Having worked in horticulture since leaving school, Stuart studied for a Diploma at Askham Bryan College in Yorkshire before taking a gardener's position with the Cadogan Estate in Chelsea. From there he progressed to various Head Gardener positions in the South East, including at a five-acre intensive garden in Berkshire for six years and responsibility for a 100-acre garden in Oxfordshire, which included the initial design work on the new garden and a one-acre, elliptical walled garden. Before becoming self-employed in 2000 he was the Head Gardener and Designer for a small London based gardening company, responsible for the maintenance of various private gardens in South West London. Stuart presents a talk on: Adventurous Container Gardening.

Gareth Manning (Shrewsbury, Shropshire)

Gareth is a professional horticulturist with over 30 years in the industry. His experiences range from commercial nursery production through landscaping to professional gardening. Gareth served on the regional committee of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture for 13 years before becoming Vice President (Branches) in 2013. He is a member of the Professional Gardeners Guild and the Professional Garden Consultants Association. He also serves as Treasurer for the Shropshire branch of Plant Heritage and is a Judge for the Heart of England in Bloom. Gareth's involvement with the Perennial Speaker Panel started in 2009, although he has been an active supporter of the charity for much longer. Gareth currently presents two talks: Japanese Garden Design History and A Tour of West Green House Gardens in Hampshire.



Neil Miller (Croydon, Surrey)

A former Lloyd's broker in the City of London. Neil decided to follow his passion in horticulture following redundancy and has been Head Gardener at the award-winning gardens at Hever Castle in Kent for the past 17 years. Neil is responsible for the upkeep of topiaries, a Tudor garden, Italian Gardens and a rose garden home to more than 4,000 specimens and much more! Neil gives regular interviews on local radio and is a very keen traveller. Neil presents three different talks: The Secrets of Hever Castle Gardens; The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens - one of the only botanical gardens in the Middle East, where he volunteers each year; and Gardens in North Korea where he has been fortunate to visit gardens and take in the amazing culture.

Jane Moore (Bath, Somerset)

Jane is a hands-on Head Gardener, an award-winning journalist and a regular speaker. She is well respected in the horticultural world as an innovative gardener with a broad knowledge of plants and has embraced diverse challenges such as planting a National Collection, creating a garden at Chelsea Flower Show and guest presenting on BBC Gardeners' World.

Jane presents talks on : The Colours of Spring, Painting with Plants, Structure & Sparkle, Brilliant Plants for Butterflies, Crops for small spaces, The Winter Garden, Late Summer Colour.



Philip Oostenbrink (Ash, Kent)

Philip Oostenbrink became Head Gardener at Walmer Castle and Gardens in June 2020 after working in the same role at Canterbury Cathedral for six years. Philip is a keen plantsman and has three National Plant Collections: *Aspidistra elatior* and *sichuanensis*, *Hakonechloa macra* and *Ophiopogon japonicus*. His home jungle garden appeared on BBC Gardeners' World in May 2019.

Philip presents talks on : The Gardens at Walmer Castle Plant Collections - From Plant Hunters to Modern Day National Plant Collections. Designing with Foliage - How to Create a Jungle Garden.

Iain Pentney (Waltham Abbey, Essex)

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 Classifora Imports and is responsible for the purchasing and selling of Mediterranean specimen plants such as palms, cypresses and photinias.

Iain presents talks on: Container Gardening or Mediterranean Plants - Why Buy from Abroad?





Ben Pope (Petersfield, Hampshire)

Ben is currently a Head Gardener for a private garden in West Sussex. He has worked and studied in various aspects of horticulture for the last 21 years and Ben's qualifications include the Wisley Practical Diploma, RHS Diploma and the RHS Master of Horticulture. He regularly writes for Gardens Illustrated and teaches at the Chelsea Physic Garden for The English Gardening School and at West Dean College of Art and Conservation. Ben is also a member of the RHS Herbaceous Plant Committee. Ben presents talks on: Making the Most of What You Have (how to get the most out of your garden, whatever the size or space), Gardening to Save Time (focussing on the subject of time in the garden), Creating Movement Whilst Frozen Still (a seasonal talk looking at the winter garden and how to achieve movement and interest during the cold months), Cutting out the Middleman – A Guide to Growing Your Own Cut Flowers, Treading Gently Through the Borders (a detailed look at the softer side of border management).

Ben Preston (Wetherby, West Yorkshire)

Ben is Head Gardener and Gardens Manager at York Gate, Perennial's own flagship garden near Leeds. After obtaining a First Class Honours in Horticulture and Plant Science BSc (Hons) at Nottingham Trent, he went on to complete a HBGBS traineeship at Audley End before working in a number of gardens across the UK, before returning to his roots in Yorkshire. Ben is a passionate plantsman, garden writer and cyclist.

Ben presents talks on York Gate through a Head Gardener's Eyes, York Gate Through the Season, The 'New' York Gate: Building a Garden, Nursery and Future. Ben can also talk about Perennial's three gardens – York Gate, Fullers Mill and The Laskett.





Kenny Raybould (Plymouth, Devon)

Kenny trained in Garden Design and Commercial Horticulture at Hadlow college whilst working in the grounds of Leeds Castle. From there he moved on to become Head Gardener of Regents Place, Neo Bankside and the most lavish Covent Garden, in which he delivered floral decadence partnered with numerous brands. Kenny helped to deliver shows such as Fleurs de Villes, as well as delivering iconic pop up displays such as the floral piano and the pumpkin carriage, and was the . '30 under 30' winner in 2019. He has now relocated to the South West to join St Mellion. Kenny's talks will open up a world of showmanship and the hybridisation between floristry, gardening and the new arts and crafts. Kenny presents talks on: The World of Fast Fashion Horticulture, Floristry Workshops, The New Arts and Crafts, Make My Courtyard Bloom, Thinking Outside of My Urban Box, Market Gardening and many more. Kenny will happily customise talks to the needs of all clubs/societies.

Harvey Stephens (Cheshire)

Harvey Stephens is an enthusiastic plantsman and experienced award-winning garden manager who has spent spells living and working in Israel and Russia. He is a long standing RHS Woody Trials panel member and passionately enjoys talking about first rate garden plants. He has been volunteering for Perennial for almost 20 years and now works on a private estate in Cheshire. Harvey was deputy keeper of the Gardens at The Savill Garden, one of Britain's greatest ornamental gardens. Whilst 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 presents talks on: Managing the Gardens of Windsor Great Park, Plants Worthy of Garden Merit, Are You Barking up the Wrong Tree, Hydrangea Revolution, Great Gardens of Russia, The Wonders of Chile's National Parks.





Mary Stevenson (Hereford, Herefordshire)

Mary's degree in Horticulture (Wye College) was followed by employment within commercial landscaping and plant retail. Since then her company, Mary Stevenson Garden Design, has provided design services for clients in East Sussex and Herefordshire for over 18 years. As GoLandscape Ambassador for careers events and Speaker her talks cover a wide range of horticultural subjects. Mary presents talks on: What's in a Name? Plant Names De-mystified, Small Trees for Small Gardens, Wild Cousins – A Fascinating Look at the Relationship Between Wild Plants and Their Cultivated Forms, Edges and Hedges, Year-Round Colour in the Garden, A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs, Corms, Tubers and Rhizomes.

David Wyndham Lewis (Lincolnshire)

David came to public notice while Head Gardener at the Roof Gardens in Kensington for Virgin. He is that rare combination of an award-winning gardener and also garden designer. He has designed gardens small and large across the UK, Europe and Africa. He now Lives in Lincolnshire where he is creating a new one-acre 21st century country garden for himself. David has been a supporter of Perennial for many years, and now works for the charity. David presents talks on: Big Idea for Small Gardens - how to take the inspiration you get you get when visiting gardens and how to translate it into your own garden, The History of the Derry and Toms Roof Garden, New Garden - Where to start to make it less daunting, Ring the Changes - How to develop my existing garden as my tastes change, ability to garden as much changes or in response to life changing event like a new baby or retirement, The History and Gardens of Perennial.



Booking information and prices for the Speaker Panel

Our speakers are volunteers who donate their time and fees to Perennial. We request a suggested minimum fee of £95 for a speaker, and for the Gardeners' Questions Panel a suggested minimum fee of £150 for two speakers or £200 for three speakers. Full terms and conditions can be provided on request or found at perennial.org.uk/speakerpanel.

Any travel expenses are payable directly to the speaker on the night and are calculated at 45p per mile – please check the speaker's location prior to booking.

To find out more and arrange your speaker's visit, virtual talk or Q&A Panel **please contact James Burns on 07946 055 848 or email jburns@perennial.org.uk**.