

# The East London Garden Society



## Report 2021

We have come a long way since 2011, and some say the longer we are around the more we become noticed, which we are certainly now.

Our number of supporters are such that I have to pay from my own resources to maintain our presence, initially having 100 members we are now 10% of that number.

In 2021 we were fortunate to be involved with the saving of The Bethnal Green Mulberry Tree, although it looks as though round two is approaching us, having been asked our opinion on what the development The Bethnal Green Chest Hospital site should look like.

We were also asked to get involved with the saving of The Cavell Street Gardens Trees, and we were successful in saving these from the axe.

We are currently talking with Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham on the priority of The Great Eastern Parks Route, and we are making great headway. Consequently, we are planning to travel some of the route with politicians from all three boroughs.

It now seems that one of the first calls to protect the local environment is to The East London Garden Society, and we aim to provide answers to rectify the problems with our urban environment.

We began as a society requesting questions to be answered for our gardening needs, but we are now campaigning on behalf of gardeners for a better gardening environment. Our latest campaign is on The Isle of Dogs where trees are threatened because of development. There is certainly a need for such an organisation, as there is nowhere else to turn for assistance.

We have all been suffering from the Covid epidemic, so we have not been able to do as much as we would like. One of my 'musts' is to have a Flower Show in London to exhibit the best of what London has to offer, but at present this seems to be a problem as it ever was.

In 2022 we hope to carry on being the first to be involved with saving and promoting gardening, as well as campaigning for a better environment.

Previously, I used to map out what we could deal with in the coming year, such as our aspirations for better gardens, and a better living environment. However, this year is election year in London, so it must be made known to all politicians seeking office to place gardens, as well as the local urban environment first when planning decisions are made.

We will once again have to address The Bethnal Green Mulberry Tree, and we must stop development such as *The Limehouse Triangle* where Tower Hamlets caused a nature reserve to fall into disrepair. As the council stated, paying £10,000 to degrade the area from a nature reserve to a building site, is not taking into account national laws which prevented them from such a degradation.

The Forest Garden in Bishopsgate, on top of the grade 2 listed rail arches has not yet commenced, but we must keep our eye on what the developers require where necessary.

Because it takes a year's planning, a Flower Show in East London would be held in 2023, subject to Covid.

As already stated, we have become a voice to be heard, and have even been asked to save a meadow in Worcestershire.

Your views on what and when we should become involved are always important, as is your involvement when you wish to be so.

Let us wish for a wonderful 2022 and hope our place in the protection of the local environment can become even more established. Thank you for being a part of it.

*Geoffrey Juden, Chairman*

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