

## Emmanuel Society in Lockdown: A light hearted, roughly Cambridge based, Garden History Quiz

- 1) Which plant did the Romans probably grow in Duroliponte which then had to be reintroduced (was back by 1548) after the cold winters in the 1400s?

A visual clue: the photo was admitted taken in Ephesus, not Duroliponte.



- 2) Fill in the missing words in Ralph Austin's 1635 'Englising' of a Medieval poem about Ely and what the monks grew and drank:

'Foure things of Elie towne much spoken are.  
The Leaden Lanthorn, Marie's chappell rare  
The mighty Milhill in the Minster field,  
And fruitful \*\*\*\*\* which sweet \*\*\*\*\* do yeeld'

3) Why would it have been easier for Mary de St Pol (founder of Pembroke College in 1347) to have both these varieties of daffodil in her herber than it would have been for many Medieval noblewomen?

*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* (shorter, paler ones) and *N. pseudonarcissus* var *obvallaris* (taller, more strongly coloured ones). Their common names provide a clue.



4) In which Cambridge College library was the importance of Ion the Gardener's *The Feate of Gardening* (most of which was written between 1440 and 1450) recognised?

5) *Rosa gallica* var *officinalis* is said to have arrived in Europe (France actually – the clue is in the name) in: a Wardian case; a swordstick; a rolled up plan of a botanic garden; a nucleus of honeybees; a Crusader's helmet (one answer)

6) *R. gallica* var *officinalis* is also known as: the Apothecaries Rose; 'that damn thing that scratches me every time I get my bicycle out of the shed!'; the rose of Lancaster; the rose of York; 'that charming old rose with the delightful scent!'; the Tudor rose; Lady Margaret Beaufort's Favourite; The Countess of Pembroke's Delight. (more than one answer)

7) Lady Margaret Beaufort (founded Christ's College, and left the funds for St John's College in her will) owned land in Lincolnshire and organised the rebuilding of Boston Sluice to prevent flooding. Is it true or false that this was an important project for her because this area was where she had the Savoy cabbages grown to feed her herd of yales in winter? Did the yales also appreciate these (Y/N): hay; carrots; leeks; swedes?

8) This tree is descended from one which is important to the history of science. Where is the parent? Who was inspired by the older tree? So where is the younger tree? And what variety is it?



9) Which Chancellor of the Exchequer (a old member of both St John's College and Trinity Hall) had a salutary experience in 1721 and retired to Yorkshire to spend more time with his landscape?

His name was:

The landscape is called:

The financial disaster was:

10) The Emmanuel College pond was where the Dominican monks' kept their fish. Were our 18th century Fellows ever guilty of keeping a body in it?

11) Which Cambridge college has a 'wilderness'?

12) True or false: Lancelot 'Capability' Brown worked on a plan to landscape the Backs in the English style?

13) More Lancelot Brown: which landscape designed by him near Cambridge does the University own?

14) Yet more on Mr Brown: in which village near Cambridge did he latterly own a house and some land?

15) And lastly, Brown was summoned to Burghley not only to landscape the park but also partially to redesign the house because: the plumbing was unreliable; it was getting soooo old fashioned; a recent earthquake had demolished part of it; they had omitted to get planning permission for the old version; the doorcases were too low and people kept banging their heads. (One answer)

16) Erasmus Darwin (old member of St John's College) was a member of the Lunar Society and interested in numerous sciences. He wrote a popular and well reviewed poem in 1789 called 'Loves of the Plants' which reversed Ovid's transformations of humans into flowers and set out the sex lives of flowers according to the Linnean system of classification. Did he write it: in the bath; in his study; in his carriage; in his box pew during sermons; while weeding his herb garden? (One answer)

17) Ward designed and built his original case in the late 1820s in order to: facilitate the movement of plants around the world; transport honeybees; mature cheeses; protect his fern collection from London smogs; have a soundproof space in which to learn to play the bagpipes; grow tomatoes. (One answer)

18) Cambridge has a historically important cemetery. Which one is it? There's an extra mark for the title of the book which the designer was working on simultaneously with planning this gardenesque burial ground.

19) Which of these women was an important influence on 19<sup>th</sup> century knowledge of and thinking about horticulture, but started by writing science fiction? Mary Shelley; Jane Loudon; Agnes Lewis; Harriet Henslow (One answer)

20) Andrew Murray arrived for his 1845 job interview as Garden Curator at Cambridge with the Rev Professor Henslow carrying: a Wardian case; a swordstick; a plan for the new Botanic Garden; a nucleus of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*); a Crusader's helmet. (One answer)



21) Murray's work on the 'Herbage Ground' (or systematic beds as we now call them: picture above) at Cambridge University Botanic Garden made it unique. What is so special?

22) Which three names in this list actually refer to the same major figure in UK garden history?  
Gertrude Jekyll; Lady Dalhousie; Ellen Willmott; Mrs Wilkie Collins; Enid Harkness; Alicia Amherst;  
Mrs Roderick Spode; Gertrude Bell; The Countess of Emsworth; Mrs Evelyn Cecil; Lady Salisbury; Lady  
Rockley; Madame Alfred Carriere; Millicent Garrett Fawcett.

23) Which writer of fiction with Cambridge connections also created a noteworthy and characterful  
garden? Margery Allingham; Lucy Boston; Jill Paton Walsh; Philippa Pearce; Dorothy Sayers? (One  
answer)

24) Which college with 'Brutalist' architecture has 'Modernist' planting by Sheila Haywood?

25) One of the colleges has a prairie-style garden by an old member who is an acclaimed designer: which  
one? And who is he?

## Answers

- 1) Acanthus.
- 2) The missing words are 'vineyards' and 'wine'.
- 3) These two daffodils are the two British natives. *N. pseudonarcissus* var *obvallaris* is the Tenby Daffodil and is localised there. She and her staff would have been near or in Tenby on their journeys between Pembroke and London.
- 4) Trinity College.
- 5) A Crusader's helmet – Thibault I of Champagne's to be precise. He is also credited with introducing the chardonnay grape to the region from the Eastern Mediterranean.
- 6) Both the Apothecaries' Rose and the Rose of Lancaster. The word 'officinalis' in the botanical name indicates that it was used medicinally, so it would have been in the Cambridge physic garden when it was in what is now the New Museums Site.
- 7) False. Lady Margaret Beaufort's yales were heraldic not real, so did not need fodder. And Savoy cabbages weren't introduced until around 1550.
- 8) Woolsthorpe Manor, near Grantham; Isaac Newton; outside Trinity College; *M. pumila* Flower of Kent.
- 9) Aislaby; Studley Royal; South Sea Bubble.
- 10) Yes. It happened around 1730. They had had it illegally exhumed from Fen Ditton churchyard to anatomise. The family and friends of the deceased were as cross as you'd expect and demanded to search the College. They did not find it.
- 11) St John's College.
- 12) True. The various owners of the land could not all simultaneously agree to implement it, so it was never carried out.
- 13) Madingley Hall, home of the Institute of Continuing Education. It has one of his signature serpentine lakes with dam disguised as a bridge, for instance.
- 14) Fenstanton. He never got round to landscaping his own grounds.
- 15) A recent earthquake had demolished part of it. Burghley House stands on a fault line, and is vulnerable.
- 16) In the carriage he used for visiting patients amongst other journeys. He had it fitted out as a brightly painted mobile study with anchored book shelves, desk and so on, and a sky light in the roof.
- 17) To protect his fern collection from London smogs (even a problem indoors, apparently).
- 18) Histon Road cemetery, set up by a group of Cambridge's important non-conformists - the Lilleys of the erstwhile department store, Fosters of the bank (now Lloyds, with the magnificent banking hall) and so on. They employed John Loudon to design it and the book, which Jane Loudon was almost certainly involved in because she edited and proof read most of his output apparently, was called '*On the laying*

out, planting, and managing of cemeteries, and on the improvement of churchyards'. It was published in 1843.

19) Jane Loudon.

20) A 'gardenesque' plan for the Botanic Garden that he knew would appeal to Henslow. He got the job!

21) He formulated and applied a 'one plant family to one bed' rule. This has been respected in the recent reworking of the systematic beds to make them compatible with current knowledge of plant genetics. They were failing in all of: being a botanic resource; being a listed heritage feature, and being practical to maintain.

22) Alicia Amherst became Mrs Evelyn Cecil and then Lady Rockley. She worked in Trinity College library on Ion Gardener's *Feate* and on other material for her own *History of Gardening in England*.



23) Lucy Boston (nursed at Addenbrooke's Hospital) created a characterful garden at the Manor at Hemingford Grey. The topiary, for instance, is special as are the relationships between the house, the garden and the river.

24) Churchill College. Her use of shape, texture and colour mean that the borders enhance the 1960s brickwork and the courtyards have beauty that does not contradict the architecture. Her planting has matured well.