

THE SPADE

PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION WINNERS

EDEN APPRENTICE WINS
PRINCE OF WALES AWARD

ALL THE FUN OF
GOLDSMITHS' FAIR

KEEPING IN TOUCH IN A
VIRTUAL WORLD



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
VIEW FROM THE CITY

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THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



Welcome to the Autumn Spade. Written contributions, ideas for articles and help in gathering material and preparing it for publication are always very welcome.

Most of the items in this issue are available at greater length and with more photographs on the Company website. Using your password, go to the Members' Area and click on the Noticeboard. From there you can also access the archive of photographs from dinners, trips and other events.

The public or first page of the website also features a steady stream of news stories about the Company, events in the City and other items of interest in the horticulture and gardening worlds. Click on the News button. Next to it is the link to our Twitter account. To visit our Instagram account go to:

<https://www.instagram.com/gardenliveryco/>

Please send photographs for posting there to Liveryman Barbara Segall.

THE MASTER

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THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

I hope you have been enjoying the events that we have managed to arrange in recent weeks. I appreciate that so much is online but, with the rule of six, 'live' events we had hoped to stage have had to be somewhat curtailed. However, I think the virtual meetings have been interesting and have kept us in touch with each other and the work the Company continues to do.

Barry and I attended a virtual Mansion House dinner with the Horners' Company in October. It was remarkably interesting and quite different. We dressed up in black tie and all had salad and cheese for dinner. We moved virtually between a whole group meeting for speeches to break-out rooms in order to chat over dinner more easily. No need to rush for a train home afterwards!

Also in October, the IPM of the Plumbers' Company, Dame Fiona Woolf, invited me to join her at Wisley as the Plumbers had presented RHS Wisley with a stunning lead planter. We had a good day viewing the planter

but also looking round at the vast changes being made to Wisley including their new centre for Horticultural Science and Learning, due to open to the public next spring.

For some time now I have been involved in a pan-livery initiative called Pollinating London Together. Work has been progressing with that and has involved several of our members in bee audits and filming videos for wider distribution. I will certainly let you know when these become available. I am hoping there will also be a honey and mead tasting.

One of our next commitments was to go to St Stephen Walbrook to read the lessons for our Carol Service under strict Covid-secure conditions.

The service was led as always by our Hon. Chaplain the Venerable Peter Delaney and filmed for later streaming to members on 14th December. Strange times! Hopefully the light at the end of the tunnel is not so far away. Take care all.



The Master with some of Wisley's autumn harvest (photograph Barry Barrett-Mold) A report of her visit with the Plumber's Company will appear in the next edition.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR GARDENER FRIENDS

Covid-19 has forced the Gardeners' Company, like many organisations, to adapt to a new, virtual world with online video conferencing applications such as Zoom and GoToMeeting replacing traditional face-to-face encounters.

The Master led the way with virtual committee meetings, branching out into a much more ambitious video tour of her own garden at the end of July. This was followed on 12th

August by a well-attended and lively Company Catch-up session (see report page 12). Various subsequent virtual events are reviewed in the following pages.

We all hope that we will be able to return to 'normality' in the not-too-distant future and meet our friends in the flesh again. Meanwhile more virtual sessions are planned. If you have not yet plunged into this brave new world, the technology is very

easy to use on smartphone, tablet or desktop computer. Our Gallant Clerk is the master of ceremonies for these sessions and he has become expert at sorting out any glitches experienced by newcomers.

Do join in the fun. They are entertaining, informative and a wonderful way of keeping up with fellow Gardeners in these difficult times.

The Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

At the time of publication

DATE	EVENT AND DRESS	VENUE AND INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY
Tuesday 3 rd November 2020	TREE PLANTING AT KEW	14.00 Kew Gardens, Kew, Richmond, London TW9 3AE	Livery
Wednesday 4 th November 2020	WINE TASTING	First of three virtual sessions. 20.00-21.00	The Company, Partners and Guests
Monday 9 th November 2020	SECOND VIRTUAL COMPANY CATCH-UP	17.50 for 18.00 to 19.00	The Company, Partners and Guests
Wednesday 11 th November 2020	WINE TASTING	Second of three virtual sessions. 20.00-21.00	The Company, Partners and Guests
Sunday 15 th November 2020	CLOSING DATE for Second Photographic Competition	Company Christmas Card	The Company and Partners
Wednesday 18 th November 2020	WINE TASTING	Third of three virtual sessions. 20.00-21.00	The Company, Partners and Guests
Saturday 12 th December 2020	MAKE YOUR OWN WREATH & REINDEER FOR CHRISTMAS <i>Gardening clothes</i>	Venue TBC	The Company, Partners and Guests
Monday 14 th December 2020	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE	Online video recording from St Stephen Walbrook	The Company, Partners, and Guests
Sunday 20 th December 2020	COMPANY CHRISTMAS QUIZ	Date TBC	The Company, Partners, and Guests
January 2021	POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PLANTING <i>Gardening clothes</i>	Date TBC	The Company, Partners, and Guests
January 2021	A YORKSHIRE SPADE IN A TUSCAN GARDEN	Lecture by Nick Dakin-Elliott. Nick was due to accompany us to Florence in April. Date TBC	The Company, Partners and Guests
January 2021	HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH GARDENS AND PLANTS	Date & venue TBC	The Company, Partners and Guests
February 2021	MANSION HOUSE BANQUET <i>White tie preferred</i>	Mansion House Date TBC	The Company, Partners, and Guests
Thursday 25 th February 2021	CHISWICK HOUSE AT CAMELLIA TIME <i>Comfortable attire</i>	Chiswick House and Gardens, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London W4 2RP	The Company, Partners, and Guests
March 2021	THIRD COMPANY CATCH-UP	Date TBC	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 30 th March 2021	SPRING COURT LUNCH <i>Lounge suit</i>	Barber Surgeons' Hall, Monkwell Square, Wood St, Barbican, London EC2Y 5BL	Livery and Guests
Wednesday 7 th April 2021	BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN <i>Lounge suit</i>	Buckingham Palace Gardens, Westminster, London SW1A 1AA	Livery and Guests
Friday 30 th April 2021	CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN <i>Comfortable attire</i>	66 Royal Hospital Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 4HS	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 4 th May 2021	ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS MEDICINAL GARDEN	Tour with Dr Henry Oakeley, 11, St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LE	The Company, Partners, and Guests
Tuesday 18 th May 2021	CHELSEA SUPPER <i>Lounge suit</i>	Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL	Company members and partners associated with Chelsea Flower Show
Tuesday 1 st June 2021	THE FAIRCHILD LECTURE <i>Lounge suit</i>	St. Giles Cripplegate, Fore Street, London EC2Y 8DA	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 8 th June 2021	VISIT TO HATFIELD HOUSE <i>Lounge suit</i>	Hatfield House, Great North Road, Hatfield AL9 5HX	The Company, Partners and Guests
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th	YORK AND YORKSHIRE <i>Comfortable attire</i>	Yorkshire tour of gardens and more. Staying in York.	The Company, Partners and Guests
Tuesday 6 th July 2021	INSTALLATION	Venue TBC	The Company, Partners and Guests
TBA	VISIT TO WEST HAM PARK		The Company, Partners and Guests
TBA	VISIT TO SPITALFIELDS & SHOREDITCH GARDENS		The Company, Partners and Guests
TBA	SECOND GARDENERS QUESTION TIME		The Company, Partners and Guests

THE GARDENERS' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNERS

Thank you all for so many entries. Judges Liveryman Michael Warren and Assistant Tyrone McGlinchey, both professional plant photographers, were impressed by the standard. It is a shame not to make more winners but they are as below:

Features Within your Garden category winner:
PM Sir David Green.

A Plant/Flower in your Garden category winner:
Dr Elizabeth Rollinson.

Pollinators in your Garden category winner: Major Jeremy Herrtage.

Something that Reminds you of Lockdown category winner:
Wendy Bentall.

All winners are equal and the list is in no particular order. Each person receives a £50 prize from the Company and a copy of the International Garden Photographer of the Year book number 13 - courtesy of Tyrone. The winning photographs also appear in the News section of the Company website.

NEXT OPPORTUNITY:
Christmas Card Competition.

This year's Company Christmas Card will carry a winning photograph.

Please do enter. You might like to look back to previous winter photographs you have taken or choose another subject you think appropriate. The prize for the winner will be to have 50 cards printed with their photograph and wording of their choice.

As before, send the photograph to the Clerk but please make your own name part of the file name. Send through at a minimum of A4 at 300 dpi. If you have taken your photographs on your phone please choose the largest option when you send. If you have lots to choose from please send no more than your best three. **Please send to the Clerk by 15th November 2020**



COMPETITION WINNERS

1. Major Jeremy Herrtage's pollinating Fritillary butterfly
2. Dr Elizabeth Rollinson's Melianthus major
3. Sir David Green's garden
4. Wendy Bentall's productive garden, a reminder of lockdown

MAGICAL HANDS AT WORK AT GOLDSMITHS' FAIR 2020

Helen Potts reports on the Gardeners' virtual tour of the Goldsmiths' Fair 2020 on 2nd October

Going online to visit the Goldsmiths' Fair 2020 seemed to be a safe way to avoid temptation, but Harriet Scott's tour of botanically inspired craftsmen and women specially for the Gardeners' Company left me thinking the exquisite creations she showed us deserve to be bought not just admired.

After all, I have spent relatively little over the last few months so perhaps an early birthday and Christmas present to myself would not be unreasonable...

As Goldsmiths' Head of Events with responsibility for the Fair, Harriet took us through the website which has replaced the usual live event and made the work of many highly talented jewellers and craftspeople accessible to far more than the 9,000 who visited in person last year.

It was mind-blowing to see the most incredible workmanship, attention to detail and originality in the pieces Harriet selected for this virtual tour. The metals gold and silver, even aluminium, sometimes oxidised, or anodised, hammered, chased, overlaid, polished or matte, precious stones in both their raw and cut states, the strong colours of enamels, all combined in the magical hands of the artists to create indescribably varied and beautiful treasures.

You could spend hours looking at the work of the 138 people exhibiting, all amazingly talented, but among those whose pages Harriet picked out the following were my favourites:

Christopher Thompson Royds has executed a sprig of delicate violets in gold on a little stand, as ethereal as the real flowers, but with a twist. These gold flowers can be lifted off and worn as earrings. So can a pair of gorgeous buttercups with tiny diamond dewdrops.

Abigail Brown has drawn on the

Cornish landscape around her to emulate fragile lichens in silver and enamel, and mounted them on hammer-formed abstract vessels. She has also produced small acorn-cup shaped bowls decorated with overlapping petals chased in deep relief, fit for a faerie queen.

And Gill Galloway-Whitehead has developed her own technique and created exquisite miniature landscapes on brooches and pendants using overlaid gold and silver wire threads.

The Fair has now closed but exhibitors' details can be found at www.goldsmithsfair.co.uk/makers/



CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON ROYDS' SPRIG OF DELICATE VIOLETS IN GOLD

EDEN APPRENTICE WINS PRINCE OF WALES AWARD

Eden Project horticultural apprentice Patricie Zeleznikova has won this year's Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Horticulture in recognition of her work in Forest Gardening, a sustainable approach to horticulture which makes use of the natural layering of plants found in forests, providing fruits, nuts and leafy vegetables.

During her two years at Eden Patricie worked on the Forest Garden seen by around one million visitors a year as they wind their way towards the Visitor Centre.

Her apprenticeship has just finished and she plans to donate the award prize towards a new forest garden in Cornwall which she and fellow Eden apprentice Liz Mortimer are planning to design together.



The Company praised her for adapting these principles to the particular climatic conditions in the UK and the specific constraints of the site assigned by the Eden Project to the apprentices.

Master Heather Barrett-Mold said: "The award to Patricie is particularly pleasing, just the second time since the award was set up by Honorary Liveryman HRH Prince of Wales over 20 years ago that it has gone to a winner in Cornwall, the county he is so deeply associated with.

"I congratulate Patricie on her hard work and enthusiasm, and wish her well in her career in horticulture."

Patricie was nominated for the award by Colin Skelly, Living Landscapes Educator in Eden's Outdoor Gardens. As part of the process she was interviewed by a panel about forest gardening.

Patricie said: "I was pleasantly surprised to win the award and it means a lot to me and my fellow apprentices Liz Mortimer, Tabitha Carpenter and Tom Starley. It is good recognition for the apprentice team. We all worked really hard on the Forest Garden and it was amazing to be nominated by Colin for this award.

"Liz and I are now starting our new adventure in horticulture, progressing to RHS Level 3 and setting up our own business. We already have a commission to work on a forest garden and we are looking forward to putting into practice what we have learned. We will invest the prize into the new venture."

Prince of Wales award winner Patricie Zeleznikova in Eden's Forest Garden (photograph Tom Trinkle/The Eden Project).

THE GARDENERS' EARLY STRUGGLES

Diana Uff reports on garden historian Dr David Marsh's September Zoom lecture on the early history of the Gardeners' Company.

The early history of the Company is one of struggle and strife, often with the Farmers of Fulham. The Gardeners tried to pay them the local rate for their produce and then sell it in the City markets for more, a practice which led to much dispute.

In the 1590's there were disastrous

harvests all over Europe with 'never ending rain' and the harvests 'utterly rotted and corrupted'. As a result grain prices rocketed, food was vastly expensive and there were many deaths from malnutrition.

King James saw there was an obvious problem with public health, agriculture and food supply and in 1605 granted the Company its first Charter which included an obligation to keep the streets clean. When gardeners came into the City

for the markets, they were mostly run by women, not members of the Company, while the men cleaned the streets, putting the garbage into barges to be taken away and used as fertiliser.

One difficulty in establishing the power of the Company was that its influence was limited to six miles.

James tried to resolve the Company's problems but they became the basis of a battle between the king and the City who saw it as an attack on their ancient rights and privileges. As a result the Court of Aldermen denied the Gardeners Livery status and this was not in fact granted until 1891.

THERE ARE FLOWERS IN THE CITY

As all of you will probably be aware we were unable to judge for Flowers in the City this summer because of Covid19.

During the initial lockdown we had reports that very little was being maintained florally in the City. However, we contacted the contractors and gardeners who have won prizes over the last couple of years and asked them to send photographs of displays they were maintaining and we have been

delighted to receive many beautiful pictures. We have been posting these in the Flowers in the City Summer section of the Gardeners' website and hope to be able to give special certificates to all who have contributed.

We are keeping a very close eye on developments in the City over the coming months and hope to get back to some form of competition as soon as circumstances allow.

Marjorie Dowbiggin

Prince of Wales award winner Patricie Zeleznikova in Eden's Forest Garden (photograph Tom Trinkle/The Eden Project).

THE VIRUS WILL CONTINUE TO WORRY THE WORLD MARKETS

The outlook for world economies has been much damaged by Covid-19. We are looking at substantial declines in output and incomes for 2020, with the recovery in the second half of the current year continuing into 2021.

Most countries will fail to get back to February 2020 levels before the end of 2021, such was the damage done by the lockdowns. China was first out of the crisis and should grow rapidly next year after around just 2% this year.

The USA will grow more quickly than the European economies, assisted by a massive Fed stimulus and the success of US technology businesses. Germany will perform better than France, Italy and Spain in the Eurozone as it suffered less damage from the virus and entered the downturn in good financial shape allowing a fiscal boost.

This year will see a loss of output and income of between 5% and 10% in the main advanced countries.

Share markets since the end of March have performed well, thanks to the massive liquidity injections from all the leading Central banks. There has been little or no general price inflation, but there has been substantial asset price inflation.

There has been a growing gap between the prospects for profits and earnings for much of the global economy and the share prices. We have also witnessed a large increase in the share prices of those sectors and companies that can survive and thrive in these difficult conditions, especially those that use or provide digital technology.

There are three scenarios for the virus. The optimistic one is that the world produces one or more vaccines that work and they are rolled out speedily, allowing many of the restrictions to be dismantled relatively early in 2021.

This is not very likely to happen quickly given the massive task of vaccinating most of the world successfully, even if the perfect vaccines turn up.

The base case is that the virus lingers, with governments using local and regional lockdowns and some background national controls that fall short of a comprehensive lockdown. The modest recovery struggles to get back to the starting position because travel, leisure, hospitality and entertainment remain damaged and reduced.

There are several worst cases, ranging from dangerous flare-ups in the virus with significant national lockdowns again, through to the fiscal and monetary authorities failing to sustain sufficient stimulus to compensate for the virus damage.

The Digital Revolution has been greatly speeded by the pandemic effects. The big switch to online everything for individuals and businesses has left many city centre shopping areas blighted by a shortage of customers, and left many office centres without daily commuters to spend money and breathe life into them.

The Green Revolution is very popular with governments. Were Biden to win in the USA and President Xi to see through his stated plan to make dramatic

changes in energy sources and uses in China there will be big top-down changes in the world economy.

There will be plenty of opportunities for investors in batteries, renewables, electric vehicles and the other products of the movement. This also reinforces the search for digital solutions as an alternative to jet flights and car journeys.

The Green Revolution comes at a price with the prospect of major write-offs in fossil fuel energy, traditional vehicles and carbon-based industry.

Low interest rates are likely to continue well into the future in the advanced countries, causing pressure on bank margins and profits. Many businesses in the areas hit by social distancing and closures are weakened and will need write-offs and new capital to survive. This has to be handled without causing panic in debt markets.



SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

The Master looks back on her first, extraordinary year in office

An overwhelming feature of my first year as Master of our wonderful Company has been the support shown to me by members: from the very first time I stood to speak at Installation to the final three months when I had to cancel so many events and received correspondence from so many expressing sympathy.

In between, from July to March, many members were able to attend events and the programme was very well supported. I think all Upper Wardens must be anxious that their programme of events will be well received but my fears were unfounded.

What you see of many Livery Companies is the tip of the iceberg; there is so much more going on underneath the water level. The Gardeners' Company is no exception.



The Master with Barry at her Installation at Stationers' Hall last year (photograph Michael Warren).

The Court and its committees undertake a lot of work. Company objectives have recently been updated. We promote horticulture through our practice, through education, by supporting others through their early careers, and with displays throughout the City.

The Red Cross Fair was a success and our display looked fabulous. Many people told me how they always like to see our stand. The Big Curry event did not actually happen but our Guildhall Yard garden to advertise it did. It was a green wall representing a snakes and ladders board designed to reflect aspects of the slippery slopes of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and pain management, and also the ways in which funds raised can help individuals through this.

Future Gardeners, Flowers in the City and Company awards all thrived up to the end of March. The Spring Court meeting was due to happen in early April but even at that early time of Zoom use it went ahead online. I am grateful to all Court and committee members for embracing this online approach so quickly and readily.

Being an ambassador for the Company is such a privilege. It is so easy to enthuse about our Company and all the things we do. The other masters that I meet most often are those close to us in order of precedence. When preparing to process, masters line up in their precedence order. It's quite funny at the start of the year watching people work out where they are supposed to be but it all settles down and you get to know those around you.

I was glad we had the opportunity to have the Mansion House dinner. The Egyptian room looked amazing with the orchids and those who were there will not forget the dessert which looked so like a garden and tasted great. It was an opportunity to further links with colleagues in the City.

Throughout I have valued having my daughter Claire present as my steward. Barry and I were invited to Basel and to Glasgow to meet with the garden guilds in both places. Both have their specific traditions which are so interesting to see; both very welcoming and both wanting to promote horticulture.

Building links with others is so valuable, not least the association with the Linnean Society. Our first visit to Burlington House in Piccadilly was for a fascinating talk about the filming of Planet Earth and Dynasties. In February I was invited to Wax Chandlers to discuss the need for pollinators and pollinating planting. I have become actively involved with what is now known as Pollinating London Together, a pan livery group developing videos and bee audits.

My last face-to-face event was the Woodland Archaeology visit in March which was close to my heart and well attended. After that, sadly, I had to progressively cancel the rest of my planned events and holidays. However, despite the lockdown, so much has continued. In fact, there have been some benefits with some members who may not have been able physically to get to a meeting being able to stay in touch. I'm sure that some of the things we have all learned will carry on and benefit our communication especially within the Company.

LONDON: A CITY FOR ALL FAITHS

Think of religious faith in the City of London and St Paul's Cathedral probably springs first to mind. According to fine art photographer Niki Gorick, however, that's just the beginning for worship in the square mile.

Her new book, *Faith in the City of London**, reveals that there are 40 other Anglican churches as well as Jewish, Dutch, Catholic and Welsh establishments.

Bevis Marks Synagogue has been holding services for over 300 years. Sikhs meet for prayers in the Bedouin Tent at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, Muslims hold their Friday prayers at the Wax Chandlers' Hall and St Andrew by the Wardrobe holds Anglican services on weekdays and St Gregorios Indian Orthodox services on Sundays.

The book is packed with fascinating photographs. There are grand events such as Richard Chartres standing down as Bishop of London after 22 years to be succeeded by Dame Sarah Mullally, the 133rd incumbent and the first woman in the role. A service of Investiture by the Grand Priory of Knights Templar at St Stephen Walbrook is impressively solemn.

There is also the odd and the eccentric: the Easter tradition of rolling eggs down Fleet Street; the Palm Sunday service at St Giles Cripplegate which manages, improbably, to combine donkeys inside the church and a trumpet fanfare, and the Harvest Festival at St Mary at Hills which gives Billingsgate fish merchants the opportunity to sell their fish to raise money for charity.

Traditions are maintained. The annual blessing of the River Thames brings together processions from St Magnus the Martyr and Southwark Cathedral on London Bridge from where a wooden cross is thrown into the river to mark Christ's baptism. All Hallows by the Tower beats the bounds of its parish every year. The southern boundary lies mid-stream in the Thames which, as Gorick notes, requires some creative waterborne marking.

Livery companies and their services and ceremonies obviously play a part. Our own IPM Margaret Holland Prior features prominently as she reads a lesson during the

Fairchild service and lecture at St Giles Cripplegate during her year as Master.

City of London Corporation is staging a large outside exhibition of images from the book in Paternoster Square until 28th October. It will then move to Aldgate Square from 29th October - 27th November.

*Published earlier this year by Unicorn (www.unicornpublishing.org).

John Gilbert

Margaret Holland Prior reads a lesson at last year's Fairchild Service.



PHOTOGRAPH NIKI GORICK

EXPLORING THE MANY SECRETS OF SPITALFIELDS' PAST

We were treated to a fascinating virtual walking tour of the Spitalfields area of the City of London by expert guide Katie Wignall on 24th August, covering an area from Bishopsgate to Aldgate East Station. Some 30 Gardeners and friends signed in for this enthralling hour.

The tour was mainly by video – taken by Kate as she walked us around the streets but it included some interesting mapping references such as 'Layers of London' (<https://layersoflondon.org/map>).

We started opposite Liverpool Street Station looking at Paul Pindar's house façade of 1599 (the original in the V&A) which is now a pub but really stands out as a feature in Bishopsgate. He was evidently one of the City's earlier entrepreneurs.

We then moved on north to Brushfield Street to look at the remains of some 14th Century ruins below street level that had been the charnel house part of St Mary Spital (hospital).

One of the fascinating finds excavated during redevelopment was a lead coffin inside a lead sarcophagus containing the mortal remains of a high class Roman lady (known as the Lady of Spitalfields) from the 3rd Century AD and whom DNA testing showed to have been a woman of late teens/early twenties who had been born in Rome – a reconstruction of her head and face is in the Museum of London along with the coffin.

We then moved onto Sandy's Row, Mr Sandy being one of the original developers in the area, and paused to look at the rather splendid blue façade of the Sandy's Row

Synagogue (1871). There was a large Jewish population in this part of London around then, many of them fleeing the pogroms in Russia.

We crept on down Artillery Passage (very narrow) and into Artillery Lane where there was a splendid late 18th Century shop front (1750) formerly run by French immigrants (Hugenots) also fleeing persecution in France.

Moving on to Tenter Ground: tents were easels set up in the street to dry out dyed fabrics, the fabrics being held on the easels by 'tenter hooks', hence the expression "to be on tenterhooks".

On to Brune Street and an interesting terracotta-fronted soup kitchen for the Jewish poor built in 1902 and finally closed in the 1990's. At its peak it was providing 2,000 meals a week. We moved on up Brick Lane (hub of much of the Bengali community that have lived hereabouts since 1947) to the corner of Princelet's Street and Anna Maria Garthwaite's house. She was a designer of Spitalfield's Silk (1690 – 1763) and a very successful business woman. She was much

inspired by plants from the Chelsea Physic Garden and a collection of her fabrics is held by the V&A.

On to the Brick Lane Mosque – originally (1743) a Methodist Church, then a Synagogue (1800) and now a Mosque. Set high up on the wall is a vertical sundial with the Latin inscription Umbra Summus, meaning 'we are shadows'.

We finished at Altab Ali Park in Adler Street. This is sadly named after a young Bengali who was murdered by white racist thugs in 1978 at the height of racist unrest in the East End known as the "Brick Lane Wars".


For details of Katie's range of walking tours go to www.lookup.london

There is a longer version of this report on the website

The terracotta-fronted Soup Kitchen in Brune Street, finally closed in the 1990's (photograph by Katie Wignall).



REPORT BY JEREMY HERITAGE



CATCHING UP WITH THE COMPANY

Elizabeth Rollinson reports on the Gardeners' Company Catch-up held on 12th August

This impromptu virtual meeting proved a great success, with 34 Gardeners tuning in and many wanting to contribute. The Master gave an overview of activities – we may have all been in Covid lockdown, with some initiatives stalled, but a great deal is going on and we discussed plans and ideas for future events. There is no doubt that the 'new normal' is encouraging innovative thought!

The Company is making a difference:

Much has been done to put Future Gardeners on a firmer footing. Although it had not been possible to implement the plans which had been carefully devised and set up for Prisoners, it was suggested to connect with Jonathan Ensel who is working with prisoners in Birmingham.

The Master had responded on behalf of the Company to a draft Climate Change proposal from the City, which was also developing initiatives

targeting BAME groups. Improving IT connectivity in schools is also on the agenda and Susan Lousada is already on the case in her role as High Sheriff of Bedfordshire.

Pollinator news

The Pollinating London initiative is being implemented across London to improve food and shelter for pollinators, collaborating with the Wax Chandlers.

A number of webinars are planned. The Master had been into the City last week for the first time since lockdown and had managed to do a bee audit in the Drapers' garden.

The issue of beehives being too high on roofs was flagged and the fact that only 10% pollination is by honeybees – other insects are important, such as the hummingbird hawkmoth which had recently been seen in Rex Thornborough's garden.

Flowers in the City give a prize for good planting for pollinators.

Barbara flagged how corporation

planting was now focused on low maintenance, which was not good news for flowers/pollinators. Mention was made of the amazing Nomura building roof garden (Cannon St Bridge). It has been found that bees from hives in the garden actually forage south of the river, not just in the garden.

Planning news

The Master flagged that the City Biodiversity Action Plan had just been sent out for consultation.

Some discussion on redevelopment of the Smithfield site and Museum of London – any opportunity for adding a garden?

Gardens to view

Rex, as Chair of Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, flagged the Hackney Road 'Rec' (formerly part of the graveyard of St Leonard's Church Shoreditch) where Thomas Fairchild is buried.

Not all pollinators are bees: the hummingbird hawkmoth in action.