

# Dynamic Planting For Public and Garden Spaces

## WORKSHOP REPORT

Wednesday 22 September 2010



With 300 attendees, Palmstead Nurseries Ltd's Soft landscaping Workshop drew praise from both delegates and speakers for its dynamic focus on planting. The event, in its third year, was held at the Ashford International Hotel on Wednesday 22nd September 2010. The audience was made up of industry professionals including; landscape architects, garden designers, public space managers, landscape contractors, press and members of the Olympic Delivery Authority.



The speakers chosen for the 2010 event were: Paul Bramhill, Bert Griffioen, Sarah Price, Andrew Wilson, and Matthew Wilson.

Nick Coslett, Palmstead Nurseries' Marketing & Sales Manager, and a face well known to the industry, welcomed the delegates and spoke passionately about biodiversity and change. He said; 'Change is coming; there should be no doubt that man's activities are changing the globe. We can do something about it though; we can eat less meat; eat more vegetables and we can utilize a diversity of species in planting in order to add to biodiversity. The more diverse the planting, the more bio diverse the organisms; we don't have to stick to native planting - some of our native shrubs and plants are boring! Let's be diverse. There is ample evidence from the "BUGS" study that gardens are amazingly bio-diverse and colourful'.



Nick also spoke about Palmstead itself and the developments the nursery had pursued, propagating most of their plants themselves and expanding in order to do more from seed. Nick spoke about Palmstead's desire to grow with a soft footprint and went on to explain how the best part of three quarters of a million pounds had been invested in the new propagation glasshouse (the size of Wembley Stadium) and how the nursery had invested in mechanisation wherever possible in order to produce over a million plants in pots per year. These plants include; shrubs, perennials, grasses, ferns and trees.



Nick spoke about the future of public planting and his fears that spaces are becoming ever more robust and plantless, he called for more planting at every opportunity and dynamic planting too.

## Andrew Wilson: The future of garden design



Andrew Wilson, designer, writer and head of the London College of Garden Design, was the first speaker to take the stage. He opened proceedings taking a philosophical view of the future of garden design. He said; 'This is the second time in two months that I've been asked to look at the future; I've accepted both with the proviso that I'm not a psychic'.

He spoke about the prospect of gardens with no plants and as spaces for technology and the Nintendo Wii. Wilson talked of the generational divide opening up, which, he said; 'is in so many ways unstoppable'. This generation gap he said would see smaller gardens used as outdoor rooms with minimal planting.

Taking a philosophical view of the future, Andrew Wilson showed slides of different designers work including Anthony Gormley and Martha Schwartz to illustrate the idea of spaces with minimal or no planting and the momentum of technology and its impact upon our outdoor spaces.

'This momentum will increase as technological advances increase. Technology affects us and our lifestyles'. He spoke about the Nintendo Wii as an amazing piece of kit but one that kept its user tethered to a single spot somewhere; in a gym, a lounge, or

in their courtyard or outside space. Wilson said; 'For years public spaces incorporated tennis courts for actual activity, but it could be argued that they may be redundant expenditure when you can play tennis on the Wii at home'. Adding, 'Tennis courts remain underused, while Wii sales continue'.

Wilson spoke about 'a distinct convergence between the virtual and the real' and how the industry needed to think about the changing outdoor space; how to incorporate technology and structures that attracted visitors and admiration and interest. Wilson made reference to the Rhizotron at Kew and said that this was the way many of the gardens of the future were going in order to attract people. He then referred to Tony Kirkham's stark statement that 'plants alone do not bring people into our gardens'.

Andrew Wilson works with Gavin McWilliam at Wilson McWilliam, designing public and private spaces. Wilson spoke about their recent 'Savill Garden' brief. Wilson said; 'I took the brief from Mark Flannagan and before I went I thought I'd have to gen up on roses, but as Mark took me around the space he talked about a progressive garden, leaving me to ask, rather tentatively; what about the roses? The brief is concept driven; and asks us to look at roses from fresh eyes. If you take the flowers away they're pretty rubbish but it's the colour and fragrance that we respond to, so fragrance answered the need; it's evocative and instantaneous the way it accesses our memories'. Wilson spoke about how they used 'fragrance' and movement in the design at Savill Gardens and how as one moved to the centre of the garden the fragrance and colour became more and more intense.

Wilson spoke about how the 'English Paradigm' was fast becoming a thing of the past. We're gradually moving away from garden paradigms, we may wail and gnash our teeth but it's a fact'. He said that the National Trust maintains these types of gardens wonderfully across the country, 'but clients realise their reality is something different, so anything requiring a small army of gardeners is a thing of the past'. He argued that functionality was the 'main thing'. He said of a recent client; 'The first line of the brief was;



We like to party'. He explained that this directed the design of this garden completely and accounted for the large terraces, the children's play areas, the swimming pool and then somewhere down the list came 'planting'. Wilson said; 'Designers will smile knowingly at this increasingly typical approach, gardeners on the other hand will be tearing their hair out, but the client is simply being honest and I need to respond to that honesty – I'm not a missionary for the garden fraternity'.

He spoke of using a palette of planting that was 90% perennial, grass based with moderate plant growth height and low maintenance for many of his private clients who don't have the time to 'garden' themselves.

He spoke about making spaces sustainable; 'sustainability is a given for the future' with key environmental targets essential rather than a 'bolt on'. He spoke about Landfill as an urgent concern; 'We can't be completely sustainable in everything we do, but we're at a crossroad and it's the clients who are now asking questions of the designers rather than designers leading the way. Clients are increasingly aware of the need to contain earth movement within their plot. Apart from the major issue of landfill, the reuse of materials, harvesting of water etc is now regularly on the client's agenda'.

Returning to the generation gap, Wilson commented that as clients become younger their needs and requirements change. 'The number of clients I have who are keen plants people are few and far between - this is not peculiar to me or my client base. If younger, the client invariably has a family life, work and travel which take them away from this hobby. This generational discrepancy is clear with the student groups I teach – my students average age is 32, they belong to the internet generation. The division between work and pleasure is blurred, it's not the distinct compartments we've been used to in the past. They like to be flexible, live, eat and entertain in spaces which are now spilling into the garden. For the current generation they're pleasure grounds. Historically gardens were of course referred to as pleasure gardens'.

Wilson is not an advocate of plant free spaces per se but does not have a problem seeing them as part of the canon.

Returning to speak about smaller spaces, Wilson made links to shared spaces of the future and how, as gardens become smaller, it may be that the pay off is 'a greater reliance and investment in public space'. He went on to use examples of London community gardens and looked at the future of high-rise shared space at developments such as the Sky Tower in Vauxhall saying; 'Semi public spaces are the gardens of the future'.

Wilson left the delegates awe-struck by his presentation of the future and finished by saying; 'The future develops and can only arrive because of the way we think today'.



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## Paul Bramhill: Green Space – do we have a future?



Liberty, equality, fraternity; public parks.

Paul Bramhill, Chief Executive of GreenSpace, spoke eloquently about public parks and the need for investment. He took the delegates back to the Victorian era where parks were seen as essential to the community and to the building of new developments.

He told the assembled delegates that in 1851 'public parks were seen as an investment that would pay, they were created as beautiful landscapes for the future'. He spoke of a time when the absolute function of local authorities was to create green spaces for those most in need and was seen as something 'fundamental' and as 'a resource for all of society'.

He said that during this time, competition between towns and new cities drove the designers to create wonderful landscapes. Bramhill said; 'we have lost that competitive edge'. He spoke of Liverpool and Birkenhead and how the models from these parks were taken across the Atlantic by Olmstead and copied in the heart of New York, adding that 'many New Yorkers believe Central park to be a natural landscape, not something that had been brilliantly designed'.



Coming back to the present day, Bramhill argued that the major issue facing all today is 'funding and speed'. He said; 'At the beginning of the year we were talking about 25% cuts, and by the summer those numbers had gone to 25%-40%'. He spoke of a maelstrom happening in some of our local authorities and the quandary over what services to provide and how to provide them. He said; 'Parks are not statutory so they are vulnerable. There's an ever growing demand for social services. The debate 50 years ago was how will we look after our parents, but now we expect the state to do it. It's an ever growing burden on local authority and on their budget'. Bramhill argued that if this continued then there would be no budget left for green spaces.

Utilising graphics, the stark message was all too clear to the assembled delegates; a typical council spend on green space is less than 1% of the local authorities total budget. Bramhill showed how; 'parks and recreation, leisure, cultural facilities are getting squeezed out'.

Fighting back with statistics, Bramhill showed how public spaces are the most visited amenity. 87% of the population used a park or green space once in a year, which correlates to 2 billion visits a year versus 328 million for libraries (the next biggest visitor service). Bramhill said; 'It's a no brainer, yet in terms of investment and how we put into our green space it's the other way around'.

He went on to look at the benefits to society; what green spaces do for recreation, for health (in particular), for play, and how we need to bring these benefits to people's attention because; 'the benefits far outweigh the financial input which is the lowest in the local authority budget'.



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Bramhill examined different models for public funding. He took Paris as a workable example, where the mayoral committee puts 1% of general city budget into green space. He looked at the public/private space model in Sweden, and examined 'trusts' here in Milton Keynes and the Forest of Marston Vale, Bedford. He also went on to look at endowments and land trusts and cited the City of London who have a portfolio invested. He said though that portfolios such as these are subject to the economy and that at present there was severe pressure on these.

His presentation and his stark 1% statistic seemed to strike a chord with the delegates who questioned him intently about the future of public spaces.



## Bert Griffioen: An innovative approach to dynamic planting



Bert Griffioen runs an innovative nursery supplying the main markets in Norway, Germany, France, Belgium and Holland. Griffioen provided the most eye opening talk of the day as he showed how his 'system' had revolutionized public planting and brought perennials to the fore across Europe'. Griffioen described energetically how he had organized meetings with local authorities to ask 'why are perennials not being used?'. He said that the three main answers that came back were 'maintenance, maintenance, maintenance'. He was left wondering – is there an answer to solving the maintenance problem?



After much thought, Griffioen decided; 'yes – there is an answer'. He said; 'I put together a system to follow; a list of directions on soil preparation and maintenance' which Griffioen stated must be followed 'to the letter of the law'. His system included; knowledge of the area requirements, soil handling, choice of assortment, design with block planting areas per sort, dense planting at 8-9 plants per square metre and then cutting back the plants each spring to promote a fuller flush of sturdy growth which will smother weeds. Maintenance thereafter was a maximum of 5 hoes/visits per year (maximum of 5 visits – especially in the first year) and closed canopy had to be achieved by the end of June. He said that when followed the system was unbeatable. He says that he now just receives repeat orders from local authorities and had 130,000 square metres established with this system.

Many notes were taken on Griffioen's innovative 'system' which he designed in order to make perennials profitable for local authorities and attractive for those attending public spaces.

Griffioen's figures for maintenance of £1.10 per square metre per year drew intakes of breath and nods of approval from the delegates who questioned him intently on his brutal cutting or 'mowing' of the perennials and of the fertilizers used. Many of the leading industry figures in the audience, including Andrew Wilson and Matthew Wilson admitted that they'd not thought of taking his unusual and innovative approach, and had learned a lot.



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**Sarah Price:**  
**What's going on behind the blue fence  
of the Olympic site at Stratford**



*Photograph of Sarah Price by Rachel Warne*

Sarah Price, one of the team of designers working on the 2012 Olympic Gardens at Stratford, gave a sneak preview of the planting for the Olympic event and spoke of working in a team and energizing others through the use of visuals.

She showed the audience photographs of the Olympic site and the blue fence that runs around the perimeter, then she began to paint pictures in the delegates imaginations utilising her sketches and collages, the same sketches and collages put together to persuade the wider design team that James Hitchmough and Nigel Dunnett's vision of dynamic planting would wow the Olympic crowds.

The Olympics as a project made for an interesting topic at the event as it's very much a work in progress. Price detailed the project's specifics; 'At 2.5 km squared' she explained how it will be 'the largest park to be created in Europe since the Victorian era'. Divided into two – the North Park and South Park, 'the project is being worked upon by a huge group of collaborators: LDA designs and Hargreaves Associates (US practise that designed the Sydney site), Dunnett and Hitchmough from Sheffield University and specialists at Palmstead', bringing together a huge team from London and the USA.

Price explained how the North Park would provide; 'a diverse ecology; woody hillocks and wetlands with 40 acres of perennial meadows and species rich lawns'. The South Park is different; 'it's an urban space, with a real sense of the skyscrapers around you and a festival atmosphere'. Running along the river, the South Park was described by Price as 'an 800 metre garden (the same length as Tower Bridge to London Bridge) quite narrow in places and will be seen by 70% of all visitors passing through the Olympic Park'.

Price explained the design concept behind the gardens as one which 'celebrates the achievements of the British as gardening people, plant hunters and gardens as recently discovered biodiversity hotspots'. The garden also 'provides a journey through the discovery and development of cultivated plants over the last 500 years referencing planting from around the globe into 4 garden worlds: Europe, temperate Americas, the southern hemisphere (South Africa and Australasia) and Asia'.



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She said; 'Originally Hargreaves wanted us to design a botanical garden with different families running down the side of the garden, but James, Nigel and I were discouraged and felt it was like a botanical garden and we should be pushing a dynamic planting design that made you gasp as you walked over the bridge'. She explained how a blank canvas wasn't always easy. She showed how her use of visuals helped to engage.

She spoke of experimenting and collaging to try and break up the idea of using strips. 'I was looking at how you can compose and use different shapes. I broke down different areas and showed how you could get transparency in one area and colour in another; how you could use crocus in the lawns to create straight lines'.

Structure was a watchword; 'We kept coming up against the concern that there wouldn't be enough structure in the 2012 gardens. I came up with some loose collage to show that there would be structure all year with a core ribbon of evergreen hedges and in the winter for example, the seed heads against the grasses'. Price worked hard to show how they could use this style of planting to create interest throughout the year. 'We're constantly examining the relationship between the structural strips (I'm working on) and the field or meadow that James and Nigel are working on.'



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## Matthew Wilson: Dynamic planting



Matthew Wilson opened his presentation by saying; 'It's been a really interesting day - I'm glad I came for the whole day; it's been fascinating and I've picked up a lot from today. Particularly fascinating what Bert was saying about perennials, about 'maintenance, maintenance, maintenance' and soil preparation as key; it's an area we fall down on a lot. It's also been fascinating to hear about Sarah's experience of working with Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough and the ODA. A couple of things Andrew said about the Wii brought a tear to my eye and the point he made about garden visitors'.

Wilson then asked what we meant when we referred to 'dynamic planting for public spaces', and asked 'is there any?'.

He then took the audience on a virtual road trip around South London via slide to look at various examples of planting in our public places; he broke them down and gave each slide a title, thus;

Swingers - 1970s archetypal plantings; roses and a pampas grass

The time bomb - a collection of shrubs reaching 3 metres by 3 metres but planted into a much smaller space; 'there's only one way this is going to end - in a horrible chainsaw massacre'



The time bomb - a collection of shrubs reaching 3 metres by 3 metres but planted into a much smaller space; 'there's only one way this is going to end - in a horrible chainsaw massacre'

The terracotta warriors - a variety of shrubs cut to exactly the same size whatever they are

The drunken sailor - wonky hedges

The magic roundabout - the solitary bed of pathetic bedding that no one cares about as they zoom past

Wilson said that the problem wasn't always the plants utilised or chosen; 'it's how it's been looked after; it's the maintenance'.

He then took the audience on a virtual tour, again via slide, of gardens that he said had 'meaning'. He described the Thames Barrier Park as 'a fantastic piece of planting and a special design'. He pointed to the green wall in Anthropology on Regent Street and the meaningful 'Music Garden' in Toronto based on Bach's Suite number one. He also showed significant spaces the Park Andre Citroen in Paris designed by Alan Provost and added; 'it's a great piece of public landscaping and the way in which the green space itself is funded is different; they have a guaranteed 1% - it's extraordinary to be excited about 1% isn't it?'

Wilson went on to say that he believed public spaces to be for the people, not for 'our benefit, or as a designer showing off'. He said they had to be sustainable; 'we have to think about sustainability, it's how we look after things when they're in the ground. I was riveted by what Bert showed, and how they maintain their public spaces - it's new.'

He then talked about the future and how we should proceed as an industry:

'We're a small industry and yet we're so disparate; where is the organisation that represents us all? There isn't one, and that makes us weak. If there was one organisation that represented us we'd have a strong voice. It's so important that we somehow move that forward and we get behind that organisation and get together to be more powerful. We need to integrate these disparate elements'.



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'If you ever doubt what we're doing; don't - the impact we have on people's lives is immense whether you're a grower, landscape architect, whatever'.

He went on to say what he thought was holding the industry back; 'knowledge, time, money, expectation and precedent, legislation and ultimately; us'.

'We're an industry used to working in straightened circumstances, if we had a stronger collective voice we could push for a better percentage. We need more Thames Barrier Parks and let's hope that the work Sarah and her colleagues have been doing at the Olympic Park gives the industry a real injection. We need it everywhere'.

'I feel very strongly that we're in a Cinderella industry, I grew up in it, we all know how tough it is, but I think we're our own worse enemy because we accept jobs knowing we're not making money out of it. We hold ourselves back. What we do is amazing and can change people's lives and we need to remember that, and we need to charge for that'.



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## Conclusion:

Nick Coslett, Marketing & Sales Manager at Palmstead and organiser of the event said: 'Events like this put plants back on the agenda. People try to knock them off, but the event shows there's many common threads and a desire for cross pollination of ideas. I'm delighted by the numbers attending today and grateful to the speakers for their enlivened discussions on dynamic planting. I'd also like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Palmstead for their continuous hard work in producing such a fantastic product and giving our customers the service they deserve. It makes selling such a joy. A splendid day!'



On the following pages you'll see just some of the lovely comments you have made about our Workshop. We all thoroughly enjoyed making it possible for you and we're already looking forward to next year!

In the meantime, if there is anything we can help you with, please contact the sales team on 01233 813340 or visit our website at [www.palmstead.co.uk](http://www.palmstead.co.uk).

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Coslett". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nick

Congratulations to you and your team on putting an excellent day together. It was really encouraging to see the appetite of landscape professionals for such an event.

Regards Martyn

Martyn Mogford  
Chairman  
Gavin Jones Ltd

Hi Nick.

I just wanted to congratulate you on arranging such a good seminar. All the speakers were very inspiring and it was a good opportunity to network with other colleagues in similar situations.

Also, would it be possible at some time to come and visit the nursery and be shown round the whole operation?

Kind regards

Helen Wilson  
Street Scene and Open Spaces Office  
Ashford Borough Council

*Dear Nick and Team,*

*Many thanks for such an informative and enjoyable day. A great deal of time and care went in to organizing interesting and diverse speakers along with comfortable surroundings!*

*Many thanks,*

*Julie Johnson  
Forget-Me-Not Landscape Design*

*Nick & Andrew*

*I would just like to say once again, my most sincere thanks for an extremely interesting, stimulating & timely workshop today – myself & the lads thoroughly enjoyed it. All presentations were excellent, but in discussing it this afternoon the consensus was that Bert & Paul's offerings were the most engaging & appropriate to our business, esp. given the current challenges.*

*Great to see that the Nursery is going from strength to strength, whilst maintaining its standards of cleanliness, organization & presentation. The lads particularly commented on what a friendly & engaging team you have there.....they were not afraid to ask Qs which quite often is the case if people feel out of their (horticultural) depth! As for the new build propagation house – fantastic engineering, investment & forward planning!*

*Andrew, my sincere thanks for showing us around – it was not expected on a day when you had so much on, and once again the lads really benefitted from the tour.*

*And finally, terrific news regards your Olympic Order – very well done & justly deserved. Beyond the event itself, I am sure the return in business from both current and new customers will be testimony to your efforts.*

*All the best for now*

*Sean Towey*

*John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance*

Nick,

We had an excellent day yesterday.

Although slightly over shadowed by Matthew Wilson, I thought Andrew Wilson and Sarah Price were particularly inspiring.

So thank you very much.

We are off to work on our Terracotta Army!

Sarah Carlisle  
Nursery Team Leader  
City Parks – Brighton & Hove Council



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Hi Nick,

Just a quick note to thank you so much for putting on such a fabulous day - again!

All the speakers were well chosen and interesting but the one who really shone for me was Bert Griffioen - I could have listened to that man all day.

What a shame his son has decided to opt for a career in engineering when he could learn so much at the hand of such a master....

He reminded me slightly of the late Christopher Lloyd with his passion and knowledge of plants.

I hope you will be able to have a relaxing next few days to recover!

Kind regards,

Catherine Chan  
Whitefriars Garden Design

**Nick**

I want to thank you for such a good day today. Personally, the whole day made me feel really happy - so thank you.

Christine enjoyed it too - and I have put her name down as a speaker for next year.

best wishes

Bella

Bella D'Arcy Reed  
Editor  
[www.gardensandpeople.co.uk](http://www.gardensandpeople.co.uk)

*Dear Nick,*

*Many thanks to you and your team for a very interesting and thought provoking day yesterday. These events take a huge amount of planning, thank you very much indeed. I will certainly be following up Bert's presentation with key staff. I was pleased that some of Paul's messages were hitting home - we are all going to have to advocate hard for Public Parks and Open Spaces over the next few years! Mat was his usual challenging and interesting self, an ideal end to a great day.*

*Many thanks*

*Sue*

*Sue Ireland  
Director of Open Spaces  
City of London*

Good morning Conferencemaestro,

Well done! Everything seemed to go very smoothly. Like a good wine, you get better every year!

At conferences anyway!

Nick Grove  
GRASSLANDS LTD

*Nick*

*Just wanted to say thank you to you and your team for an excellent day.*

*Regards, Andy Spetch  
British Sugar TOPSOIL*

Dear Nick

Yesterday was a great success. Congratulations to you & your team.

Lisa Beard  
Sales Manager  
Quercus UK Ltd

Hi Chris

Thanks again for a great day yesterday. I forgot to hand my feedback form in but thought all the speakers were excellent. The facilities were great, except the puddings/fruit ran out before I could get to it!!

Miranda Kimberley

Head Gardener  
The Honourable Society of Lincolns Inn

*Hi Nick,*

*In addition to my feedback form from yesterday I just wanted to thank you for a great day! It was really enjoyable and I have returned to work feeling encouraged, enthused and excited about the opportunities I have in my work to make a really positive impact and provide a quality managed environment for the people of Colchester. I particularly loved listening to Bert Griffioen and Matthew Wilson as well as Andrew, Paul, Sarah and yourself. I've certainly come away with what I feel are some great ideas.*

*I'm sure that Palmstead reap benefit from the day which would be well deserved, but I want to thank and encourage you and your team who organised the day because it must involve a lot of work. I have no doubt that the benefits will be felt widely; not just in Kent, not just in the UK, but also extending into Europe too.*

*I will also be asking our procurement team to make sure that Palmstead Nurseries are on our list of preferred suppliers too.*

*Kind regards,*

*Neil Long*

*Parks & Recreation Officer  
Parks & Recreation  
Colchester Borough Council*



Hi Nick,

Just a line to thank you for inviting Privett to exhibit at the 3rd Palmstead Soft Landscape Workshop yesterday. We were very pleased with the turnout and mixture of delegates. I actually caught up with Sue Ireland who we worked for when she was at Chelmsford Council several years ago.

All the speakers were topical and inspiring particularly Paul Bramhill as we have also worked for Bankside Open Spaces Trust over the years and recognise their transition from window boxes to larger open spaces.

We networked as much as we could without clones of ourselves!!

Looking forward to another invitation from you for next year!!!

Speak soon.

Fiona and Dave

Fiona Dymott  
Director  
Privett International Ltd

***Hello Nick,***

***Just a quickie to say that we really enjoyed the day. A good variety of speakers, with Matthew Wilson being the most entertaining. Very well organised as always and look forward to hearing what you have planned for next year.***

***All the best and thank you, Deborah***

***Deborah Albury  
Cue Landscapes***



**PALMSTEAD**  
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Dear Nick,

Firstly thank you very much for inviting myself and John to yesterday's event. The line up of speakers was excellent and the topics of real interest. Particularly interesting to hear so many themes which chime with our aspirations and designs for the park. We would like to arrange for John and Sarah and myself to come down in the next few weeks and have a proper look at the stock.

Thanks again for a great day.

Kind regards,

Phil Askew

Assistant Project Sponsor Parklands and Public Realm

Olympic Delivery Authority

Dear Nick

Just a note to say a big thank you for what was a fantastic and inspirational day. All the speakers were excellent and I had a great time,

Thanks

Selina

Selina Botham

[designsforallseasons.co.uk](http://designsforallseasons.co.uk)

**Hi Nick**

***I hope you've recovered from the rigours of organizing the day! I thought it was really enjoyable, and I hope you've had some good feedback.***

***All best, Matthew***

***Matthew Wilson***

***The Landscape Agency***



**PALMSTEAD**  
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Dear Nick

Just a big thank you for yesterday's seminar - it was so informative and inspiring - there is still life out there for our public space. I was looking forward to listening to the speakers and again I was not disappointed. Overall I think Palmstead have surpassed themselves this year. I am looking forward to next year's seminar. I was greatly interested by Sarah Price's talk on the 2012 project especially as I wrote my thesis on George Hargreaves!

Again many thanks for the lovely day - well done !!!

Kind Regards

Helen Lomasney  
Green Space Development Officer  
London Borough of Croydon

*Dear Nick,*

*Many thanks for a fantastic day yesterday. In my opinion it was flawless and thoroughly enjoyable. I hope you gain as much from it as we, the delegates, did.*

*Please find attached a feedback form, which I'm afraid I didn't manage to give back yesterday.*

*I was very impressed by your nursery and hope we are able to deal with Palmstead in the near future.*

*Kind regards, Tom*

*Tom Jenner  
Assistant Landscape Architect  
Terrafirma Consultancy*

Hi Nick & team,

Just a quick e-mail to thank you and your fab team for putting on yesterday's workshop. Clearly a lot of hard work had gone into the organisation and logistics of the workshop and the tour around the nursery was very interesting and showcased your company to perfection - and not forgetting the plants which all looked healthy and in super condition too - even the sun shone for you (always a bonus)!

The speakers were enlightening and entertaining, especially Matt Wilson.

Thanks again and please pass on my thanks to all of your team - hope you are all very proud of such a successful achievement.

Will see you all on Monday to purchase an order for a current design I am working on.

Kind regards

Karen McClure  
Garden & Landscape Consultant

Hi Nick

Thank you for a really fabulous day yesterday - truly inspirational speakers with some thought-provoking things to say. I felt very lucky to be there listening to such powerful information.

Best, Jo

Jo Thompson | Garden Designer

**Hi Nick,**

***I just wanted to send my hearty congratulations on an excellent conference on Weds. The speakers were engaging, the topic fascinating and the day really well run. The final bonus was a visit to the nursery and the purchase of some lovely plants.***

***Congratulations to your whole team. I will certainly be back next year!***

***All the best  
Cathy Youthed***



**PALMSTEAD**  
NURSERIES

Hi Nick,

I think you have hit on a winning formula for your talks. I wrote a piece a while ago about the value of trade shows. Of course they are needed but there are too many of them and they have become all the same. There has to be a more organic way of getting members of our industry together and I have lots of ideas! Mixing talks and trade stands is a start.

As for an organisation to represent the whole industry, that would be very hard when you consider how disparate it is and all the diverse people are in it from the odd job gardener /maintenance contractor, nurseryman, designer, landscape architect etc.

Well done again,

Regards, Claudia

Claudia de Yong

*Nick,*

*Thank you very much for your feedback. I hope you understand my head is turning red when reading the comments you have included. It was an absolute joy to be part of the event.*

*Let's meet at Groot Groen!*

*Have a nice weekend.*

*Bert Griffioen*

Dear Nick,

I would like to thank you and your dedicated team for the outstanding time we had last week.

The themes were excellently selected and the speakers were well chosen.

Thank you again,

Marianna Pentek  
Reading Borough Council



**PALMSTEAD**  
NURSERIES

Dear Nick,

Thank you for organising last Wednesday's seminar, it was very good indeed.

I would like to come and see the nursery please. However, I would particularly like to order some of the prairie plants you showed alongside Sarah Price's talk (the *Sanguisorba tenuifolium purpurea*, *Echinacea pallida*, *Tulbaghia violacea*, *Galtonia candicans*).

Thanks

Ann MacDonald  
Landscape and Ecology Manager  
Welwyn & Hatfield Council

*Dear Andrew*

*Rather belatedly, I wanted to thank you for a really fabulous workshop last week. All the speakers were excellent, their subject matters fascinating and thought provoking, and all individually charming and engaging. The Olympics had not engaged my attention until listening to Sarah Price. I am not sure I will be going to any of the Games but certainly to see her plantings and the park.*

*I am just putting all the details of the exhibitors into my database. A good variety of source material and I learnt almost as much from talking to some of them as the speakers.*

*I would love to come and visit the nursery another time if you were planning another open day.*

*Please pass on my thanks to your colleagues for an enjoyable and very useful day*

*Kind regards*

*Lucy Van Liew  
Lucy Van Liew Gardens*



**PALMSTEAD**  
NURSERIES

Dear Nick

Thank you for putting on such a useful and interesting day. I know I am speaking on behalf of a lot of people when I say how valuable these days are to our profession.

I am emailing you to enquire as to when the report of the day will be available as I know that my colleagues are keen to find out more information on Bert Griffioen and his sustainable planting with perennials.

Kind regards,

Andrew Ferguson  
DF Clark

*Nick - The Seminal Seminar*

*Thank you and Palmstead for yesterday, I found the seminar both enjoyable and informative, I will certainly attend again.*

*Regards*

*Nathan*

*Evolution*

*Garden Consultation Design and Creation*