



The Worshipful Company of Gardeners



THE Guild existed as a Fraternity in the year 1345 when a petition was presented to the Mayor by "The Gardeners of the Earls Barons Clerks and Citizens of London" to "suffer and maintain that the said Gardeners may stand in peace in the same place where they have been wont in times of old; in front of the Church of St. Austin at the side of the east gate of St. Paul's Church-yard." The Guild was incorporated in the reign of King James I, as "The Master Wardens Assistants and Commonalty of the Company of Gardeners of London." Its privileges have been further secured by Royal Charters in the reigns of James I, Charles I and Edward VII. In 1722 Thomas Fairchild, a well-known Gardener of his time, and six other Liverymen of the Company, claimed to vote in Common Hall. In his memory, and according to the terms of his Will, the annual Fairchild Lecture is still delivered under the Company's auspices in the Church of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, on the Wednesday in Whit week (preceding the Election Court). On 29th June, 1632, Sir Edward Littleton, Recorder, by direction of Sir Nicholas Rainton, Lord Mayor, issued a warrant for the apprehension of any persons using the trade of Gardening in contempt of the Company's Charters. To commemorate this the Company presents to the Lord Mayor on each anniversary a basket containing specimens of choice flowers, vegetables and herbs as well as some of the fruits sold by the Freemen in the early days. Among the most treasured privileges of the Company are those of presenting the bouquet carried by the Queen at her Coronation (replicas of which are presented annually on the respective anniversaries to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Her Majesty Queen Mary), and of providing the bridal bouquet on the marriage of a Royal Princess (as was last done on the marriage of Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth).



THE CITY GARDENS

Prepared by

J. W. WHITLOCK, J.P., M.A.

MASTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GARDENERS

Printed by order of
THE CORPORATION OF LONDON
under the direction of
the Improvements and Town Planning Committee
1951

ILLUSTRATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Page 3. St. Paul's Garden.
(From Prof. A. E. Richardson's Drawing.)
- Page 4. H.M. the Queen visits the garden made by the
Hudson's Bay Company.
(Photograph by kind permission of Mr. Frank Jackson.)
- Page 5. Garden made on a bombed site at Ludgate Hill
by Mr. Ian Walker, D.H.R.O., F.R.H.S.
(Photograph by kind permission of Fox Photos Ltd.)
- Page 6. Garden at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.
- Page 7. Port of London Authority new garden.
(Photograph by kind permission of the Port of London
Authority.)
- Page 10. Garden at St. Andrew's, Holborn.
(Photograph by kind permission of the Argus Press Ltd.)
- Page 11. Great St. Helen's, Bishopsgate.
- Page 12. The garden of Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.
(Photograph by kind permission of Fox Photos Ltd.)
- Page 13. The garden of the Worshipful Company of Gold-
smiths.
(Photograph by kind permission of the Worshipful Company
of Goldsmiths.)

"God Almighty first planted a garden; and indeed
it is the purest of human pleasures."

—Sir Francis Bacon.

The City Gardens

by
Sir Edward Salisbury, C.B.E., F.R.S.
Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

THE repetitive characteristic of history is proverbial; for the combined influence of human and physical circumstances, although never precisely recurrent, brings conditions that may be more effective in their resemblances than in their differences. The vicissitudes of the gardens of the City of London are no exception. The intrinsic love of horticulture that is so widespread amongst us needs but the encouragement of a suitable environment for it to develop and flourish.

Four hundred years ago the gardens in the City of London were both numerous and notable. For instance, Hugh Platt, the inventor, had, at the end of the fifteenth century, a notable garden in Martin Lane, whilst Hugh Morgan's garden near Coleman Street was famous in the sixteenth century for the rare simples that he therein cultivated. Nevertheless, already by the eighteenth century, Celia Fiennes was deploring in her diary the replacement of the noblemen's gardens in the City by streets and squares. It is also with a certain nostalgia that we read in Gerard's Herbal of the Clary growing wild near Gray's Inn, and the Musk Mallow flourishing on the Executioner's green at Tyburn. As the growth of what Cobbett called the "Wen" accelerated, the real country was pushed further and further away and the gardens that remained in the heart of London became the more precious. Two factors hastened their diminution and decline; these were the increasing value of City land and the augmenting pollution of the atmosphere which accompanied the growing use of "Sea coal." Hence at the beginning of the present century, when "London Particulars" turned day into night, the gardens of London had reached their nadir.

The vegetation that spontaneously developed on London's bombed sites during the war, whence the writer recorded no less than 126 species, was a demonstration in a spectacular way of the renewed possibilities of plant growth, in the improved conditions of smoke abatement, and history repeated itself in the number of flowers to be found within the City boundaries, though many of these were wild. To-day we see the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths' beautiful garden and others occupying bombed areas, and ingenuity rising superior to the claims of streets and building space, by the development of roof gardens and the cherished care of windowboxes.

So we may hope that history will come full circle and that the city once more will be famous for its gardens as in times past, even though their beauties be of a somewhat different character, and the ancient gardens that persist form but a fraction of the whole.

St. Paul's Garden

St. Paul's Garden is the most recent addition to the many small gardens that enliven the soberness of the City's streets.

Although this Garden was planned so that its opening should coincide with that of the Festival of Britain, it has nevertheless long been the concern of the Corporation of London to give the Cathedral a setting worthy of one of London's most distinguished buildings. The destruction of this area in the war and the happy preservation of the Cathedral itself presented the opportunity to redesign the vicinity on a scale that would not have been practicable without the intervention of war. Until the night of 10th May 1941, buildings had, for some hundreds of years, clustered round the Cathedral except on its western front; but after the passage of the fires that swept this area, among others, during one of the City's heaviest fire raids, the full grandeur of Wren's design stood revealed from the south-east. So fine a view could not be allowed to be hidden again and the making of a garden on the corner of Cannon Street and Watling Street became part of the proposals of the Corporation for the general rebuilding of the City. It is the ultimate intention that the older garden which is the churchyard, will be merged with the new Garden into a precinct for the Cathedral. Existing buildings to the south will be set back and a processional route from the river will be driven through to the south door of St. Paul's. The remaining fabric of St. Augustine's church will form a nucleus of a new choir school to replace that in Carter Lane and, nearby, new buildings for commercial use will be carefully designed to harmonise with their surroundings. The whole area will thus become a spacious and dignified Cathedral precinct replacing the haphazard growth of past centuries.

New building is, however, in the present circumstances, slow of achievement, and the demolition of occupied buildings is undesirable with so much devastation around. But it has been possible to proceed with the Garden as the first part of the general plan. The Corporation therefore decided that it should mark the Festival by pressing on with the construction of the Garden as a lasting contribution to the improvement of the City.

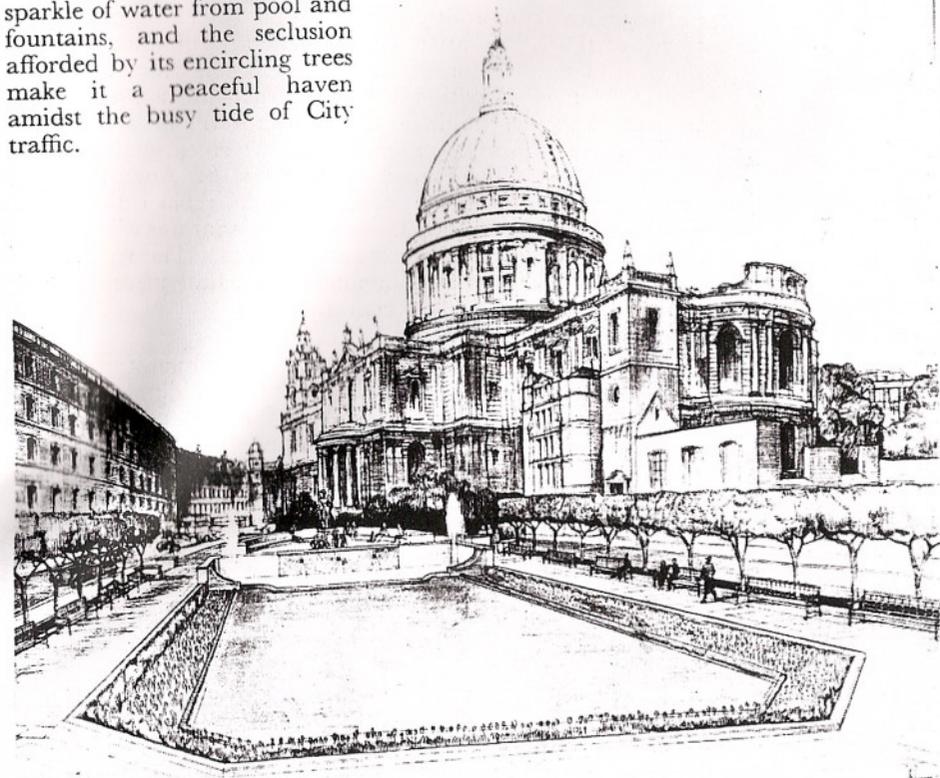
After the initial clearance of the debris of war, work was begun in October, 1950, to a design by Professor A. E. Richardson, R.A., and in spite of a winter and spring which were not helpful, a fully planted Garden was completed within the space of seven months.

City gardens suffer handicaps which are spared to those in the country. St. Paul's Garden has accordingly been adapted to withstand, with the minimum of upkeep, the rigours of an intensively built-up and populous City. It consists of a raised enclosure of

*"Under the cross of gold
That shines over city and river."
—Tennyson.*

terraced stone walks screened by pleached lime trees on all sides except the west; beneath the trees oak benches, line the walks. The centre of the garden is a sunken lawn framed by a lavender hedge and a continuous flower border on three sides. The west end of the lawn is closed by a stone wall carrying bronze masks from which water flows into a pool flanked by two fountains; the wall and the masks are the gift of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. Above the pool the garden terminates in a semi-circular paved rostrum which is to be fringed with rhododendrons in oak tubs, but during the Festival temporary decorations of banners and flags will take their place.

With its formal design of lawn, flower-beds and paved walks, it not only preserves a fine view of Wren's masterpiece from afar, but also offers to those who work in the City, and to its visitors, a Garden for enjoyment and rest. The sparkle of water from pool and fountains, and the seclusion afforded by its encircling trees make it a peaceful haven amidst the busy tide of City traffic.



A City Garden Tour

By Miss Margaret Eliot, Secretary, Metropolitan Public Gardens Association.

"Is this place of abomination consecrated ground?"

To most visitors to London Dickens leaps vividly to mind when they think of the City Churchyards. "Bleak House" was published in 1853, and although the burial ground where Lady Dedlock asked her horrified question was outside the City of London, it was like many others. Social conscience woke, the burials stopped, and with their ceasing the burial grounds began to disappear. Under buildings, under pavings they went, as new

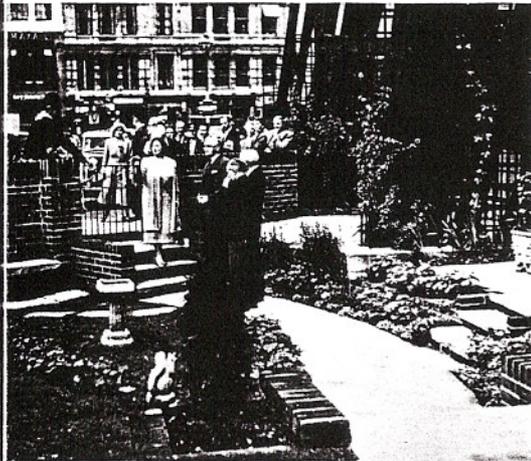
streets were built and old streets widened, and the population of London grew and grew.

There was a strong feeling in the public mind that this ought not to be. In 1884 the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, then two years old, secured the passage of the Disused Burial Grounds Act. To that Act almost every garden within the City of London owes its existence, for almost every garden within the

City was once a Churchyard. There are two notable exceptions, Finsbury Circus and Smithfield Recreation Ground, and, of course, the new St. Paul's Garden.

A large-scale map of London is starred with little patches of green. But if you take up a map printed before the war it will guide you to streets that have vanished, to churches that are ruins, to gardens that are only indistinguishable patches of neglected overgrown waste among fields of rubble.

If you take the walk suggested on our map you will pass many of them. If you want to seek out the others you will find them listed on page 15.



"... all flowers and all trees do close
to weave the garlands of repose."
—Andrew Marvell.

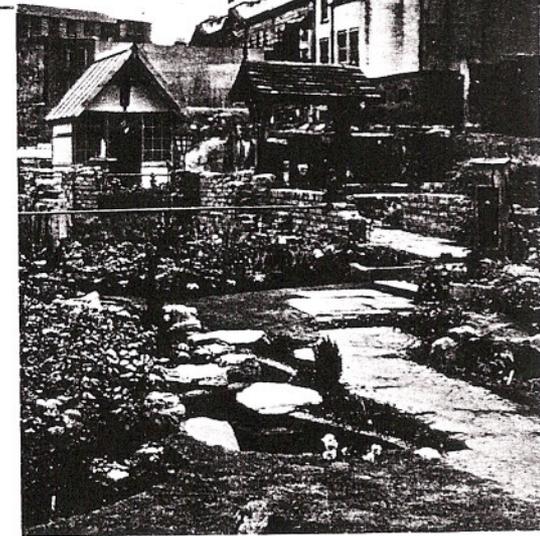
Look at the map. You are standing in St. Paul's Garden, the new garden, afloat like a tidy ship in a sea of wreckage. This is garden (1) on the map.

Turn your face to the west and pass St. Paul's Cathedral on your right. St. Paul's Churchyard was a burial ground even in Roman times, and was laid out as a garden in 1878-79.

Go down Ludgate Hill. On your right is a big bomb site garden (2), very gay and decorative. There is an open air café, and you may be glad of that when your walk brings you back to St. Paul's, but you have a long journey ahead of you yet.

Turn left down New Bridge Street, and left again into Upper Thames Street. You will come to St. Peter, Paul's Wharf (3). The Church has gone, but Evelyn heard the Common Prayer, there "A rare thing in these days," on 25th March 1649. Private hands care for the pretty little garden, with its rose arch and flowers. The bombing has been kind to growing things; you might be in the country here. Later, when you penetrate the centre of the City, you will find another kind of garden. Go on eastwards until you come to Huggin Lane, and up it to Queen Victoria Street. Turn right and you come to a new garden, made by the Hudson's Bay Company (4). A very trim and bright little garden, now maintained by the Corporation of London.

Down Cannon Street now, to St. Swithun London Stone (5); this has been restored since the war by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, almost wrecked by building operations, and set in order again. Go on till you come to and cross King William Street, turn down on your right till you come to a dark entry and stairs on your left hand. Go down these stairs into



A City Garden Tour

Lower Thames Street. Just ahead of you is the Church of St. Magnus the Martyr (6). You should see this little garden, if only to see as well what gardeners in the City have to contend with.

Go up Fish Street Hill, and turn right into Monument Street. If you come here in the morning you will have to dodge about among fish porters and vans full of fish, and you can buy yourself a cup of tea at the stall in the Churchyard of St. Botolph, Billingsgate (7). If you come in the afternoon you will have the market to yourself and have to peep through the gates at the courtyard, the trees and the tubs of geraniums, for St. Botolph's is the fishporters' garden, it opens with the market and closes when the market work is over.

Now turn to your left up Lovat Lane—it was Love Lane on the old maps. On your right you will find St. Mary-at-Hill (8). Go into the church. There is a door on your left which will take you out into the small paved garden, as quiet and shut in as a room in a big house. You can go through this garden and out into St. Mary-at-Hill, which is a street as well as a church. Turn left

and up into Eastcheap. Turn right. In a minute you will come to St. Dunstan's Hill. Turn down and on your right you will find St. Dunstan's-in-the-East (9), a little oval garden perched above the narrow winding street. A vine trails in the railings and bears grapes which do not quite ripen. And there is a Plane, a forlorn giant, almost destroyed by bad pruning many years ago, and now reduced to a third of his noble height. Legend has it that Sir Walter Raleigh saw that Plane, and perhaps he did. There can hardly be an older in the City.

St. Dunstan's Hill will take you down into Lower Thames

"It was a saying of Lord Chatham that the parks were the lungs of London."

—William Windham.

Street, and Lower Thames Street will take you eastwards to the Tower. You must not go there, it isn't in the City! You turn left up Tower Hill, and come to All Hallows, Barking (10). There is a Tower Hill Improvement Trust Garden under construction which the Corporation will take over when it is complete. Turn to the right up Seething Lane and on your right is the Port of London Authority new garden (11), very bright with grass and flowers.

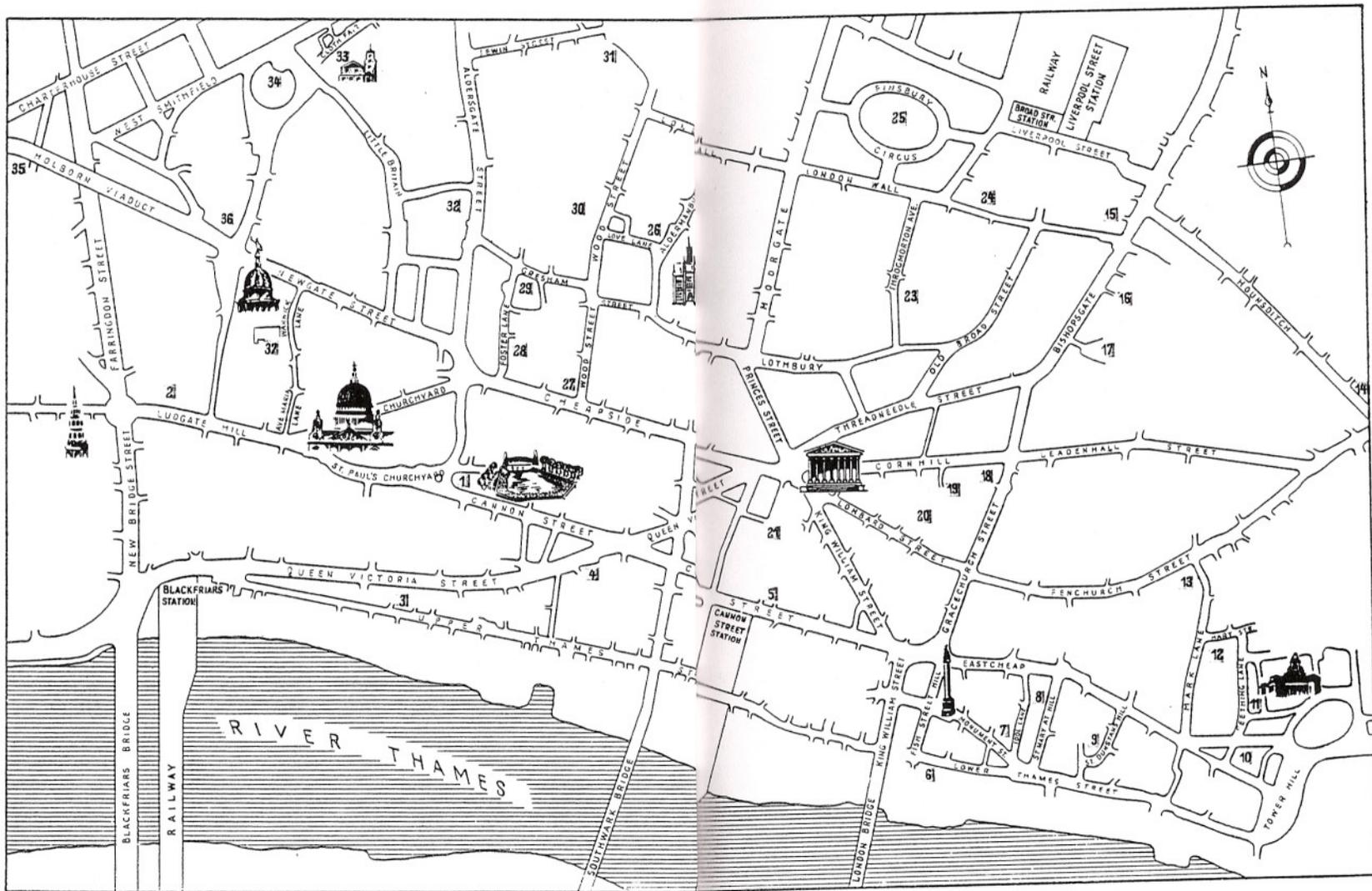
Continue. You are coming to Pepys' Church, Dicken's St. Ghastly Grim, which no longer deserves the name. St. Olave Hart Street (12), with the skull and crossbones over the gate and the stories of Plague Year burials. They are rebuilding and the garden may still be closed.

Turn left along Hart Street and right into Mark Lane. The garden of All Hallows Staining is here (13), and that is always worth a visit. Go on up Mark Lane and turn right into Fenchurch Street, pass Aldgate Pump and you will come to St. Botolph Aldgate (14). The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association hope to restore this garden this year. There is a tombstone you may like to look at on the corner of the Church facing Houndsditch. It tells the sad story of poor young Mr. Thos. Ebrall, a corn meter, who was shot by an unknown lifeguardsman in the shop of Mr. Goodive, April 1810. One wonders what he did that so annoyed the lifeguardsman as to make him shoot him anonymously. No one can tell you.

Turn to the right down Houndsditch, and you will come to St. Botolph Bishopsgate (15). This is the largest of the City Church Gardens, replanted just after the war on a plan suggested by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association. The avenue of Hawthorns is just coming into beauty, there are lawns and flowers



A City Garden Tour



and tennis courts. It is a pleasant place to sit in the sun and rest with about a third of your distance covered.

When you leave this garden turn to your right down Bishopsgate, on the left-hand pavement. You will come to St. Ethelburga (16). You enter this garden by a little alley beside the Church or

through the Church itself. Surely one of the smallest gardens in London, but it has a fountain.

Back into Bishopsgate and a little further on, still on your left, you come to Great St. Helen's (17). This is a garden you should not miss. This was probably the burial ground of the Nuns of

A City Garden Tour

St. Helen's Priory, and perhaps the quiet sleep of those gentle souls accounts for the great peace and stillness of the charming garden. Certainly it seems to have nothing to do with busy Bishopsgate outside.

Go back to Bishopsgate and on until you come to Cornhill. On the corner facing you is St. Peter-upon-Cornhill (18). A real City Garden this, paving, two huge Planes, and flowers in stone vases. It looks better than it did when Lizzy Hexham had her unpleasant interview with Bradley Headstone here. And if you have a zeal for walking you might look up "Our Mutual Friend" and try to map out some of the walks that flippant Mr. Wrayburn took the wretched schoolmaster.

Back into Cornhill and a short distance along on the left you come to St. Michael's Cornhill (19). Paved and sunny and bright with flowers. St. Michael's Alley will take you to the little garden behind the Church of St. Edmund King and Martyr (20), and out into Lombard Street. Turn to the right up Lombard Street, towards the Bank. Behind the Mansion House is another little garden, St. Stephen Walbrook (21). Just across Queen Victoria Street is Pancras Lane, and the churchyard of St. Benet Sherehog (22). It is not a remarkable garden, but it marks the site of St. Osyth, a church dating from Saxon times.

Turn back now, cross the Poultry and turn down Princes Street and to the right along Lothbury, on the left you will come to Throgmorton Avenue. Turn up, on your right hand is the Drapers' Garden (23), which is well worth seeing.

Continue up Throgmorton Avenue and turn to your right a short way along London Wall to see

"Such strange churchyards hide in the City of London."

—Dickens.



the garden of All Hallows (24), restored since the war and very gay indeed with nothing to cut it off from the pavement.

Turn back on your tracks and go along London Wall till you come to Finsbury Circus on your right (25). This is one of the gardens which was not a churchyard, although there are stories about Plague Pits. There are stories about Plague Pits all over London.

Continue along London Wall, westwards into the bombed-lands until you come to Aldermanbury. Turn down to your left and on the corner of Love Lane you will come to St. Mary the Virgin (26). The garden is not remarkable, but it contains a monument to John Hemminge and Henry Condell, Shakespeare's first publishers. Go along Love Lane and turn left down Wood Street. On the corner is the churchyard of St. Peter's (27), which contains a fine Plane of which Leigh Hunt wrote more than a hundred years ago "In Cheapside is an actual visible and even ostentatiously visible tree, to all who have eyes to look about them. It stands at the corner of Wood Street and occupies the space of a house." So it does still, and a tall house at that.

To your right along Cheapside and up Foster Lane. On your right you will find the bombed Church of St. Vedast (28). It is a wreck, but they have made a neat little lawn in the nave. A

A City Garden Tour

little further up Foster Lane and you come to Gresham Street with the Goldsmiths' Garden (29) on the corner. Once it was only the Churchyard of St. John Zachary, but now it is spreading gaily over the surrounding bomb site. From this garden you can walk across the wreckage to see the little garden of St. Mary Staining (30) which employees of the adjoining Telephone Exchange keep very bright and pretty.

You had better go back to the Goldsmiths' Garden and to Wood Street, and then turn left back to London Wall, to St. Giles Cripplegate (31). There was a fine Church and a fine garden here before the war. Now the firemen from the fire station opposite cultivate a very pretty little garden in the wilderness.

Just ahead on your left is Jewin Street which will take you into Aldersgate. Turn down Aldersgate to your left, and you will soon come to St. Botolph, Aldersgate (32), known locally as Postman's Park, because it is entirely overshadowed by the General Post Office. A very green and peaceful garden.

You can go through this garden into King Edward Street and turn to your right down Little Britain, it will bring you to St. Bartholomew the Great (33). This is one of the brightest of small City Gardens, as peaceful as St. Helen's, with lovely old houses looking into it from Cloth Fair.



"The clear Thames bordered by its gardens green."

—William Morris.

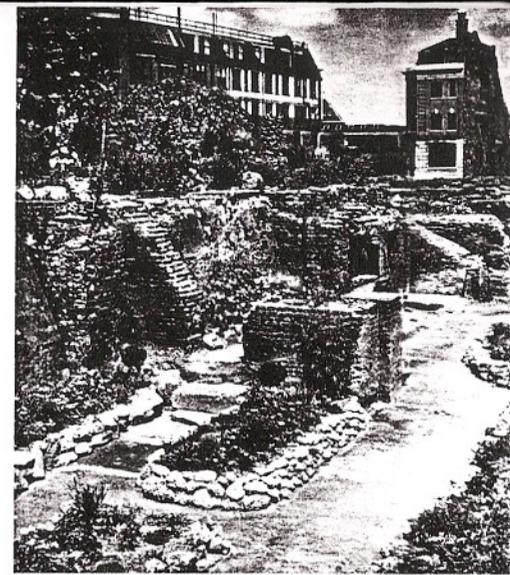
Outside is Smithfield Recreation Ground (34), another garden that was never a graveyard, which is always very handsomely planted. The statue of Flora is probably the only London statue which wears a golden wedding ring.

You can cut through the Market into Charterhouse Street and turn left up to Holborn Circus. Cross the road and go east along Holborn Viaduct, on your right below the level of the pavement is St. Andrew's Holborn (35) restored by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association since the war. Once, before Holborn Viaduct was built, it stood above the road. John Webster, the Elizabethan dramatist was buried here, and so was Charles Lamb's unfortunate mother, but there is no trace of the graves. There is, however, a young Maidenhair Tree, making astonishingly rapid growth. The maidenhair is the commonest fossil tree in London Clay.

Now turn right again along Holborn Viaduct, and you will come to St. Sepulchre's Holborn (36). This has been laid out since the war as the Royal Fusiliers Memorial Garden and is very bright and sunny, with its railings painted in the regimental colours.

One more garden left. Go on into Newgate Street, and turn right down Warwick Lane. You will come to the garden of Hodder & Stoughton (37). Warwick Lane leads into Ave Maria Lane, and back to Ludgate Hill.

Remains only the Temple Garden, partly within the City and partly outside. Any westbound bus except Numbers 4 and 18 will take you there. And there you may wander with all the associations you will, stern Knights Templar, gentlemen of the long gown, little Charles Lamb learning to spell from tombstones, little Ruth Pinch finding happiness under the trees of Fountain Court. There is so much history and fiction in the Temple Gardens as to need a very thick book.



London City of Old

By Miss Helen G. Nussey, O.B.E., Hon. Organiser of the London Gardens Society

London was beautiful in early days. A monk of Henry II's reign describes her as "among the noble cities of the world . . . with gardens of the citizens that dwell without her walls planted with trees spacious and fair," and in Chaucer's time she was said to be "spotted as thick with gardens as a common meadow is with daisies."

The largest gardens in the City were monastic. These were "for great and necessarie use" to the monks, and surplus products brought in revenue. Besides vegetables there were fruit, flowers for the altars and shrines, and herbs in abundance for the cure of numerous ills. These "herbs" included many flowers now grown for their beauty, roses, lilies, poppies, irises, peonies and a host of other favourites. Though many remedies were potent only through the faith placed in them, the experience of the monks helped to lay the foundation of the study of plants which led to the establishment of more scientific work in botanic and physic gardens, one of which was the botanic garden of the College of Physicians in Amen Corner.

Henry VIII gave most of the monastic lands to the City Magnates who had princely mansions in the midst of magnificent gardens with stately terraces, and flights of steps, vases, fountains, mazes, pavilions and bowling alleys. Bishopsgate Street was once the glory of the City.

Most of the City Companies possessed gardens of a semi-public kind, laid out for refreshment with arbours and bowling alleys, admission to the citizens being on payment for a key. The Bank had an enchanting little plot with rhododendrons, a splashing fountain, ferns and irises.

All have disappeared except for one quiet little oasis off Throgmorton Street belonging now to the Draper's Company, with its paved court, its fountain, pond and waterlilies, its lilac and mulberry trees.

Every private house, too, had its garden, for the mistress was knowledgeable in culinary and medicinal arts. Here she was supreme and here she did not disdain to work herself. Flowers were also valued for their sweet scents in nosegays and in decking the house (sweet-scented shrub cuttings were strewed on the floors when carpets were unknown). The lady's garden soon became the pleasure garden with seats, arbours and mounds.

London with its many orchards and flowers must have been enchanting, especially in Spring, and so through the centuries she has been gay in spite of hardships. She is still trying to carry on that good tradition.

War Damaged Sites

By Alfred C. Savage, of the London Gardens Society

Endeavours to beautify parts of the City where ugliness reigned, by havoc of War, have been made with success.

Gardens now exist at many such places; gardens that give pleasure to passers-by and to city workers who can glimpse them through overlooking office windows; gardens which offer a quietude from the hustle and bustle of City life and are eagerly sought by many who wish to enjoy a quiet read, a little writing, maybe knitting, or just to rest awhile.

That they were planned and planted by amateur gardeners, members of City staffs, is most significant. A new phase of gardening, unknown to professionals, was presented to them all. The suitable use of stone in the debris, filling in and levelling from the depths of bomb craters and cellars, called for much imagination. Hundreds of tons of soil, imported from the countryside of neighbouring Counties followed.

Seeds of many favourite flowers were in short supply. Kind friends abroad, learning of this, sent parcels to the London Gardens Society. These from New York and Salt Lake Cities and as far as British Columbia, have been sown and grown in gardens of the City.

A Dutch publisher, so struck by the dismal sight when on a visit, has sent thousands of bulbs from Holland which have bloomed within 200 yards of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Her Majesty, Patron of the London Gardens Society, has visited some of these gardens and in admiring their beauty, the Queen complimented the gardeners on their work.

SOME OTHER GARDENS

- | | |
|--|---|
| St. Alban, Wood Street. | St. John the Baptist, Watling Street, Bread Street. |
| All Hallows the Great, Upper Thames Street. | St. Katherine Coleman, Fenchurch Street. |
| All Hallows the Less, Upper Thames Street. | St. Katherine Cree, Leadenhall, access only through Church. |
| St. Alphage, London Wall. | St. Margaret Lothbury. |
| St. Andrew Undershaft, St. Mary Axe. | St. Martin Orgar, Martin Lane. |
| St. Andrew by the Wardrobe, St. Andrew's Hill. | St. Martin Outwich, Camomile Street. |
| St. Anne and St. Agnes, Gresham Street. | St. Martin Vintry, Upper Thames Street. |
| St. Ann Blackfriars, off Carter Lane. | St. Mary Aldermary, Queen Victoria Street. |
| St. Antholin, Watling Street. | St. Matthew, Friday Street. |
| Bomb Site, Huggin Lane. | St. Michael, Crooked Lane. |
| St. Bride, Fleet Street. | St. Michael, Queenhithe. |
| St. Clement, Eastcheap. | St. Michael, Paternoster. |
| Christchurch, Newgate Street. | St. Mildred, Poultry. |
| St. Dionis, Fenchurch Street. | St. Nicholas Acons. |
| St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, Fleet Street. | St. Olave, Silver Street. |
| Electricity Authority's Garden, Amen Corner. | St. Pancras, Pancras Lane. |
| Fire Station Garden, Whitecross Street. | St. Stephen, Coleman Street. |
| St. James Garlickhithe. | Telephone Exchange Garden, Wood Street. |
| St. John the Baptist, Cloak Lane. | St. Thomas Apostle, Queen Street. |

"The glory of the Garden it abideth not in words."
—Rudyard Kipling.

THE LONDON GARDENS SOCIETY

The Society has existed for about half a century with interludes during the war years. It rises phoenix-like after every disaster. Its aim is to beautify London by encouraging amateurs to grow flowers in every available spot, especially in those parts where drabness is the prevailing note. It is in touch with architects and town planners to secure facilities for this attractive hobby.

The background of the Society is provided by Gardening Societies in all parts of London. Lecturers and judges are provided and Annual Competitions are arranged for the Society's Trophies.

The local Gardening Societies are doing much to foster the co-operation of private citizens with the Borough Councils' Amenities schemes and town and country are united by a Plant Distribution scheme which helps to start new gardens and to give delight to the old and sick by the distribution of seedling plants for their flower pots and window boxes.

Work among children is carried on by the London Flower Lovers' League, a one-time Committee of the Society and which still works in close accord. By its activities many thousands of schoolchildren early learn the delights of flower growing.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, 20, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2.

THE METROPOLITAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association was founded in 1882 to create and preserve open spaces for the public benefit. The London County Council did not exist, and there was little interest in "lungs for London."

In thirty years the Association secured some 160 "lungs" including the Tower of London Garden and Meath Gardens, Bethnal Green. Public opinion was roused and preservation easier, the work extended. Open spaces saved included Ken Wood Grounds, the Crystal Palace Grounds, Charlton Park, Greenwich, Littleheath Woods near Selsdon, and Ravensbury Park.

Since 1945 wrecked gardens restored include Southwark Cathedral and St. Andrew's Holborn.

Gardens under the care of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association are St. Swithun London Stone, St. Botolph Billingsgate, St. Mary at Hill, St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, St. Botolph Aldgate, St. Ethelburga Bishopsgate, St. Peter upon Cornhill, St. Bartholomew the Great and St. Andrew's Holborn.

The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association also carries out extensive propaganda and instructive work on the planting and care of trees and shrubs. Much well-intentioned planting in towns is ruined by lack of knowledge of suitable varieties, and inadequate care of newly planted trees. Thus trees chosen without regard for their ultimate development are frequently ruined by drastic pruning to keep them within bounds.

The Association's advice on planting and pruning is available without charge to Local Authorities and public amenity societies.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, 20 Denison House, 296 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE CORPORATION OF LONDON.

The Guildhall of the City of London (a guide). 1939, reprinted 1946. Paper 1/-. Cloth 2/6.

History of the Monument. 1947. 6d.

The Corporation of London; its origin, constitution, powers and duties. Oxford University Press, 1950. 15/-.

Ceremonial pictures in the Guildhall Art Gallery, 1950. 2/-.

English portraits in the Guildhall Art Gallery. 1950. 2/-.

London portraits in the Guildhall Art Gallery. (In the press.) 2/-.

The City of London; a record of destruction and survival. Architectural Press. 1951. (*Ready May*) 25/-.

Discoveries in Walbrook 1949-50. Guildhall Museum publication, 1950. 1/-.

Rebuilding the City of London. 1951. 1/-.

London City and the People; its fight for public rights. By John Betts. 1951. 1/-.

The Pageantry of London City. By John Betts. 1951. 1/-.

London City Churches, 1951. Issued in association with the Friends of the City Churches. 1951. 1/-.

The Old Wall of the City of London. 1951. 1/-.

The City Gardens; prepared by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. 1951. 1/-.

Printed by R. J. ACFORD, LTD., Chichester, Sussex.