

THE SPADE

A NEW MASTER
IS INSTALLED

MEMBERS' PLATINUM
JUBILEE PARTIES

VIEW FROM
THE CITY

THE MANSION HOUSE
BANQUET GOES AHEAD...

NATIONAL BOOK DAY AT
THE NATURAL
HISTORY MUSEUM



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS



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

Many of the items in this issue are available at greater length on the Members' side of the Company website.

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 are the links to our Twitter and Instagram accounts. Please send photographs for posting there to Assistant Barbara Segall.

www.instagram.com/gardenliveryco

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

Dear fellow Gardeners, I have attended a fair number of Installation Courts and subsequent Dinners during my time in the Company but I can report that until it happens that you are the focus of attention you have no idea what's involved. Or indeed how scary it can feel. Fortunately, and thanks to a number of people working behind the scenes to whom I shall be forever thankful, it all came right on the night.

The weather was kind and Stationers' Hall garden was the perfect setting for our reception. The newly refurbished hall was resplendent although it was touch and go for several weeks beforehand that the improvements would be finished in time. Our Gallant Clerk made a final reconnoitre a week before Installation day and reported that pots of paint and paintbrushes were still in evidence.

You will notice that our traditional Year Book, formerly known as the Green Book, has evolved into a supplement of this edition of the Spade. It does not contain a programme of events; for that information see the next page.

The Diary will be updated in each edition of the Spade as we progress through the year. Do also consult the Calendar and Events section of the website to make sure you have the latest information about what the Company is up to. The Trowel, launched by my immediate predecessor, will also be used to alert you by email to Company news and developments.

Since Covid restrictions began to bite in 2020 the Company, along with most liverys, has been sailing through difficult waters.

And although we are now "living with Covid", its impact is still felt. Attendance at formal events is down across the City; the cost of hiring halls and caterers has increased and inflation continues to rise. Rest assured that those of us involved in organising dinners and visits are doing our utmost to keep price increases as low as we can.

On a more cheerful note I am confident that things can only get better! I hope that you will be tempted to join me for at least some of the treats we have in store.

In September we have three day visits to some of Oxfordshire's finest gardens. Other visits include Chelsea Physic Garden in its 350th year, Hampton Court Palace and Down House, home of Charles Darwin. On the 16th May we will hold a fund-raising dinner and auction in aid of Future Gardeners and in June we will spend five days in Yorkshire where there are wondrous sights to see.

The Master - John Gilbert



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New dates will be added during the year. The Clerk’s circulars will provide further details. The Master may vary eligibility to events. Liverymen and partners will take precedence where numbers are limited.

DATE	EVENT AND DRESS	VENUE AND INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY
Mon 22nd August 2022	Virtual presentation direct from the Linnaeus Garden & Museum, Uppsala	Sweden's oldest botanic garden and the garden of Olof Rudbeck Sr and Carl Linnaeus, which has been reconstructed according to the original plan from 1745.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 8th September 2022	OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS 1 Comfortable attire	Day time visit to Blenheim Palace, gardens and ancient forest. Woodstock OX20 1PP.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tues 13th September 2022	OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS 2 Comfortable attire	Day time visit to Broughton Castle and Gardens, Banbury OX15 5EB and Broughton Grange Gardens, Banbury OX15 5DS.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Sat 24th September 2022	OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS 3 Comfortable attire	Day time visit to Waterperry Gardens Oxford OX33 1LA Made famous by Beatrix Havergal who established her School of Horticulture for Ladies here from 1932 to 1971.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 5th October 2022	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR & CAPEL MANOR COLLEGE Comfortable attire	Day time visit to Capel Manor College, Gardening Which? trial grounds and Tottenham Hotspur’s immaculate training grounds and gardens. Bullsmoor Lane, Waltham Cross, Enfield EN1 4RQ.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Thurs 6th October 2022	HARVEST FESTIVAL Lounge suit/equivalent	St James Garlickhythe, Garlick Hill, London EC4V 2AF followed by lunch.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 12th October 2022	LINNEAN SOCIETY & GARDENERS' COMPANY ANNUAL LECTURE Lounge suit/equivalent	‘Carl Peter Thunberg, the Linnaeus of Japan: how the world first came to know Japanese horticulture’. Presentation, lecture and Japanese tea tasting, followed by supper. Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tues 1st November 2022	COMPANY CATCH-UP Zoom	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, members’ contributions and feedback.	The Company and Partners
Thurs 3rd November 2022	AUTUMN COURT DINNER Black Tie	Ironmongers’ Hall off Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate St, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA. Our Nuffield Scholar will talk about his research so far.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tues 8th November 2022	FAITH IN THE CITY Virtual presentation	Photographer Niki Gorick presents an evening based on her acclaimed book about worship in the City.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Sat 12th November 2022	LORD MAYOR’S SHOW	The Company will be collaborating with Pollinating London Together to provide a float and striking outriders in this mammoth annual City event.	
Mon/Tues 21-22nd November 2022	RED CROSS FAIR	The Company will, as usual, be staging a magnificent stand.	
Tue 6th December 2022	GILBERT WHITE LECTURE Virtual presentation	Brycchan Carey, academic expert on 18th Century naturalists, gives a talk on Gilbert White, the pioneering English naturalist, ecologist, and ornithologist best known for his ‘Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne’.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 16th December 2022	CAROL SERVICE Lounge suit/equivalent	St Stephen Walbrook 39 Walbrook, London EC4N 8BN.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 16th December 2022	TRADESCANT LUNCH Lounge suit/equivalent	Venue to be confirmed.	Court only
Tue 10th January 2023	COMPANY CATCH-UP Zoom	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, members’ contributions and feedback.	The Company & Partners
Tue 7th February 2023	EVENING TOUR OF THE COLLEGE OF ARMS Lounge suit/equivalent	Bluemantle Pursuivant Mark Scott will show us some of the treasures of this ancient institution. 130 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BT. 6.30pm start, supper included.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Fri 10th February 2023	MANSION HOUSE BANQUET Evening dress preferred	The Mansion House, Walbrook, London EC4N 8BH. The highlight of the Company year.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Tue 7th March 2023	COMPANY CATCH-UP Zoom	The Master will bring us up to date with Company activities, members’ contributions and feedback.	The Company & Partners
Tue 14th March 2023 TBC	GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME Zoom	Chaired by TV gardener and Assistant David Domoney.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Mon 27th March 2023	SPRING COURT MEETING & LUNCH Lounge suit/equivalent	Venue TBC.	Court only
Friday 31st March 2023	HAMPTON COURT PALACE & GARDENS Comfortable attire	A day trip to the magnificent palace and spring gardens. Hampton Court Way, Molesey, East Molesey KT8 9AU.	The Company, Partners & Guests
Wed 12th April 2023	EVENING RECEPTION Lounge suit/equivalent	On board HMQ Wellington, the WW2 merchant navy sloop moored on the Thames since 1948. Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment, London WC2R 2PN.	Court & new Liverymen
Mon 19th – Fri 23rd June 2023	YORK & THE GARDENS OF YORKSHIRE Comfortable day attire plus lounge suit/equivalent	A four-night trip to the cathedral city and some of Yorkshire’s finest gardens, including York Gate and the Archbishop of York’s Palace.	The Company, Partners & Guests

A NEW MASTER IS INSTALLED AT REFURBISHED STATIONERS’ HALL

On a warm summer’s evening 130 gardeners and their guests gathered under the shade of a huge, 200-year-old London plane tree in the garden of the Stationers’ Hall to enjoy each other’s company and drink Pimms.

The Installation Dinner marked the handover from Immediate Past Master Peter Waine to the new Master John Gilbert, whose first official duty was to present Company Medals to Assistant Ron Froud and Liveryman Stephen Crisp for all their hard work over many years creating the floral arrangements for which the Gardeners are justly famous. Examples of their artistry graced the tables in the hall. The Company Medal is a new idea, designed to recognise outstanding contributions by members of the Livery.

The Master also congratulated Past Master Paul Rochford who has been awarded The Root and Branch Highly Commended Certificate from the City Livery Club,

which he will receive from the Lord Mayor at a dinner in the Mansion House. The City Livery Club gives awards every year to those who have made an exceptional contribution to the work of their livery company or the wider body of the Livery.

Cindy Peck, the new Renter Warden, welcomed the guests including Richard Miers who designed the ‘With Love’ garden for Perennial which won The People’s Choice Award at the Chelsea Flower Show this year.

Having dined well we heard John Burton, chairman of Pollinating London Together, talk about the work of PLT in promoting pollinator-friendly planting across the City and beyond in a bid to mitigate the sharp decline in pollinator numbers in recent years. We will have noticed, he said, that our car windscreens are no longer splattered with dead insects; without insects, the end of humanity looms. There are 376 open spaces in the

City of London and PLT is working to make green corridors and encourage beneficial planting.

The Master said he was looking forward to his year. He concluded: “ I have been asked several times over past weeks what the theme of my year will be. I must confess that I don’t have a worthy or serious answer to that question. I just want us to have fun together. To explore some wonderful gardens, to learn from experts, to shake off at least some of the burden of Covid. But above all to enjoy the warmth and good fellowship for which our wonderful Company is renowned”.

To round off the evening Neil Osborn, the Master’s long-time friend from student days at Oxford, gave what was described as a ‘Eulogy to the Master’ which was a masterpiece of the spoken word and had everyone laughing.

Report by Wendy Bental



PHOTOGRAPH RYAN PRINCE

THE GARDENERS' COMPANY PLATINUM JUBILEE GARDEN PARTIES

Nine member gardens were opened on the last weekend in May to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The weather was reasonably kind, a good time was had by all and more than £7,000 was raised for Future Gardeners.

Each event was a private party for friends and family of the host and Gardeners' Company members. The gardens in question ranged across London and a number of counties:

Essex: Philippa Burrough's garden party (photo 2).

Gloucestershire: Sir Henry Elwes' private tour of Colesbourne Park Arboretum with tea.

Hertfordshire (Berkhamsted): John & Megan Ansell's afternoon tea party.

Hertfordshire (Welwyn Garden City): Master Peter Waine and Zoe Jasko's coffee morning (photo 5).

London (Lewisham): Sara Chandler's tea party (photos 4 and 7).

Oxfordshire (Banbury): David Pittaway's garden party.

Oxfordshire (Oxford): Helen Potts' garden party.

Surrey: Frances Glanusk and Wendy Bentall's lunch party (photo 3).

London (Maida Vale): Jonathan Matheson's garden party (photos 1 and 6).



NATO IS BEING RESHAPED FOR A NEW ERA OF POWER COMPETITION

The German hosts of the G7 at the end of June sought to reassure and calm, calling for strong alliances for a sustainable planet, seeking "progress towards an equitable world" and telling us we are stronger together. Their well-meaning pleasantries were rudely interrupted by the Russian missile attack on a shopping centre in Kremenchuk in Ukraine.

The summit rushed out a statement condemning the violence as state terrorism and asserting there would be consequences to this war crime. The G7 reaffirmed its wish to assist Ukraine in every way short of committing western military forces directly to the conflict.

Green aspirations revisited

The summit wanted to reconfirm working together to "accelerate a clean and just transition to climate neutrality", although the language had to include a new preoccupation with energy security and some dilution of the strength of intentions for the near future.

The underlying preoccupation is with keeping European Union (EU) industry turning, despite possible shortages of Russian gas, and keeping the lights on by opening coal power stations for longer to deal with days when there is little wind to power the turbines. The pledge is now to "phase down coal" rather than to eliminate it soon. Decarbonisation sits alongside a twin aim of "universal access to affordable and sustainable energy", which is going to take some delivering against the current background of disrupted markets, high prices and continued reliance for the majority of the world's energy on fossil fuels.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz has recently returned from a visit to Senegal and Niger in the Sahel region of Africa where he offered more EU food supplies as a counter to Russia's reduction in Ukrainian wheat exports. Working with the EU, he has a wish to rebuild some European influence in the region, after a bad period for EU/Sahel relations.

The recent pictures of migrants ripping down part of the high fence in Melilla, which separates Morocco from Spanish territory, has worried Spain and the wider EU. People died and some broke through into the Spanish enclave. There are rumours that Russia is out to destabilise this part of the world to encourage migration into the south of the EU.

NATO reborn

This year, the new document makes clear Russia "poses the most significant and direct threat" to NATO security instead of the 2010 vision of Russia as a strategic partner. For the first time NATO talks of China, arguing that Beijing's coercive policies "challenge our interests, security and values". NATO is not just going through some modest mission creep but is being reborn for a new era of two main competitive power blocs led by China and the US. Korea, New Zealand, Japan and Australia attended the NATO summit as Asian partners, recognising the importance of the Pacific as well as the Atlantic to world security.

More NATO members will hit the 2% of GDP spending target for defence by 2024. NATO is aiming for 300,000 personnel at high readiness, with more forward deployments of battlegroups in Eastern Europe close to Russia.

It is also offering cash for technology start-ups and wishes to develop capabilities in artificial intelligence and cyberspace. Turkey removed its opposition to Sweden and Finland joining the alliance.

The evolution of the world's democracies under the stewardship of US President Joe Biden is both a response to a more aggressive Russia and China and succour to those in the autocracies who believe in the conspiracy theory that NATO is a threat. The G7 and NATO meetings have been designed to show greater unity and resolve by the democracies in resisting aggression by the autocracies. They have confirmed that the democracies see themselves at odds with Russia and China and are aware that energy and food can be used as weapons by the autocracies.

Russia has been testing out reducing gas flows to Europe and is keen to keep Ukrainian supplies of grains off world markets. Its conduct is damaging to the world economy and particularly tough on low-income countries needing to import food and fuel. The political risks have just got larger, and the world is set on a course of greater division into competing blocs. There will be more rearmament and more tensions over border flare points.



NATIONAL BOOK DAY REVEALS SOME INTRIGUING CONNECTIONS

The Gardeners' visit to the herbaria of the Natural History Museum in March was organised by Liveryman Katarina Heldring-Morris to celebrate National Book Day in the form of bound volumes of dried plant specimens (herbaria), but links between the museum's holdings and the Company were unexpectedly thrown up.

The first was made by the presence of Thomas Fairchild's own specimen of Fairchild's Mule which was acquired by Sir Hans Sloane. Fairchild (1657-1709) was the first person to create a hybrid artificially, a Pink now named *Dianthus caryophyllus* L. x *D. barbatus* L. One of only two specimens in existence this was originally part of the herbarium of Robert Uvedale: truly exciting, as it was the start of the debate which led to Darwin's theories of evolution.

The other connection with the Gardeners was through a 17th Century Head Gardener of the Westminster Physic Garden, Edward Morgan (c.1619-1689), a Freeman of the Company in 1650, whose own herbarium was also acquired by Sir Hans Sloane.

Sloane (1660-1753) as a physician had a serious professional interest in medicinal plants. His first professional post as a ship's surgeon took him to Jamaica, where he started his own collection of dried specimens. Subsequently he acquired the herbaria of numerous other botanists. But this interest not only widened out into all the vegetable kingdom but also into curiosities created by humans. His entire collection formed the basis of the British Museum in 1759. Subsequently in 1881 his natural

history specimens were transferred to the new Natural History Museum, and are now housed in the new Darwin wing.

Sloane's 253 bound volumes were in impeccable order; the individual specimens were indexed in a printed volume and cross-referenced with the specimens, many of which became 'type specimens' and so vitally important to taxonomy.

The Natural History Museum's new book analyses Sloane's own personal collection but also the collectors of the herbaria which he acquired. (The Collectors: Creating Hans Sloane's Extraordinary Herbarium, 2020, edited by Mark Carine, our guide for the morning.) The museum's many other historic and modern herbaria were then presented by curator Jacek Wajer.

During lunch Georgina Craufurd the new archivist read an extract from



Mark Carine with Thomas Fairchild's own specimen of Fairchild's Mule.

John Evelyn's *Kalendarium Hortense*, or the Gardener's Almanac (1664) for the month of March. It was interesting to see how many exotics were familiar to him, particularly from Morocco and central and south America.

This was followed in the afternoon by a virtual presentation from Windsor Castle on the royal botanical books. Both George II, Princess Augusta and George III in particular were keen botanists and collectors of printed books of the subject; the last's botanical library was formerly part of the King's Library at the British Museum. The afternoon concluded with a look (both virtual and real) by Sandy Knapp at the plants illustrated on the roof of the Hintze Hall; these miraculously survived bombing during the Second World War. This rounded off a truly interesting day.

Report by Georgina Craufurd



Fairchild's Mule, one of only two specimens in existence.

MANSION HOUSE BANQUET GOES AHEAD AND IS A GREAT SUCCESS

The initial concern before Christmas about the viability of the Mansion House Dinner grew into excitement as the day approached. Would Omicron be succeeded by another dastardly variant of the dreaded Covid virus, or could we go ahead? Wonderfully for us the optimism was rewarded and, amazingly, 170 were able to attend. Sadly, but somewhat inevitably, several people were unable to come at the last minute.

Dressing up and meeting friends was such a treat after the lockdowns and dreary past couple of years, and to be in the magnificent Mansion House was an even bigger treat - marvellous and uplifting, especially as Omicron had seemed determined to defeat us.

The guests were greeted in the Salon, originally designed to be an open courtyard, but quickly enclosed, and now graced by a row of the most magnificent crystal chandeliers dating from 1875, each 'button and pear' containing more than 30% lead to deepen the sparkle and colour.

Following the Beadle, and Spadebearer Cindy Peck, the Procession into dinner was led by Master Gardener Peter Waine, who escorted the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveney into the Egyptian Hall. Renter Warden Nicholas Woolf accompanied the Lady Mayoress and the guest speaker, Dame Fiona Reynolds, was accompanied by SPM William Fraser. Sadly, the Master Wax Chandler, Mr Anthony Bickmore was unable to attend, having tested positive for Covid that morning. The procession also included the Aldermanic Sheriffs, Alison Gowman and Nicholas Lyons.

The tables were graced by golden urns and lovely flower arrangements in tall candelabra. We were each given a very handsome present by the Master: a copy of his book, a new study and interpretation of the much loved poet A. E. Housman.

The Master proposed the Loyal Toasts after we had all sung Grace, and in the absence of the Upper Warden, the Renter Warden welcomed our guests.

Our principal guest, Dame Fiona Reynolds has had a fascinating career, not only at the top of government, but with the National Trust and in academia. While at the National Trust, she made the Trust warmer and more welcoming, bringing the Houses to life and raising the profile of the Trust's work in the countryside. Although she left

in 2012, the results of her leadership are still very evident in the activities in which visitors can engage. Until last year, Dame Fiona was Master of Emmanuel College Cambridge and now holds a number of non-executive roles, mostly in connection with agriculture, gardens and the countryside.

Our host, The Lord Mayor, responded on behalf of the guests, and the Master responded to him in a very relaxed and entertaining way. He then invited Dame Fiona to address the guests and she spoke about the environment and conservation. She also said that until she joined the National Trust she wasn't aware of the importance of gardens, but rapidly realised how they enhanced the houses they surround.

Report by Rosalind Edwards



The Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveney and Master Peter Waine with their respective consorts, Amanda Keaveney, left, and Stefanie Waine, right, at Mansion House.

FRAGRANCE FOR THE QUEEN AND A BIG CURRY FOR LUNCH

Once again this year the Gardeners' Company created a magnificent pop-up garden in Guildhall Yard to advertise the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch. The brief also included commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The garden was installed at the end of January and delighted passers-by right up to 7th April, the day of the lunch, after which it was swiftly dismantled.

Garden Designer Gianna Utilini tells the story:

Initially we thought that January would be quite a challenging month for a garden, but actually it worked in our favour as blooms last longer in cooler temperatures.

With inspiration from Pollinating London Together we decided to focus on the benefits of insects in the garden. PM Paul Rochford was able to source some magnificent specimens in bud and flower that would not only put on a show but also offer an early source of nectar. Fragrance in winter is a great lure for pollinators and garden visitors alike.

We used *Lonicera x purpusii* 'Winter Beauty' with its delicate, sweetly scented, creamy white flowers, *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnold Promise' with its acid yellow, deeply fragrant spidery blooms and *Sarcococca confusa* discreetly placed here and there so that the visitor might wonder where the overpoweringly delicious smell was coming from.

The garden also gave Paul the opportunity to showcase the Dutch elm disease resistant elm tree, *Ulmus* 'Frontier', which is now available to plant in the UK. The elms were

flanked on either side by *Prunus* 'Accolade' which we hoped would be displaying their sugary pink, semi-double blooms with yellow stamens on the day of the lunch.

There are too many other plants to mention but hopefully we succeeded

in putting together a selection of plants which continued to please both the public and the city insects until the final day. We referenced the link to the Jubilee by naming the insect houses either side of the garden 'Jubilee Heights' and 'Platinum House'.



The Guildhall Yard garden: full of winter and spring fragrance.

GETTING READY FOR THE RED CROSS FAIR

Volunteers are sought to join our annual Red Cross Fair workshop on Saturday 19th November to prepare wreaths and decorations for the Gardeners' Company stall which always makes a big impact and raises considerable sums for the cause.

The Fair itself will be held at Guildhall on Monday and Tuesday 21st and 22nd November.

The workshop will run from 10.30am – 3.30pm at Joseph Rochford Gardens, Letty Green, Hertford SG14 2PB. Contact the

Upper Warden or the Clerk if you want to join in.

PM Paul Rochford writes: All are invited; no experience is necessary as there will be a workshop on the day. Seasoned flower arrangers can start as soon as they would like. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please bring any plant material, ribbon, string, dried fruits etc. that you would like to use and also, your own secateurs if you have them.

Secateurs will also be available to use on the day along with wreaths, ribbon, greenery etc. We will try to keep you warm but please be prepared for working in a greenhouse.



SUPERBLOOM: GOOD NEWS FOR PEOPLE AND POLLINATORS

Superbloom has been enthralling visitors to the Tower of London all summer. Conceived by Historic Royal Palaces, the custodians of the Tower, it is an amazing celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In the spring, millions of seeds were sown in the Tower's famous moat, creating a vibrant sea of flowers which continue to evolve from June to September, changing colours and patterns as the months go by.

Schoolchildren have been taking part in a major schools initiative to support the project; growing their own displays, created from a special palette of seeds, to bloom alongside the one at the Tower and learning about what gardens can do to improve sustainability and support ecology as part of that process.

As part of the schools programme Pollinating London Together, the charity with whom the Gardeners have strong links, has been holding community workshops on pollinators with local families and their children.

With a planting scheme designed to attract bees, pollinators and seed-

eating birds, Superbloom provides a biodiverse space to support wildlife. It will be the first stage of a permanent transformation of the moat into a new natural landscape in the heart of the City.

The scheme has been implemented by landscape architects Grant Associates and Nigel Dunnett, Professor of Planting Design and Urban Horticulture at Sheffield University.

Professor Dunnett said: "We hope that the effect of being surrounded by a sea of colourful, sparkling and vibrant flowers will release feelings of pure liberated joy in visitors to the Superbloom – it will be such a powerful, emotional and celebratory experience".

PM Heather Barrett-Mold shows students dandelion florets, nectaries and pollen.

Up close and personal with a bumblebee.

Examining a bumble bee with a microscope at Spring Community Hub in Southwark.

