

**Report to the Trustees of The Barbara and Phillip Denny Trust on:**

**Daniel Rosenberg Stream 1 (1yr) HBGTP Trainee at Kensington Palace**

Daniel started his traineeship in September 2016 and has flourished in the gardens. He has fit in well with the team right from the word go and has been a considerate and hardworking trainee in both is practical and academic work. Daniel has recently received the good news that he has been accepted to study the Kew Diploma starting in September 2017.



**Figure 1 Daniel at Kensington**

**Work to date:**

Daniel has completed 2 projects and maintained an ongoing technical journal and sat regular plant identification tests. Dan has performed very well on his idents with an average score of 93.5%. Our external tutor who provides feedback on his project work commented of his recent work that 'Your power point presentation is excellent' and that Dan had 'made a very strong start'.

**Head gardeners report:**

Dan has shown dedication to the gardens and team spirit staying late when the pots of roses were not delivered on time and other occasions when certain tasks needed completing. Also thinking of others, such as offering if other team members need help when loading up the van before Dan starts his jobs.

Dan thinks for himself, using his gardening knowledge and experience to apply to situations, whether this is remembering to water areas of turf that have been lifted and stressed, to looking out for pests such as the box tree caterpillar. In this instance, Dan made very helpful suggestions and made contact with pest experts at Fargo to gain advice on how to deal with the caterpillar.

Dan's contribution to the gardens over what has been an important and busy few months has been very much appreciated. We would have struggled without him and value his hard work.

#### **Training Support Officer comments:**

I have had the pleasure of visiting Dan in his placement garden in Autumn 2016 and in meeting Dan at the HBGTP Seminar. On both occasions Dan has been an approachable and enthusiastic trainee, always happy to chat and support others in his peer group. Daniel has done especially well given that he is balancing family commitments as well as the completion of his RHS Level 2 Diploma which he began prior to starting with the HBGTP. I am pleased to report that Daniel passed his recent exams with flying colours and is now looking to further his training and expand his CV by completing the Kew Diploma.

#### **Extra Activities:**

##### **Trainee Seminar Sept 16**

Daniel attended the trainee seminar held at Dunford House in the South Downs.

The seminar is jointly run with the Professional Gardeners Guild, expanding on the opportunity to network and create lifelong connections in the industry.

During his time in Midhurst Daniel visited an exciting range of gardens from Wallington to Arundel Castle. As well as attending professional lectures and an fun evening activities such as 'gardeners question time' with experts from the industry.

#### **Exchanges**

Daniel has been very proactive in seeking out extra training and experiences were possible. The HBGTP encourages trainees to 'exchange' with a trainee at another garden for 1 or 2 weeks. Despite having family commitments Daniel has managed to squeeze in an exchange with a trainee at Osterley Park.



Dan has also taken advantage of his work with the Royal Palaces by spending a part of his time in the Gardens at Hampton Court again expanding his knowledge and training.

### **Trainee Study Tour May 17**

At the time of writing Daniel is about to join the scheme for a weekend of career development. He will be visiting a variety of historic gardens in the Cotswolds as well as Batsford Arboretum. Gardens include Hidcote (an 8:30 start to see the gardens when they are not open!), Kiftsgate Court, Painswick, Rodmarton and John Sales garden at Perrots Brook.

The evenings give everyone a chance to catch up and discuss next career steps, as well as tips on interview technique and long term career progression.

### **Next steps:**

Daniel has recently applied for a place on the prestigious Kew Diploma and attended an interview in late April. Daniel has now received the good news that he has been successful in his application and will start in September 2017.

We are very proud of Daniels achievements over the past 12 months and we would like to thank the trustees for having funded a large proportion of Daniel Rosenbergs training. Daniel will leave Kensington in at the end of August with the skills to progress in the industry and deliver top quality horticulture in our historic gardens. Thank you.

**Elinor Davies - HBGTP Manager**

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2017**