



Sunday 31 May, 11am - 4pm

Inner Temple Garden Summer Plant Fair

Welcoming the Plant Fair Roadshow to Inner Temple Garden. This special event will bring a carefully selected range of excellent plant nurseries into our historic garden, offering visitors the chance to explore and buy high-quality plants.

WHERE

The Inner Temple Garden,
Temple, London, EC4Y 7HL

ENTRY DETAILS:

£5 to fair and garden

TICKETS:

innertemple.org.uk/plantfair



**PLANT FAIRS
ROADSHOW**

Garden



Gardener's Cuttings

Sophie Tatzkow, Deputy Head Gardener

The Tree Collection: Shaping the Future

Many of you pass beneath them on a lunchtime walk; the trees of the Garden providing a steady presence, offering shade, calm and perspective. More than a backdrop, they are a living collection, a historic asset, and a carefully managed component of London's urban forest.

The avenue of Plane trees (*Platanus × hispanica*) along the Broadwalk was planted following the 1870 Embankment works as part of a design by the Victorian landscape gardener Robert Marnock.

Arguably the most distinguished residents of the Grade II listed Garden are the three London Plane trees on the main lawn that date from the 1770s. A 2015 CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees) valued the trees at approximately £1.7 million. This figure does not simply reflect the value of timber, but public amenity, heritage significance, environmental contribution and longevity. Their true value is experienced

daily: through cooling shade in summer, improved air quality and as habitat for wildlife.

Today, there are 87 mature trees across the estate spanning 24 genera. The collection is heavily defined by its Plane trees, with 34 large specimens making up nearly 40% of all established trees. This dominance gives the Garden cohesion and grandeur, but it also presents important considerations for future stewardship.

Such an inheritance demands rigorous care. **The Inner Temple Garden Tree Management Policy** places preservation and longevity at its core. There are annual inspections, including aerial inspections when necessary, and independent expertise and advice is sought from leading UK arboriculturists such as the Royal Parks' Treescape Curator.

Where structural concerns arise, advanced



Cedrus atlantica f. glauca



Metasequoia glyptostroboides



Morus nigra

diagnostic tools such as PiCUS sonic tomography are commissioned to assess internal wood condition without invasive damage, helping to guide precise and proportionate management decisions.

Soil health is another major focus. Geo-injections were undertaken around the Planes to relieve decades of soil compaction. FSC-compliant enriched biochar was incorporated to improve the soil structure, increase beneficial microbial activity and enhance moisture retention.

Root protection areas are carefully managed through long-grass meadows and understorey planting, reducing footfall pressure while enhancing biodiversity. Borehole irrigation supports vulnerable trees during periods of drought, and pest

and disease management follows current Forestry Commission guidance. Every intervention is deliberate, evidence-led and proportionate, balancing safety, heritage and longevity.

The Future Treescape; a Privilege and a Responsibility

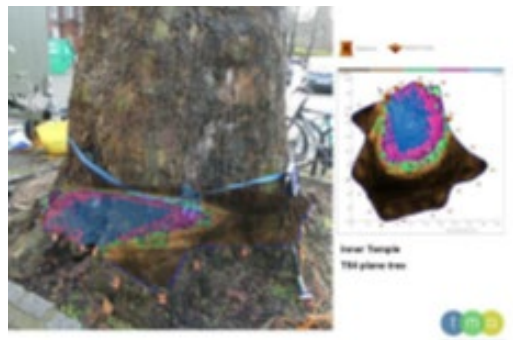
While our Plane trees serve the Garden magnificently, reliance on a single dominant species poses a future risk, particularly in an era defined by climate volatility and new pests and diseases.

Future planting is therefore guided by resilience and diversity. Expanding the range of genera within the collection will reduce vulnerability and create ecological richness. The decisions taken now will shape the Garden for generations.

It is a privilege to care for this remarkable inner-city collection and to watch it grow. It is equally a responsibility to preserve what has been entrusted to us, and to shape wisely what will follow. On your next walk through the Garden, perhaps pause beneath one of the great Planes. Consider the history it has witnessed — and the future it will continue to frame.



Tree works and PiCUS scan at Plane



PiCUS scan showing internal decay

Photos: P20 Claire Takacs, p21 Paul Debois