



LONDON HERITAGE QUARTER

Tate Britain

As the southern boundary of London Heritage Quarter lies the world-renowned Tate Britain. In this article, Bella Sereno, the Tate Galleries' Environmental & Sustainability Manager tells us what greening projects she and her colleagues have underway.

Tell us about how the group/activity started?

Following on from lockdown, there was an appetite from staff to utilize our green spaces further. Not only were staff keen to use these spaces for meetings and breaks, they wanted to get involved and be hands on. Various requests started coming through the Green Team and at the time I wanted to introduce a Bio-diversity plan. Made sense to get our colleagues involved and be part of the tasks ahead.

What tasks do the group undertake?

All sorts of things really. We do have a contract in place for our green spaces, we're very lucky to have professionals in place that look after all of our green spaces. However, we wanted to create some additional spaces, be a little creative. We've transformed exhibition waste into planters, even some of our crates we use to transport art have been converted into planters. We installed a pond, which again we used waste materials from an exhibition. We've held workshops for staff and made our own seed bombs, we held monoprinting workshops using foraged leaves. We have a rota in which colleagues volunteer to water the various planters that we have created. We ask staff to help to assist with keeping the pond clean.

Why do you do it?

As an organization we've set ourselves some really tough sustainability targets and goals. We really want to do all we can in encouraging wildlife and be guardians of our green spaces. Our colleagues really want to be part of this journey and be part of the solution.

What other greenspaces nearby do you mostly tend to visit?

We have Milbank Gardens very nearby, another lovely well cared and looked after green space.

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54 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1DE



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

Kew gardens, we are so lucky to have a place like this in this country and you can see why visitors come from all over the world. I go at various times of the year and really enjoy seeing the various colours and changes that the seasons bring, it's a sensory overload.

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

Best tip or maybe just some advice, do get involved. You'll be surprised just how much knowledge is out there amongst your colleagues and neighbours, who will be happy to help out. I had no prior knowledge at all but just being able to be part of this wonderful group of people, even if my job of the day is to get the leaves out the pond. It gets me out, in the fresh air and you always get colleagues coming over and wanting to know more.

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