



At The Phoenix Garden we work to put on an ornamental wildlife garden; to be a retreat from the stresses of the city for local residents, workers and other visitors and to provide quality habitat to support urban wildlife. We aim to give a unique experience of nature in the centre of the city available nowhere else locally – The Phoenix Garden is often described by visitors as an ‘oasis’.

### A GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

It can be surprising just how many species can survive in the centre of London if given the opportunity, and the garden is home to a wide range of species. Amongst these, we see over 15 species of bee, are regularly visited by more than ten species of bird and are home to the West End’s only frogs. To encourage wildlife in the garden we use sustainable gardening practices and are mindful as to how we manage the site. We create additional habitat boosters wherever we can. We have built log piles and wood stacks and installed bee and bird nest boxes. We process all the garden’s green waste on site through composting in bins and by deep-litter mulching. We do not use poisons such as pesticides, herbicides and artificial fertilisers.

### A GARDEN FOR SUCCESS

Our visitors often ask us if a high level of maintenance is involved in order for the garden to grow so successfully. In truth, our approach is rooted in a belief that gardens should be naturally low maintenance and worry-free, and we always keep in mind that...plants want to grow! At The Phoenix Garden we believe:

- There are no weeds
- There are no pests
- There is no need to water
- There is no waste

As such, we have created a natural garden that requires minimal interventions throughout the course of each year.

For any garden to be successful it is important to be realistic about what you are working with; the location and soil conditions will inform your path to success. Being on a former bomb site, the garden sits on top of rubble filled cellars, and has only very thin rubble-filled soil. Due to its Central London location, the garden benefits from an urban heat island effect – it is sheltered and warm and it is unusual to get many days of hard frost in winter. In the South-East of England the average annual rainfall is under 60cm and going months without proper rain is not uncommon, therefore the garden is dry. Plants have naturally adapted to dry stony soils and revel in our conditions. Seasonal variation informs when we carry out tasks; Autumn rains allow for cool season planting. Using plants that grow reliably in dry conditions, that look good all year round and all chosen to be of maximum benefit to wildlife is key to any gardening success we have.