

Robert Player

28.12.1956 - 14.1.2021



Although his career started in a merchant bank, Robert found this was not for him and on discovering plants his career path changed.

Robert built up his own garden maintenance company and for the last 25 years had cared for many of London's communal gardens and squares, through the company he started; Garden Associates. The business offered high end horticulture and design advice, supported by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable team, including his second in command, his son George.

Robert was a well-respected judge for both the London Garden Society and London in Bloom. He was also a member of the Royal Parks Guild. His generosity and expertise were also evident at the Chelsea Flower Show where his undoubted skills were utilised by his professional colleagues when he assisted them with their exhibition displays. Despite operating behind the scenes, his efforts had contributed to the award of several gold medals over the years.

He joined as a committee member of London Gardens Network in 2014 assisting with the organisation of seminars for gardeners at Kew and Chelsea Physic Garden. His contribution to the horticulture world was rewarded in 2018 when he was given the Freedom of the City of London which led to him becoming a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners.

He will be remembered as a kind person, ready to help anyone and with a dry wit that was unsurpassed. His banter could be straight to the point at times, but he had a knack of not offending anyone, often eliciting a broad smile in the recipient once they realised it was all a joke. A friend of his once commented that he said to Robert, "you are a great friend to me" and Robert replied, "it is probably because you don't have any others!"

Outside of horticulture Robert had a great love of football, being a keen Watford Football Club supporter all his life and seeing no other club as their equal.

Robert had been suffering from ill health for some time and unfortunately suffered a relapse over the Christmas period, sadly passing away on 14 January 2021. He leaves behind his wife Pippa and their children, George and Harriet, to whom we offer our condolences and kind thoughts.

The Royal Parks Guild