

The Horticulturist



The Yorkshire Arboretum

PLUS Horticulture for conservation in the Isle of Man | Extreme tree shaping | Cressing Temple | Grow Careers

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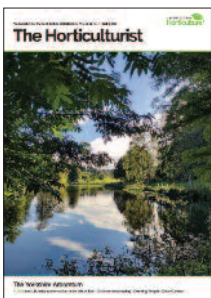
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Cover The Yorkshire Arboretum's lake, seen through the foliage of *Pterocarya fraxinifolia* in early October. (photo: John Grimshaw).

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The variable and sometimes severe weather, coupled with economic challenges and uncertainty about border controls is causing unprecedented strains on the industry. Labour shortages are also adding to the concerns around food production leading to shortages. We are fortunate to have talented and professional industry leaders who are tackling the issues full on. Innovation and technical advances will go some way towards easing the burden, however we do need a qualified home-grown workforce to secure the future. Many organisations are working collaboratively to ensure that the new and revamped qualifications are fit for purpose. More than ever relevant work experience will be necessary to complete qualifications. The shortage of end point assessors is also compounding the problems.

The Education Core Interest Group, under the chairmanship of James Wagstaff (Programme Manager at The Cornwall College Group, HE Horticulture and Applied Plant Science, based at Eden Project) is currently developing its working strategy through five working groups. This will enable them to focus on important matters. The Career Builder membership details are now complete. The scheme is open to all early-career horticulturists who have either been a Student Member of the CIH or have less than five years professional experience in horticulture. Career Builder membership will embed the necessity of continuous professional development (CPD) over a period of three years to essentially fast-track to full membership, overcoming the experience gap. During the coming months we will be focusing on developing and updating the Grow Careers webpage. Following the success of Grow Careers Scotland (pages 22-24), we will be looking at hosting similar events in the rest of the UK and Ireland. The Young Horticulturist of the Year regional finals have taken place and we are looking forward to the Grand Final that will be held in Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in early May.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Annual General Meeting and study tour. We have an exciting programme involving commercial visits and a guided tour of Exbury Gardens. Early booking for the study tour is essential. I am due to complete my tenure as President at the coming AGM. I would like to say it has been an honour to serve the Institute in this role. I have been supported by hardworking dedicated people at all levels who have gone the extra mile. I will continue to serve the institute in whatever capacity is required. We are in a strong position, with our opinions valued across the industry.

Susan Nicholas FCIHort, President
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Write for *The Horticulturist*

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If you are interested in writing an article for the journal or have a newsworthy item please contact the Editor, Barbara Segall, at barbara@bsegall.plus.com.

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CONSERVATION Leigh Morris describes the important role that horticulture has in conservation, something that his recent experiences on St Helena and in the Isle of Man have reinforced.

Horticulture for conservation in the Isle of Man

For the first 20 years of my horticulture career in nurseries and education I regarded horticulture as an environmentally important vocation. It wasn't until I moved to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) in 2004 as Head of School of Horticulture that I first encountered the important role that horticulture has in conservation, and this was subsequently reinforced during my two years on St Helena in the South Atlantic (Horticulture in the South Atlantic, *The Horticulturist*, Spring 2020).

In my current role as Chief Executive of Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) in the Isle of Man (IOM) I am reminded almost daily of the pivotal position that horticulture can have in relation to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

The IOM is the only whole nation UNESCO Biosphere in the world, and MWT's work spanning the marine and terrestrial environments aims to deliver a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) and Nature-based Solutions (N-bs) across the Island. A key goal for MWT and all the Wildlife Trusts is to deliver '30 by 30' (30% of land