



London in Bloom & South & South East in Bloom

Green Lines

October 2022



The Britain in Bloom Awards were held on 10th October at the Lindley Halls in Westminster. Some 300 plus attended a great afternoon where RHS Britain in Bloom presented finalists with their awards. Speeches by Claire Matheson, Director General of the RHS, Rachel de Thame, Horticulturist & Broadcaster and Darren Share, Chairman of the Finalist judges, added to the event. The awards were announced by James Alexander-Sinclair, Garden Designer, who made the event with his engaging style and fun facts about the entries.

Category Winners.

Village – Elswick – North West – Gold

Large Village – Culleybacky – Ulster – Gold

Small Town – Randlestown – Ulster – Gold

Town - Amersham – Gold

Upton in Bloom – S&SEiB - Silver Gilt

Large Town – Dunstable – Anglia in Bloom

Farnham – S&SEiB – Gold

BID, Town/ City Centre – Ulverston – Cumbria – Gold

Orpington 1st Bid – Gold – LiB

Sevenoaks – Silver Gilt – S&SEiB

Shaftesbury – Gold – S&SEiB

Small City – Rochdale North West – Gold

Canterbury – S&SEiB – Silver Gilt

Coastal – North Berwick – Scotland – Gold

Sandown Green Town Volunteers – S&SEiB – Silver

Overall Winner – Amersham – Thames & Chilterns – Gold

A Community Champion award was presented to Derek Beer - S&SEiB Judge & Ambassador

Congratulations to all the winners and especially to all our finalists.

Many thanks too, to Jim Buttress VMH – Patron for his articles and reminisces this year; Jim is taking a break for the next couple of months but will be back in the New Year.

Best wishes from all the Regions Trustees, Ambassadors and Judges, Ed:

Why not take a break – grab a cup of coffee or tea and have a go at our quiz questions?

WHAT AM I? Here are some clues to 10 well-known plants, fruits, and vegetables. How many can you figure out:

1. I was a lion in a children's television programme, but you probably know me better as flat leaved or curly – What am I?
2. I belong to the same family as potatoes, and more of me are canned than any other vegetable – What am I?
3. I am green, I can be grown all year round, I can be eaten raw or cooked and I was popular with a famous cartoon character – What am I?
4. I come in a huge variety of shapes, sizes, and colours. One of my varieties sells particularly well in October – What am I?
5. I have a name that sounds wise although the literal translation of my Latin name is "to heal" – What am I?
6. I belong to the same family as sunflower and daisies, but I'm commonly found in a salad – What am I?
7. I can be sweet or sour, and I come in a variety of colours. You can sometimes have a second bite of me – What am I?
8. We share the honour of representing our country. One of us is pretty and the other is edible – What are we?
9. I'm smelly but tasty and you are most likely to eat me in France – or Transylvania. What am I?
10. I'm an important crop for feeding animals in many parts of the world but you can also grow me on your windowsill – What am I?

TRUE OR FALSE? What do you think?

1. Swedes are part of the Potato family
2. A banana plant is a herb not a tree
3. "Pomology" is the science of fruit growing
4. Reindeer moss is so called because its branching growth resembles antlers
5. Raspberries can help relieve hay fever symptoms

FRIEND OR FOE? Which of the following are beneficial to your garden or perhaps in some way harmful

1. Lacewing
2. Harlequin ladybird
3. Honey bee
4. Woodlouse
5. Wasp

Reg Leach

S&SEiB Ambassador, Judge and Parks Manager – retired.

Hint & Tips for November

The routine we have had for many months now of deadheading, watering, and weeding has come to an end. Now is the time for looking forward and organising project work, which includes, planting and pruning.

BEDDING:

It is still okay to plant winter/spring bedding, choosing between Wallflowers, Bellis, Myosotis (Forget me not), Primula, Viola, and Winter Pansies.

Don't forget that if you include bulbs such as Tulips amongst your bedding, put the bulbs in after the plants to avoid them being chopped in half with the trowel! As a rough guide, bulbs should be planted to a depth of 2 ½ times their diameter.

BIRDS, BEES & BUTTERFLIES:

Leave any lingering seedheads on grasses and plants, such as Sunflowers for the birds. Also keep bird feeders topped up with water close to hand and start to include fat balls for birds to help them through the winter.

This time of year give some thought to increasing your range of plants that are beneficial to birds, bees and butterflies, particularly early spring flowering subjects such as Grape Hyacinth, Snake's Head Fritillary and Crocus.

BULBS, CORMS & TUBERS:

Make sure you have planted your spring bedding and bulbs during this month, see 'Bedding' above.

If you can get hold of 'prepared' bulbs for Christmas flowering, although it's getting a bit late, give them a try. Only prepared bulbs will work. I have tried using untreated bulbs in the past, by plunging them in pots into the dark until the flower bud shows (in the case of Hyacinths) and then bringing them out to flower, but they usually need longer than prepared bulbs before flowering and it was always after Christmas – It is fun trying though!



CLIMBERS

Some will have been more rampant than others this year. Before pruning consider whether you want to increase the framework. If so, tie in some of the new shoots into the spaces you want to fill. As a general rule cut all new shoots back to around 2 or 3 buds to the older framework, taking out thin and weak growth too.

COMPOSTING:

Keep collecting those fallen leaves off the lawn, pond, borders, and low growing plants such as alpinas and compost them. Also compost soft stems and thin twigs after pruning.

GLASSHOUSE & TENDER PLANTS:

If you haven't already done so, now is a good time — if the greenhouse is empty, to thoroughly clean it using Jeyes Fluid (an old fashioned and dependable solution) or use smokes to fumigate the greenhouse to eradicate pests and diseases. Tender plants can then be put into the sterilised greenhouse, such as Pelargoniums, with perhaps a little heat but keep them as dry as possible to avoid rot. Ventilate in milder weather to keep the air fresh and circulating. Try insulating your greenhouse with bubble wrap for extra insulation and save on heating! Ventilate the greenhouse on fine sunny days but remember to close the vents at night!

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Remove stakes and supports that your herbaceous and perennial plants were supported by. Cut down the old growth to ground level, unless there are seed heads beneficial to birds. If you have mature plants, you can lift and divide them to increase your stock and use them to fill in gaps elsewhere in the garden or give to friends and neighbours. To do this, dig out the rootball and carefully insert two forks back-to-back through the middle of the rootball and slowly prise the two halves apart and then replant.

HERBS

Herb beds will be a bit messy at this time of year. It's a good idea to lift and divide those you want to keep and consider adding new ones. The bees will appreciate their flowers next year too!

If you have some less hardy herbs in the garden carefully lift and pot them up and bring them into your greenhouse, conservatory or even on the window ledge, to extend their life and give you fresh herbs for longer.



LAWNS

If it's not too wet, give your lawn its final cut.

If your lawn has become compacted during the year, it's a good idea to scarify and spike to open up the soil allowing air in to the roots.

Scarifying: Rake off the thatch by using a springbok rake if you don't have a scarifier and to remove any remaining thatch use a mower with a box to collect it.

Spike the lawn with an ordinary garden fork. If it's a large area you may be able to hire a mechanical spiker.

Once these tasks are completed, top-dress with a fine loam, with seed added if there are bare patches. And brush in well.

If the lawn has extensive bare patches, consider turfing these areas rather than seeding. Turfing will also keep smaller stones underground and will mature quicker and better than seed, particularly if the weather is cold.

It's also a good time to give your lawn a feed. Apply an autumn feed to stimulate root growth.

When you have done the last mowing, clean and dry off your mower or arrange for it to be serviced and sharpened so it's ready for action next spring. If the winter is very mild however, the lawn may need a cut — if so, avoid mowing after a frost, or if one is due.

PATHS & HARD SURFACES - GENERAL CLEANLINESS

To discourage slugs and snails keep paths regularly swept, remove debris from patios and decking and keep pots clean and free of dead leaves and detritus. At this time of year slugs and snails will hide in crevices and under rims of pots, etc. Seek them and remove them — Don't throw them over the fence into your neighbour's garden though, as they may find their way back!

PLANTING

November through to March is the best time to plant bare root deciduous trees, shrubs, roses, and hedging plants.

While there is still a little warmth in the soil, by planting now the plant will have the maximum amount of time to get its roots growing before next summer, giving them the best chance of surviving through their first year.

This is also a good time for planting evergreens and conifers.

If you have plants growing in the wrong place and they are not too mature, consider lifting them now and replant them in a better position.

Trees:

When selecting a tree, try to visualise what size it will be in a few years' time, as often people select a tree that becomes too big for the space. Also consider the tree's eventual root spread and its proximity to buildings!

When planting, always prepare the ground well, incorporating fresh compost and a slow-release fertiliser.

Tree staking is a debatable subject. Some recommend a stake that supports the whole length of the stem. I prefer a much shorter stake that is only around two feet above ground so that the tree can sway naturally in the wind and trigger root growth thereby giving better support to the tree as it matures.

You may consider putting an irrigation tube in with the tree's rootball to assist water penetration to the roots, helpful in the tree's first year, but if you can water regularly, you may not need to.



Plant the tree to the same depth as when it was grown in the pot or nursery — note the existing soil mark on the stem. Planting too deep can rot the stem! Always spread the tree roots out evenly into the hole, putting the stake in first to avoid damaging the tree's roots.

Add the soil and compost mix slowly, carefully raising and lowering the tree slightly by the stem, as you fill the hole, so soil gets in between the roots.

Start to firm the soil around the tree carefully with your foot, but only after the roots are covered with soil, then fill the remaining hole firming as you go and securing to the stake if used.

If containerised, loosen up the rootball carefully before placing in the hole.

I would suggest mulching around the tree base after planting to help keep it weed free. If the tree is to be planted in a lawn, a mulched base will help prevent mower damage to the bark.

Tree stakes usually face the prevailing wind to give the tree the best support, however when planting trees on road verges put the stake on the side facing the road so the tree's trunk is protected from car doors!

Shrubs:

As with trees, always try to visualise the shrub's size in a few years' time and consider its position in the border. You don't want to end up with tall shrubs at the front of the border and smaller ones hidden at the back. Always prepare the ground well and incorporate new compost and a slow-release fertiliser. Some nurseries offer planting compost with fertiliser already incorporated.

Depending on what you are trying to achieve, it's good to have a selection of plants in the garden that flower at different times of year so there is always

something of interest to see. Similarly it is good to have a mix of shrubs that have different leaf or stem colour, to give autumn interest. In the winter there is nothing better than a clump of red-stemmed *Cornus siberica* with low winter sun shining on them!

Hedges:

Now is an ideal time to plant bare-root hedging plants. They are cheaper to buy as whips and they will usually outperform containerised hedging plants in a relatively short time. Prepare a trench incorporating organic matter and if you have enough space, plant a double staggered row to get a good thick hedge. I would recommend planting a native hedging mix of Beech, Purple Beech, Copper Beech, Field Maple, Hawthorn and perhaps Dog Rose, all of which will attract wildlife into your garden.

Evergreens:

November to March is the best time for planting evergreens and conifers (avoid *Leylandii* as they are too vigorous, and they will not please your neighbours)! As before plant to the existing soil level mark on the trunk.

Containerised Plants:

Plants for containerising can be planted now and throughout the year.

If you are intending to reuse an old pot or container it's good idea to thoroughly disinfect it first before reusing it.

Where possible, lift containers off the ground and onto legs to improve drainage through the winter, which helps to avoid waterlogging.

After any planting, water in well afterwards.

PRUNING

This is also the time of year when we need to tidy up the garden and pruning is one of those elements.

Here are some principles of pruning that will come in handy:

1. Remove dead and diseased wood.
2. Take out thin and weak growth.
3. Remove any crossing over branches as they will rub and may become infected.
4. Prune to open up the centre of the shrub to allow in more light into the middle.
5. Prune to an outward facing bud.
6. Avoid leaving 'snags' — wood above a leaf joint, as they may become diseased.
7. Retain the natural shape of the shrub if possible.
8. As a general guide prune flowering shrubs soon after flowering, so the plant has the longest time to produce new flowering stems for the following year.

ROSES

Reduce HTs by half their height to reduce wind rock. (The final prune will be done next March.)

For climbers, prune back this year's growth to 2 or 3 buds of the main frame. Apply this type of pruning to most climbing plants to maintain their shape. If you want to increase the climber's framework, tie in some of the new shoots into the spaces you want to fill.

Specie roses — take out some of the older shoots at ground level, leaving newer growth to flower next year.

SHRUBS

Prune back any remaining summer flowering shrubs before the weather gets too cold.

When you have completed all your border work, carefully and lightly fork the bed over, (avoiding bulb areas) to relieve compaction and give a mulch of organic matter to keep weeds at bay and for the winter rains to wash nutrient into the soil from the organic matter.

It's also a good time to assess how successful or otherwise your planting scheme has been and whether some plants need to go to make room for more appropriate ones for next year. Take time to review your borders — reduce, remove, or replace those that are too mature or no longer fit into your scheme.

WEEDING

If the winter weather is mild, keep hoeing to remove annual weeds such as chickweed, which seems to grow all year round. This is particularly the case in urban areas now that the winters are often milder.

WINTER PREPARATION

Some bulbous plants and those that have corms and tubers, such as Canna, Tuberous Begonias, Dahlias and Agapanthus can be left in their pots and allowed to dry off in the garage or shed over the winter, protecting them from the worst of the winter weather. Bring them out again next spring after the last frost and when new shoots appear at the base. If you have good draining soil you may want to risk leaving some of those temperate plants such as Agapanthus in the ground, but if you do, mulch over their crown. However lifting, potting, and storing in the garage or shed, is less risky.

If you have tree ferns, tie up the fronds and add straw to the crown to protect from frost and snow. Straw can also be used to protect less hardy herbaceous plants too.

Clean and sharpen mowers and hand tools over the winter period, ready for next year.

Pack away the hosepipe and lag the outside tap to protect from frost.

Until next month, enjoy your garden.

Reg

RHS Britain in Bloom is pleased to announce two new grants

RHS Connected Communities Grant – grants of £2,500 available only to groups registered with Britain in Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood to create new connections with groups and communities with which they don't currently work. Full details can be found here – <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/rhs-connected-communities-grant>

RHS Sustainable Futures Grant – grants of £2,500 available only to groups registered with Britain in Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood and schools registered with Campaign for School Gardening to make their organisations more future-proof. Full details can be found here <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/rhs-sustainable-futures-grant>

Applications are now open and close on Friday, 18th November, at 5 pm.

ANSWERS:

WHAT AM I?

1. Parsley
2. Tomato
3. Spinach
4. Squash (Pumpkin for Halloween)
5. Sage
6. Lettuce
7. Cherry
8. Daffodil and Leek (for Wales)
9. Garlic
10. Alfalfa

TRUE OR FALSE

1. False – they are brassicas!
2. True
3. True
4. False – it is a staple food for reindeer and is actually a lichen not a moss
5. True – Raspberries contain quercetin which is a natural antihistamine

FRIEND OR FOE

1. Friend
2. Foe – it is not native to the UK and is destroying friendly native species
3. Friend
4. Friend
5. Friend

Tiny Forests

Kate Harris – S&SEiB & LiB Co-Campaign Manager



For anyone who uses social media, you will know it's incredibly easy to get lost down a rabbit hole of endless videos. Now on my personal social media, this can be videos related to true crime, or travel, world news videos and an endless list of other subjects. But as many of you know, I also run the Instagram and Facebook accounts for both LiB and S&SEiB. Now on these accounts, the video and post suggestions are entirely different, but just as easy to get lost in. One day last week I was mindlessly scrolling through, and I came across something that caught my eye (as is often the way) and I stopped to have a read, which lead to a Google search and a read of a website or three and so on, I am sure you get the picture. But what I came across really struck a chord with me and I think it might with you too.

So, when I came across 'Tiny Forests,' my interest was piqued. The first tiny forest was planted in 2015 in the Netherlands and this idea has since spread out across Europe and beyond. These tiny forests with a small footprint span the space of a tennis court, planted in such a way, with native species, that they are fast growing and need little in the way of human interaction, which includes the lack of

fertilisation and pesticides. These tiny forests are a mecca for wildlife, flora, and fauna and have the added benefit of absorbing a fair amount of carbon and can help limit the effects of the rising temperatures we see.

The idea of these forests is based on the work of Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki and the method he pioneered in the 1970's. Growing native saplings close together helped them grow faster as they competed for the natural light. Native trees are planted alongside lower growing species. The shape does not have to be rigid but needs to be around a minimum for four meters wide.

A survey taken across 11 forests showed a boom in biodiversity, recording a staggering 636 animal species and 298 plant species, in addition to the original species that were planted.

The UK's first tiny forest was planted in 2020 and since then there have been 150 + forests planted, and we have 11 of these across LiB & S&SEiB. I won't list them all off, but a quick visit to the earthwatch.org.uk site will show you the map should you wish to and go and visit these yourself or just read a little about them and the native species they are home to, such as Birch, Beech, Alder, Elder, Hornbeam, Common Privet, Rowan and more.

For me, the takeaway from all of this is that bigger is not always better and is proof that even the smallest change can have such a huge impact on our native wildlife. Individually our impact may not be huge, but if we think the same way, individual little changes form something far larger. Some budgets are bigger than others and if you have the space in your school, town, city, or community, you can sign up to find out more. But if you can't, that's ok too. A tree on your balcony or the addition of some pollinator friendly plants in your garden would be great too. We can all play our part, no matter how big or small.

We are all very likely to be aware of the environmental impact we have on the World around us and the crisis our local wildlife and native species are in. Our towns and cities often struggle to balance the urban with the green, a balance between people and nature, but as long as we keep learning and evolving, we can still make a big difference.



East London Waterworks Park Needs You!



East London Waterworks Park is the brainchild of a volunteer-led charity based across Hackney and Waltham Forest, formed with the aim of buying an old, 5.68-hectare Thames Water depot and transforming it into the first new swimming ponds in London to be created since Hampstead Ponds in 1777.

The neighbouring boroughs benefit from the incredibly popular London Fields Lido and Hackney West Reservoir for outdoor swimming, while Waltham Forest has no outdoor swimming provision. During the Summer heatwave, swimming pools were inundated with locals desperate to cool off. However, with some 40% of young people in Waltham Forest and Hackney living in poverty, many of the existing facilities are too expensive.

The sustainably maintained ponds would allow more than 1,000 people to swim each day for free. There would also be spaces for scientific research, arts, and a make and repair café. The park will be the largest community rewilding plot bought from the UK government. It would create habitats for rare butterflies, invertebrates, bats, and birds, and the first public swimming ponds in the UK to be filled with rainwater cleaned naturally by reeds and other aquatic plants.

We want this concrete-covered depot to, once more, play its part in supporting the health and well-being of the local community and visitors from all over London and beyond. Having access to green and blue spaces makes people mentally healthier according to a significant body of academic research. Through opportunities to learn, grow, conservation volunteering and wild swimming, we plan to connect people with nature in new and tangible ways.



FLORA AND FAUNA

The biodiversity of the old depot that borders Hackney and Waltham Forest is as you might expect limited as it is currently a huge slab of concrete that is predominantly used for storing machinery.

This is at odds with the rest of the surrounding area. The vibrant River Lee Country Park stretches for 26 miles from the Limehouse Basin in the River Thames, all the way up to Hertford. It is often referred to as the “great green lung” in the east and includes Walthamstow Marshes, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI) and one of the last remaining examples of semi-natural wetland in Greater London.

The marshes contain a variety of plants such as a range of neutral grassland types, sedge marsh, reed swamp, willow scrub, and areas of tall herb vegetation. There are several species of plant and insect which are uncommon in the London area, such as the Essex skipper butterfly, the pyralid moth, and the sporadic breeding by the nationally endangered marsh warbler. The breeding bird community includes reed bunting, and reed, sedge, and willow warblers.

There are also numerous parks in the area such as Millfields, Jubilee and Springfield, and the River Lea that borders the site. Although currently heavily polluted, we hope that we can influence and inspire local businesses and the community to work together to improve the River Lea and take better care of it in future.



COME AND JOIN US!

The group is divided into seven circles that meet fortnightly and report into the Hub Circle. Currently the different circles are: Fundraising is looking for help promoting the crowdfunder and working on grant and corporate donations; Inclusivity is researching and listening to the local community to ensure the project and park welcomes everyone; Learning is designing the learning experiences of the project and park; Communications is looking for graphic designers, illustrators, animators, social media and marketing specialists; Design is looking for architects, engineers, ecologists, and gardeners; Technology is looking for web developers to help build the systems we need to help manage a community-owned park.

And we need to spread the word even further and wider. This can be a community-owned park created by and for everyone. Inclusivity is boosted by allowing anyone to join any working group, providing an opportunity for local people to create a focus for doing good in their spare time.



The crowdfunding campaign has now reached more than £320,000 of its £500,000 target:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/elwp>. We hope to raise the remaining funds through corporate donations and grant funding.

Which is where you come in. We need you to spread the word among all your friends, family, colleagues, and like-minded souls. Whether you think they may want to volunteer among one of the seven circles and put their expertise to good use or can make some noise about it on their socials – to copy a certain large supermarket's catchline, 'every little helps'! So please help us make this once in a lifetime project become reality!

Alex Simmons, Volunteer at East London Waterworks Park.

Green Lines

What would you like to see in our monthly Green Lines? Articles, how to articles, quizzes, pictures, information about plants, managing drought, increasing biodiversity etc. Just let us know. If you would like us to post an article or piece about your community or project, please provide by no later than mid-month and please provide your article in Word, in 12 point, and it should be either one A4 page including images or two pages if several images make up the article. Images should be sent separate to the article and be well focused image of about 500 kb to 1 mb.

We look forward to hearing from you.



GARDEN SPOTLIGHT: BARBICAN WILDLIFE GARDEN, CITY OF LONDON



The Barbican Wildlife Garden is a little known, relatively hidden, space within the City of London but is a vitally important space for local wildlife. At a pocket sized 0.17ha, it has been called “a green gem in the heart of the City”.

One of three resident gardens on the Barbican Estate, it is dedicated to the encouragement of wildlife and biodiversity, focussing on habitat creation. It is managed by local community volunteers under the guidance of City Gardeners, and for the last five years it has been judged Outstanding at the annual London in Bloom “It’s Your Neighbourhood” awards. In 2021, it also received a RHS National Certificate of Distinction. It is part of the Barbican Estate, St Alphages and Barber Surgeons Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (Grade 1) and lies within the Barbican and Golden Lane Estate Conservation Area.

The Garden has a range of habitats including two ponds, two native hedgerows, a wildflower meadow, a meadow orchard, secondary woodland, a fernery, and several borders planted to encourage pollinators. The Garden also boasts four forest sized plane trees which date back to the original planting of the Garden. To date more than 300 species of wildlife have been recorded in the Garden.

The Garden lies on the site of the Earl of Bridgwater’s seventeenth century estate. It was given over to middle class housing after the house burnt down in 1687 but by the 1930s, the area was industrial and suffered heavy bombing during the Second World War. The basements of the destroyed buildings lie under the Garden and remnants can still be seen today. It became part of the Barbican Redevelopment Scheme in 1956, was used for car parking and temporary offices during the project’s construction phase until being laid out as a garden in 1974. It became a wildlife garden in 1990 and since 2003 has been looked after by local residents.

There are two ponds in the Garden, a small one created in 2011 and a larger one dating from 2016. Both offer habitat for frogs the larvae of damsel and dragonflies and provide water for birds. The two hedges are planted with mixed native species including hawthorn, blackthorn, hornbeam, field maple, holly and yew and are a great favourite with our resident sparrow colony. In 2019, one of the hedges was laid using traditional techniques and has now thickened into a wonderful nesting site for birds. The woodland edge habitat are planted with mature birch and dense belts of bird cherry, hawthorn, hazel, field maple and elder. The Garden's hazels are coppiced on a seven-year cycle and all wood is recycled or reused within the Garden.

The meadow is a rich source of food and nectar for birds and insects. Perennial flowers such as speedwell, stitchwort, red and bladder campion, buttercup, red clover, oxeye daisies, cowslips and viper's bugloss appear each year. Annual wildflowers such a corncockle, corn marigold, corn chamomile and common poppy also proliferate in the summer. It is scythed, usually in October, using traditional techniques with all arisings composted to create mulch for the Garden's borders. For several years, the City of London police horses have been used to turn the meadow, in lieu of other more commonly used hooved animals, before seed is sown in the autumn.

The area at the southern end of the meadow is damper and more heavily shaded, so following the donation of rescue fruit trees in 2017, the decision was taken to create an orchard. Today we have a range of apple trees, a quince and two pear trees. A hazel fence has also been created, from wood coppiced in the Garden, and supports a range of soft fruit climbers and shrubs, forming a thick barrier as shelter and food for wildlife.

Today the Garden is a thriving space for wildlife providing shelter in extreme weather and food all year round, as well as providing a tranquil place for residents. Outside the Garden, the noise of the City and traffic assail you, but once inside, the City retreats and peace is broken instead by the sound of birds going about their business. Volunteers garden on a Wednesday from 10am until 12pm and are pleased to welcome visitors at that time. Please get in touch via our website or on Twitter.



Follow us here <https://twitter.com/BarbicanWLG>

Or here <https://www.facebook.com/barbicanwildlifegarden/>

Contact us here www.barbicanwildlifegarden.org

Bloom Sponsors South & South East in Bloom



It's no secret that creating a beautiful garden or growing

your vegetables takes time, dedication, and passion. There is always something new to get excited about and pay attention to with the ever-changing seasons. At **The Garden Superstore**, we understand what your garden means to you. We are passionate about sharing our expert, in-depth knowledge to help you on your gardening journey, from quality gardening calendars to product reviews and helpful guides to help your garden look its best all year round.

An advertisement for The Garden Superstore. The background is a close-up of a green wheelbarrow filled with brown compost, set against a blurred green garden background. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says 'Professional products for the expert home gardener, landscapers and garden designers'. Below this, it says 'We stock a wide range of products from leading brands including Melcourt, ICL, Sinclair and Strulch.' A bulleted list of products is provided: Professional quality compost, Grower Pots and Decorative pots, Natural pest control products, Irrigation, Aggregates, Seeds, and Tools. A circular badge on the right side contains the text 'USE THE CODE INBLOOM15 to get 15% off your first order'. At the bottom left, contact information is listed: 'Call us 01903 258 200', 'Email orders@thegardensuperstore.co.uk', and 'Visit www.thegardensuperstore.co.uk'. The Garden Superstore logo is at the bottom right.

DS Smith Redefining Packaging for a Changing World:

We always keep an eye on the future, operating in a changing world. Towns, cities, and entire populations are rapidly transforming. The growth in digital technology is revolutionising the way we shop and live. We increasingly expect to purchase products tailored for us, whenever we want them, wherever we want them, delivered to us in a way that fits our busy lifestyles. We want more choice and convenience but less impact on the world around us.



Amberol joins S&SEIB & London again in 2022

Our business's heart is a desire to make *a visual difference*. This includes stunning floral arrangements in calm, peaceful villages and fast-paced city environments and keeping Britain tidy through our wide range of bin products. We believe that conversation and collaboration are essential to offer the best solutions for our customers. Collaborating closely with our customers, we offer tailored advice and free demonstrations to ensure they make the right decisions

John O'Connor Grounds Maintenance Contractor provides support again in 2022

John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance employs over five hundred staff and manages over 250 vehicles across the UK, providing complete landscape solutions to a range of sectors, including commercial and local authorities. The Company has always been mindful of its business's impact on the environment.



London in Bloom donors and Associates



London in Bloom is grateful for the continuing support of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, which has provided a grant to London in Bloom for 2022

MPGA is a long-established Charity that has played a vital role in preserving and improving countless gardens, neglected sites, and green open spaces across London. We provide modest grants to those who share with us a desire to improve the environment and, thus, the quality of life for the local community. Our work brings us into contact with various groups, including local councils, schools, hospitals, hospices, museums, voluntary organisations, and community groups.

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners, first mentioned in City Corporation records in 1345, is a survivor of the medieval craft guilds which exercised control over the practice of their particular crafts and ensured proper training through the system of apprenticeship.



The Worshipful Company of
GARDENERS

The Company is a "living" guild, and the numbers of its members are both professionals and amateurs actively involved in the craft. All are united by a common bond of horticulture and gardens.



The Royal Parks Guild is a voluntary Partner Organisation of The Royal Parks who are responsible for managing and preserving over 5,000 acres of historic parkland across London.

Our aim is a serious one – championing The Royal Parks by promoting their qualities, including horticultural excellence and historical significance, whilst offering practical support where appropriate. Allied to this is the service to its members through the provision and development of a broad range of social activities and keeping members abreast of current and past news of The Royal Parks.

The Royal Parks has worked with London in Bloom since its inception in 1967.