

Garden Group Report
Monday, 14th September 2026

Unless, like 6 of our Garden Group members, you have visited the Chelsea Physic Garden you are unlikely to know that pomegranates and avocados fruit happily on trees in the middle of London. That, however, is exactly what occurs within the walled, four acres, on the banks of the river Thames which is London's oldest botanic garden.

Leased by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London in 1673 the garden was designed as an outdoor classroom where a living collection of medicinal ingredients could be grown, studied and understood.



Today the garden is now open to the public, has a catalogue of almost 5,000 different plants as well as a seed bank and an herbarium, and continues to be used to support various fields of research including taxonomy, phylogeny, eco-social, medical and ecological.

The garden is laid out in quadrants with beds and glasshouses containing categories such as Edible Plants, Useful Plants, Medicinal Plants, Poison Beds, a Woodland, a Fernery and so on.

We joined a guided tour, enjoyed a delightful lunch in the restaurant and all agreed it was a wonderful day's visit for those who were able to make the journey into and across London.

Susan Sedgebeer

