



LONDON HERITAGE QUARTER

### **Royal Courts of Justice Gardening Group**

A few metres from Strand Aldwych are the Royal Courts of Justice. In the greenspaces and courtyards within the building a group of enthusiastic voluntary gardeners meet regularly to undertake an array of greening activities. We caught up with the team to find out what they do.

#### ***Tell us about how the group/activity started?***

The group was established in 2022 by a few passionate colleagues. Since it started, the group of volunteers has created five beautiful garden spaces around the site, reusing materials such as old wooden pallets to make planters and improving biodiversity in an urban landscape.

#### ***What tasks have the group undertaken?***

We've installed planters, sowed a fledgling wildflower meadow, harvested rainwater for watering, weeded raised beds, maintained a variety of plants and bulbs, created a composter and wildlife areas, provided benches and tables, and brought in home-grown plants.

#### ***Why do you do it?***

It makes us happy and connects us with colleagues we might never otherwise have met. It's good for the wellbeing of our workplace community and encourages more biodiversity.

#### ***Besides Strand Aldwych, what other greenspaces nearby do you mostly tend to visit?***

We are surrounded by a range of beautiful spaces within reasonable walking distance. Some of our favourites include Lincoln's Inn Fields, The Inner Temple Garden, Charterhouse Square and the old Christchurch Greyfriars on Newgate Street.

#### ***Which is the most memorable garden you have ever visited – either in the UK or abroad – and why?***

The Kensington Roof Gardens in the Derry & Toms Building. Before its closure in 2018, it was an amazing sight to see so many mature plants including trees on a roof space. Postman's Park, King Edward Street (opposite St Bartholomew's Hospital) – a wonderful pocket of history and an oasis of peace.

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54 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1DE



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***What's the best gardening tip or trick you have learned?***

Carry seed packets around with you (pound shops are a good source), for impromptu seed scattering to brighten up abandoned corners...fill an old washing-up bottle with water and add some tiny seeds like lobelia or forget-me-not, and aim it at the aforementioned abandoned corners.

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