



🌱 GALLANT Newsletter — August 2026 🌱

Welcome to the latest from GALLANT!

Looking back at August we've seen new ideas take shape, familiar faces return, and more people using the map to connect what's happening in their corner of Glasgow with the wider story of change across the city.

Whether you've been mapping your own project, exploring what others are doing, or simply dipping in to stay connected, we're really glad to have you with us.

Quick look:

- Contributions by some of our community participants
- Invitation to join us for a collaborative session for the Hunterian x GALLANT exhibition!
- Opportunities

🌱 By you 🌱



Dumfries House Estate and Its Fabulous Sycamore

Photos and words by: Fiona Waltham.

Recently I had the absolute delight of visiting Dumfries House Estate.

In 2007 its grounds, buildings and contents were put up for sale. It was highly unlikely everything would be bought together, so there was a danger that the contents, including original Chippendale furniture, would end

up with various private buyers and be lost.

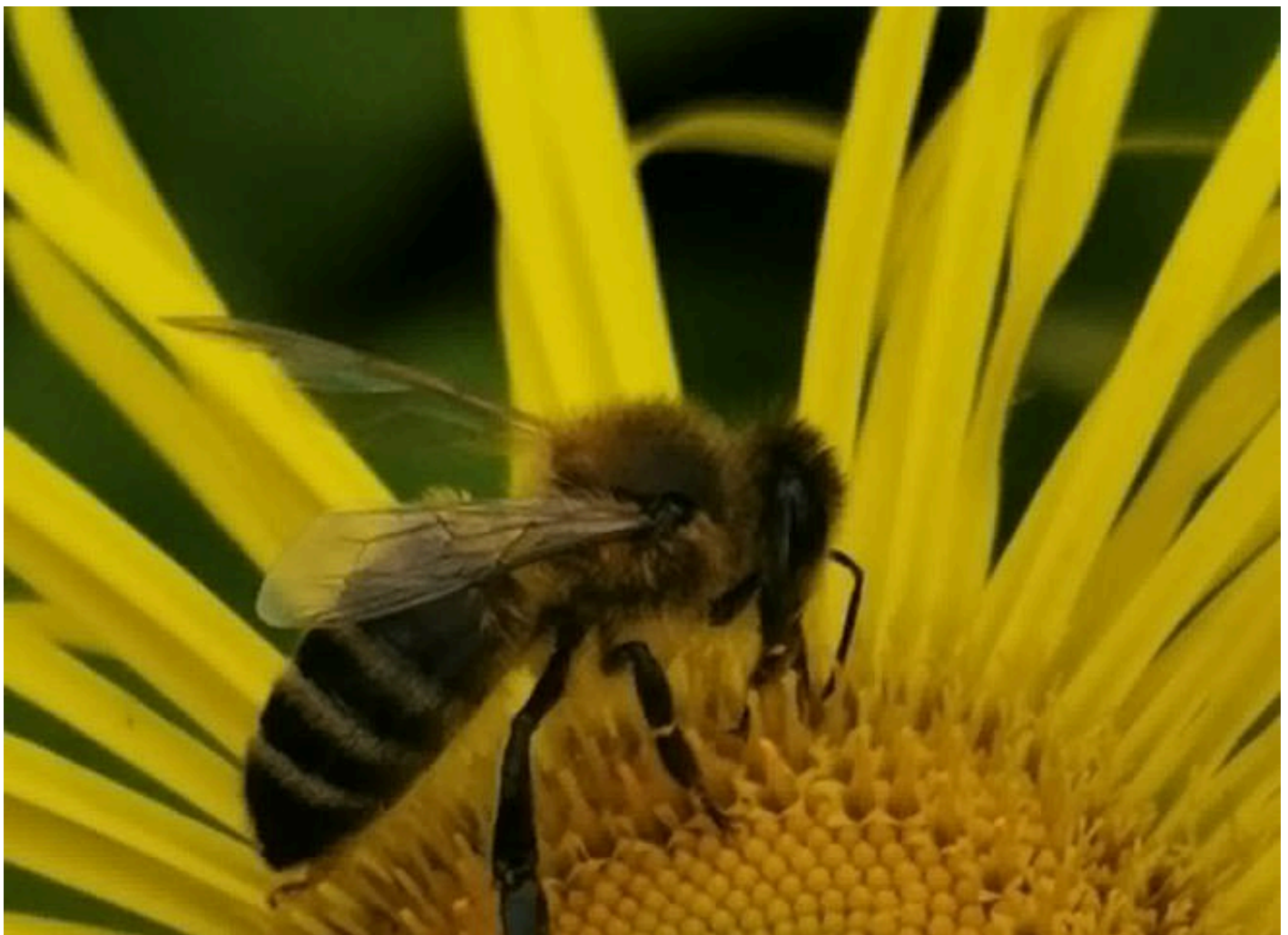
Fortunately, a consortium led by the then Prince Charles swooped in and the whole estate was bought and saved for The Nation. Charitable donations followed and the house, outbuildings and grounds have been restored over several years. It currently serves as the main headquarters of the King's Foundation. The Foundation is heavily involved in the promoting, and training of traditional heritage skills such as stonemasonry, blacksmithing, roof thatching, and more. There is also a strong focus on education, health, and wellbeing.

It was in the estate grounds I found myself, in particular the Walled Garden. The array of flowers, vegetables, shrubs, and trees was marvellous and the colours on a sunny afternoon were stunning. Add to that a myriad of colourful butterflies and it made for a perfect afternoon of meandering. All played out with the background 'music' of a gentle fountain, some birdsong and the buzzing of busy bees.

Without a doubt the most stunning resident is a huge Sycamore tree. Growing on higher ground it looks over the whole garden. Estimated to be around 400 years old. It predates Dumfries House and it is thought to have been planted around 1599 when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne. Very appropriately it now lives in The Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 2014.

By all accounts, the tree was in a sorry state when the King's Foundation took over. It had been left for years and was overgrown, at the base, with Japanese Knotweed and other plants. It was gently nursed back to health by specialist arboriculturists and horticulturists. The way it looks today is a testament to their tender ministrations.

In 2022 it was chosen as one of 70 ancient trees for the Queen's Green Canopy network for her Platinum Jubilee. It is the oldest tree in the estate.







See the Sycamore tree captured on communiMap: <https://www.spotteron.com/communimap/spots/1328635>



See the wildflower meadow captured on communiMap:
<https://www.spotteron.com/communimap/spots/1328734>

If only the tree could talk. Would it tell stories of The Covenanters? Perhaps the Scottish Bard himself penned a poem whilst sitting nearby? Maybe Keir Hardie spent time there contemplating stories for the Cumnock

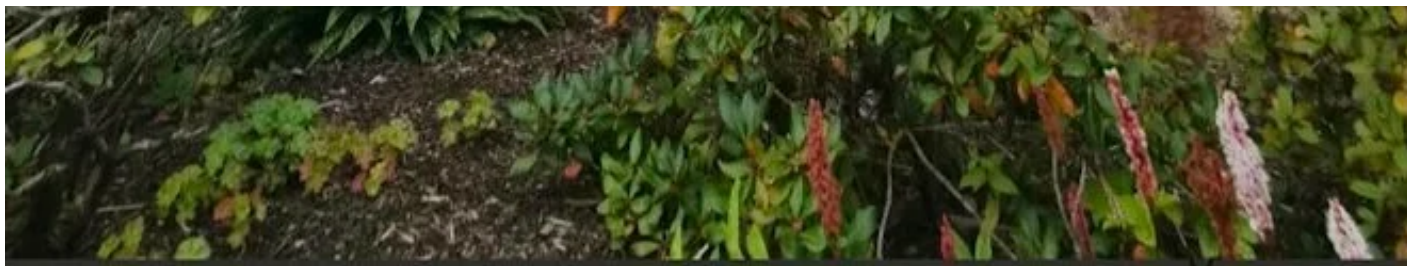
News or working out his plans for a Scottish Mineworkers' Union. Have there been secret trysts or proposals under its branches? Pennylands Camp, located in the estate grounds, was a WW2 troop training camp and later was used as a POW camp.

Could the troops sit and relax under the tree before being sent off to war? Could the prisoners see the tree and dream of freedom at the end of the war?

I certainly don't know any of that, but my fanciful mind would like to think that in over 400 years this magnificent tree has not gone unnoticed. How could it not be noticed? It is absolutely stunning.

See the Sycamore tree captured on communiMap: <https://www.spotteron.com/communimap/spots/1328635>





Eclipse Watching in Scotland

Photo by Dale Harvey and words by: Chris McCartan

On passing through Elderpark during the build up to the recent Solar Eclipse, there were many people out looking west.

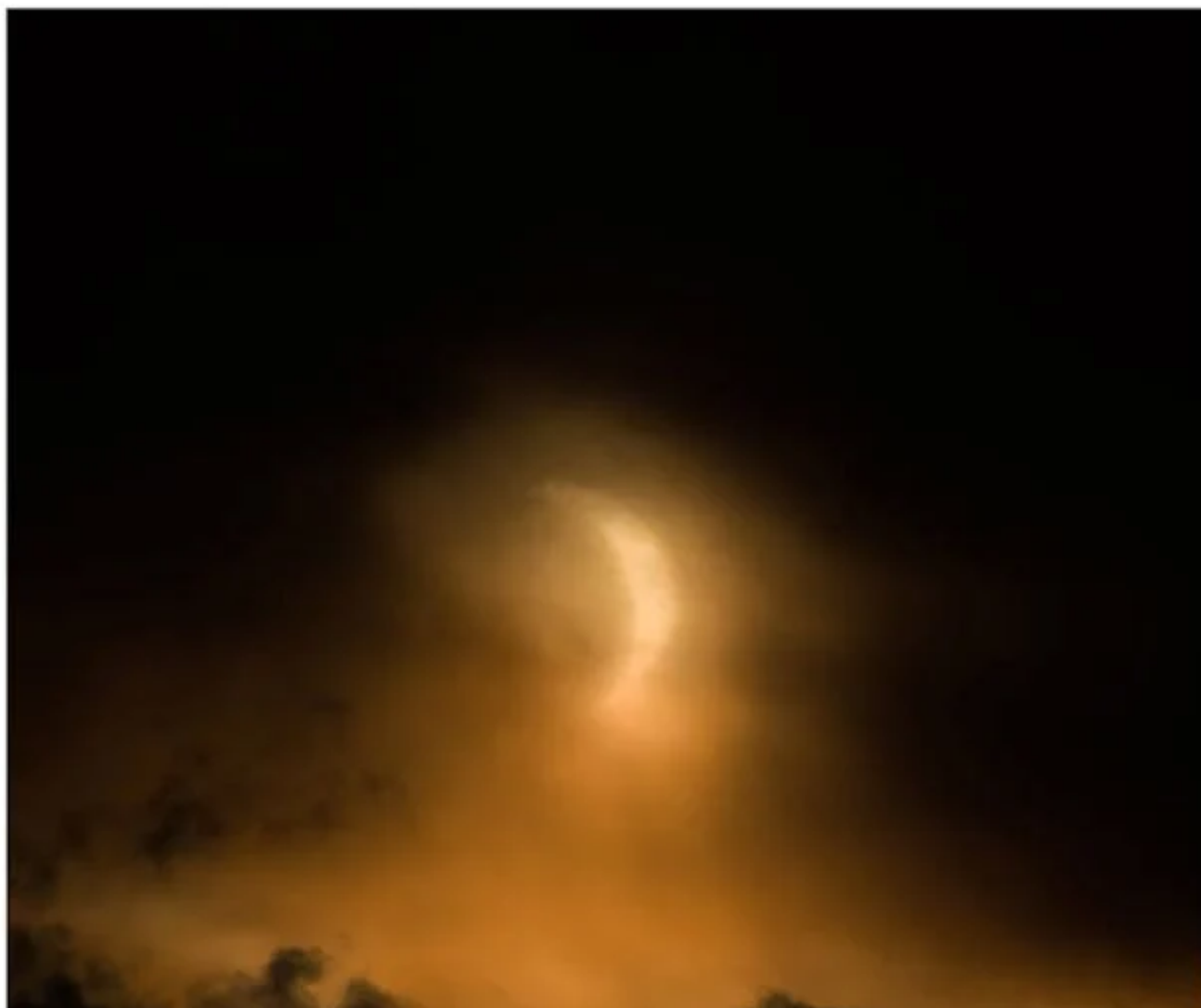
Indeed Isabella Elder's new mural herself looks west.

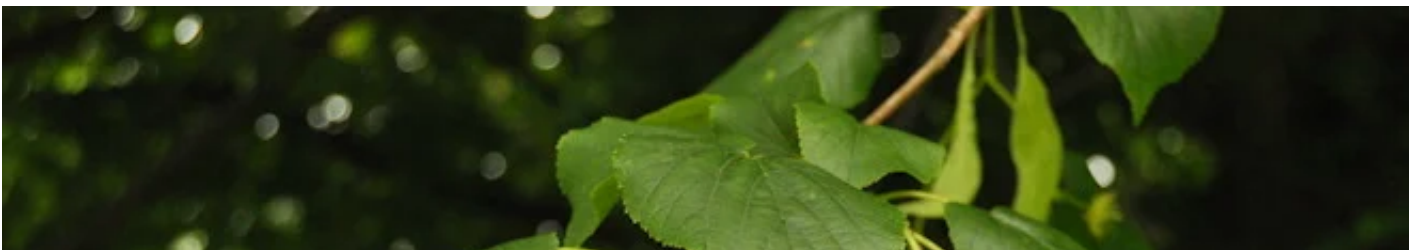
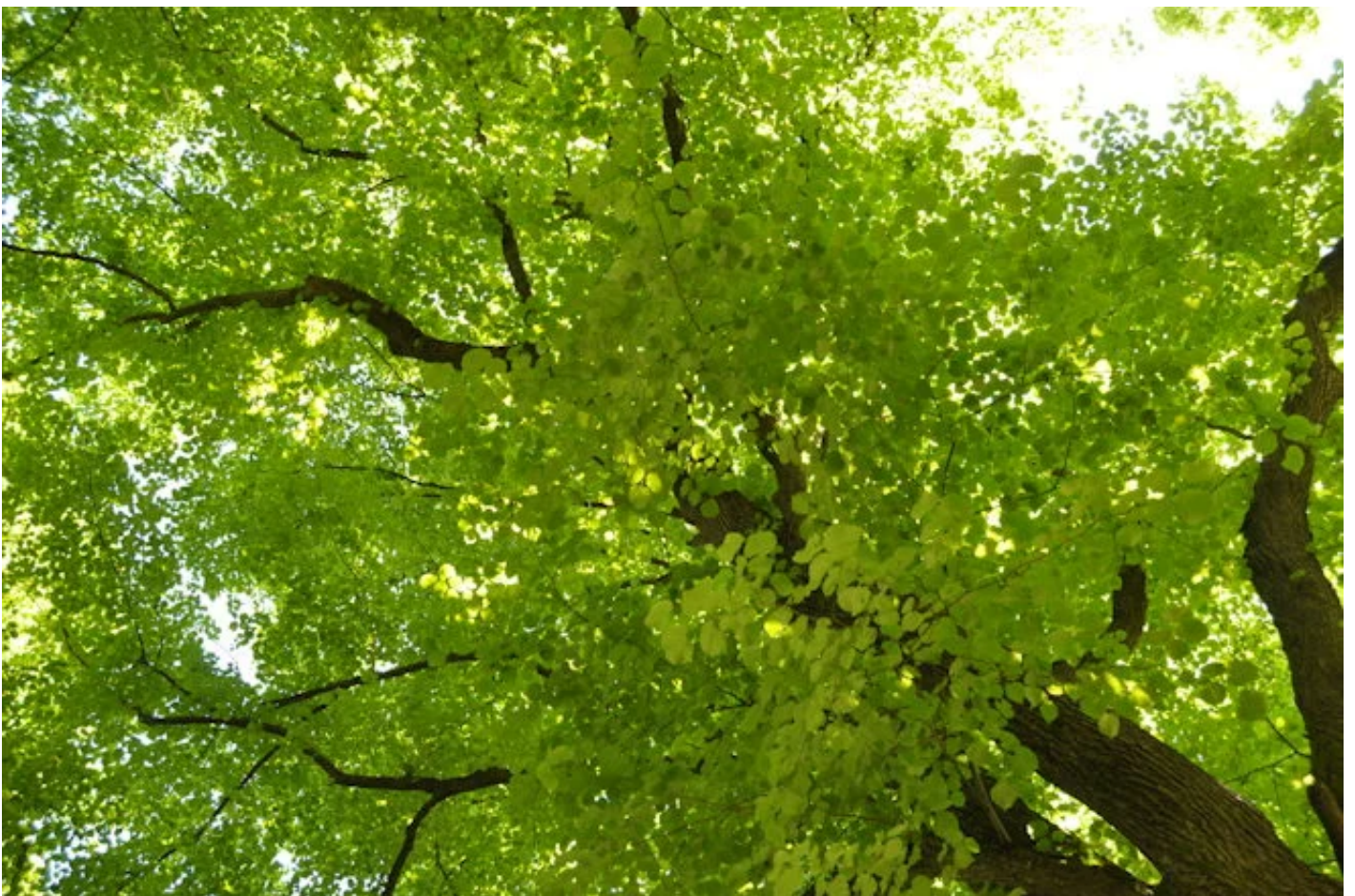
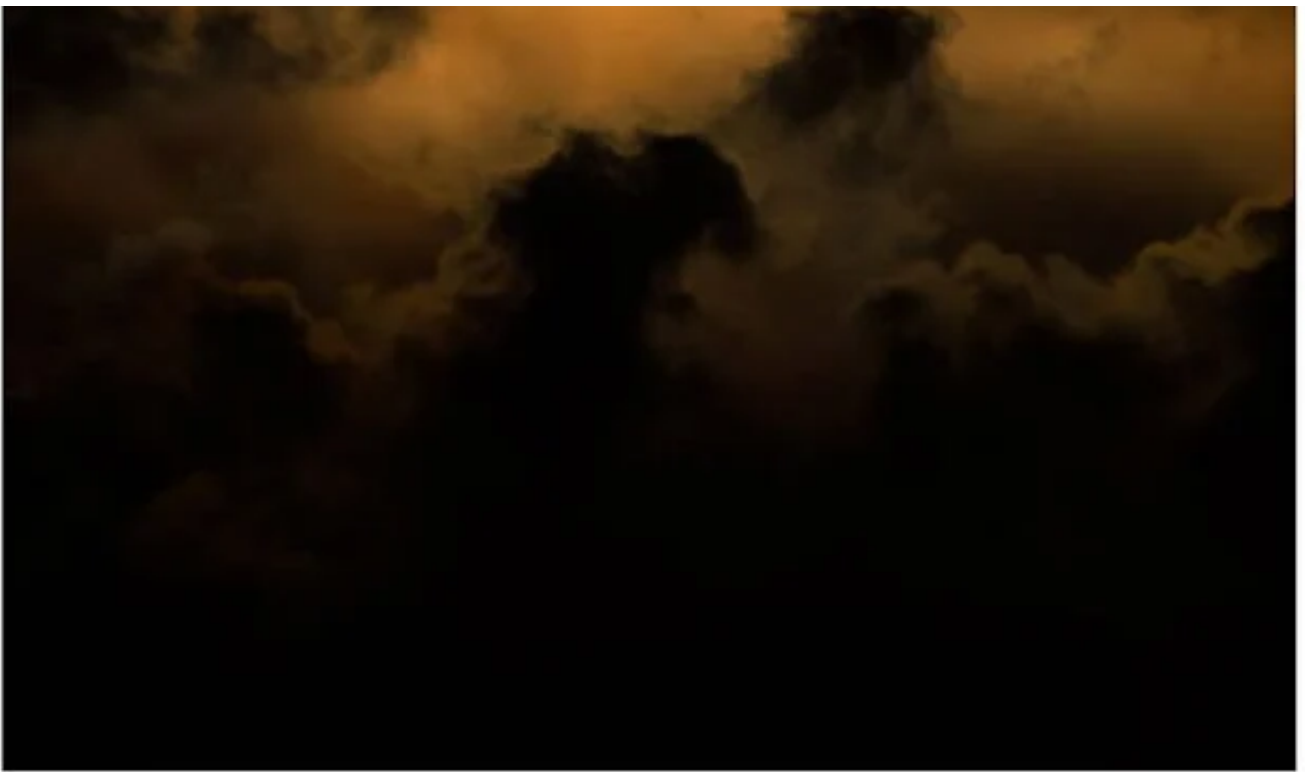
Many were on street corners or gathered in the park with a tangible frisson of anticip...

...ation in the air.

I caught the briefest of glimpses of the sun as the moon began its transit across, through the clouds before sitting, candlelit in Moogety Community Gardens.

Luckily a few friends managed to capture the event through the clouds.







Lime Trees and Me

Photos and words by: Richard Rinn

If you've ever been in an urban area or park in Britain, you've more than likely seen a good number of lime trees, but perhaps never really given them much thought. I was certainly like this around fifteen years ago, as I began to read Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita* for the first time. I hadn't previously taken very much interest in trees at all, beyond noticing that urban areas without them were distinctly unappealing to me. In the book, linden trees are mentioned—as I recall it—on a number of occasions, and to the exclusion of other tree species (what of the lime trees, you may wonder). Somehow this piqued my interest, as I wondered if the

author was communicating something that I wasn't appreciating due to ignorance and/or factors relating to the cultural and geographical separation between us, or the fact that he'd written it the best part of a century before I got round to reading it. Were they found in particularly grand (or otherwise) areas? Was there folkloric significance to them? I was propelled to find out...

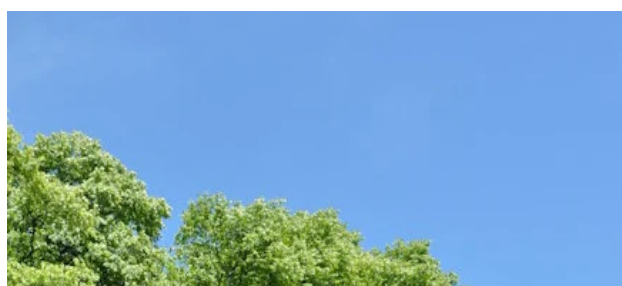


Zero trips to my local library later, via the technological marvel of the day then known as 'the internet' I had discovered that linden trees are known in Britain as lime trees (and sometimes in the U.S. as basswood). Subsequently, whenever I've pointed a lime tree out to a usually mildly nonplussed person who happens to be with me as we pass one, I feel compelled to further point out that the citrus fruit they are probably now visually seeking will not be found where they're looking. Apparently the name lime is something that came about via vernacular evolution of the Germanic linden over time in England many centuries ago.

My next step was something of a wrong move in some ways, as it resulted in my going down a tributary away from the answer to my question, and one which in fact may have no real end, but it's definitely the more enriching path, and with some amazing scenery which would have otherwise remained hidden to me by my brain, processing as it did visual input containing trees as 'just some trees'.

By and large what I was seeing was the Common Lime, a hybrid of the Small-Leaved Lime and Large-Leaved Lime, all three of which are considered post-ice age natives to Britain, but there are many more species around the globe, some of which you might find in parks or occasionally urban plantings.

The limes outside my flat had asymmetrical heart shaped leaves, and once they had flowered, their long narrow leaf-like bracts, attached to the small pea-sized seeds on little stems somewhat reminiscent of some atomic era homeware designs would launch themselves a-twirling to the ground like the 'helicopters' from maple trees.







So a linden was a lime. What did they look like, and where could I find one to have a butchers? Much to my surprise, the flat that I was then occupying, in a leafy Victorian West End suburb of Glasgow had a number of them bracketing the front, so right outside my window they stood; and lining the edge of the crescent park across the road; and all the way down the street; and lining Great Western Road nearby. In fact, everywhere I went, once I had begun to recognise lime trees, lime trees seemed to be.

Another thing that descended from them was honeydew, which sounds pleasant enough—it certainly was to the wasps who wanted to eat it off the cars below. It is also much prized by ants, who actually farm aphids on the trees (the brutes!) in order for an ample quantity of the sugar rich, sticky liquid to be produced, with the aphids as the processor, if you get my drift. The bark was mature and ridged on the ones I was seeing, having been planted by the Victorians, and often had knobbly bits, and at the base lots of protruding shoots (epicormic growth, as I later found out) would constantly be getting battled with by gardeners with sharp implements. Occasionally the trees would also be viciously pollarded like a really severe looking haircut, wherein the branches are removed then allowed to regrow with vigour.

Telling the species apart is somewhat of a black art which I'm currently trying to get my head to engage with, and can involve getting touchy feely with the leaves or looking for minute fuzzy 'hairs' or lack of on certain leaf and/or shoot parts. As a tentative and by no means robust dip in though, if the base of the trunk is putting out a lot of shoots or branches, that makes it more likely to be a Common Lime. If the leaf feels sort of velvety (and this may reduce by autumn) you may be handling a Large-Leaved Lime. If it's in flower and the flowers or seeds are jutting outwards or upwards defying gravity then that may well be a Small-Leaved Lime. Don't be misled by the common names as being a useful clue, as leaf size varies a great deal, with Common Lime likely to have the largest leaves and potentially be the largest tree.

I've given you a head start there, so why not go out and see if you can find one yourself. And if you happen to find out what Bulgakov was inferring, write the answer on a post-it note and stick it on a lime tree. I'll probably see it on my travels.



That's How Many Cups...?

Photo and words by: Chris Mccartan

Using a voucher earned whilst attending GALLANT events I splurged and treated myself to a new kettle, at half price, after the old one, an ex-kettle that has ceased to be, expired after 23 years of use.

Full disclosure, it was in storage for 2–3 years. Apart from that hiatus, it's served me well. Lasting longer than relationships, and been with me through good times and bad. It was the first thing unpacked after moves.

I've used it for teas, coffees, cooking, and washing floors.

How much energy did I use over its lifetime? Could I have boiled less? Or making it more efficient, how many cups was that?

Excuse me while I ponder this over my cup of tea.

Opportunities around Glasgow

Hunterian x GALLANT Exhibition

We would like to invite you to join us for a collaborative session for the Hunterian x GALLANT exhibition!

Hunterian x GALLANT collaboration session, Wednesday September 9th
Location: Kelvin Hall Activity Room, 1445 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G3 8AW
Timing: 17.30 - 19.30pm

Some of the things that we are going to look at are:

- Welcome and structure of the session
- Update from GALLANT
- Update from Tree Co-Lab tree trail
- Pizza!
- The big picture - opportunities for participant involvement throughout the collaboration programme
- Look at the Kelvinhall corridor display
- Display suggestions from participants
- Tree trail discussions
- Digital/film/maps elements in partnership with NLS
- Wider events programme - a year for potential events
- Suggest events/outreach activities
- AOB

Please come along for some discussion and brainstorming. We will have food and refreshments, and we can offer vouchers for your participation.

Question before joining the session:

- Do you have favourite stories on communiMap
- Which stories have meant the most to you?
- Do you want to add any stories on communiMap in advance?
- What has communiMap meant for you?

Please send any communiMap links over to us at Jeanne.Robinson@glasgow.ac.uk. Even if you can't attend the session, please do send your ideas and stories along. We will compile them and share back to the wider group.

Any questions about the evening, just let us know. Spaces are limited, so please let us know if you'll come

along at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/B4WjZKGr6Z> (so we have enough pizza!)

If you haven't been involved yet or signed up for future involvement in the project but would like to:

- Meet and spend more time with like-minded people
- Share skills and ideas
- Do something a bit different to promote sustainable living
- To find out more about working in/with museums
- Get something to put on your CV

Please contact Eleni.Stavrou@glasgow.ac.uk with your details

Funding: Small Eco Awards

Content shared by: Sallie Condry, Head of Sector Development, Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS).

The National Lottery Community Fund has launched the Small Eco Awards, which provides grants of £300–£20,000 for communities in Scotland to take practical local action for the environment. You don't need to be an environmental organisation to apply. Projects could include: growing food locally, making community spaces greener, climate education, protecting wildlife, reusing and upcycling, or introducing sustainable transport.

[Find out more and apply](#), or email advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk with any questions.

Volunteer Opportunities with Friends of Elder Park

If you enjoy spending time outdoors and in nature, and would like to help care for an important community green space, Friends of Elder Park are currently looking for new volunteers. Regular volunteer sessions take place on **Sundays from 1–4pm**, offering a great opportunity to meet others, learn new skills, and contribute to maintaining and improving the park for everyone.

There are also other ways to get involved if you're unable to attend the Sunday sessions. You can learn more and sign up to support the group here: <https://friendsofelderpark.wordpress.com/join-friends-of-elder-park/>



Thank you for being part of this growing, learning, experimenting community. Every workshop, conversation, and shared idea helps shape a more sustainable and connected Glasgow. We're excited for everything ahead, and even more excited to experience it alongside you.

Follow us on social media or visit our websites: [Community Collab Glasgow](#), [communiMap](#) and sign up for our newsletter below!

Download communiMap!

Get the communiMap app for [iOS](#) or [Android](#). You can also access the web version [here](#).

If you have any thoughts or questions, please get in touch by email at ws2gallantpublic@gmail.com or ria.dunkley@glasgow.ac.uk, (community collaboration Research lead for GALLANT).

Campus-wide sustainability: [Information on sustainability](#) as part of the University of Glasgow's activities, campus and community.

GALLANT Community Collaboration on social media: Follow [@CommuniGALLANT](#) on Bluesky, or our pages on [instagram](#) or [Facebook](#), for updates from across the campus and beyond.

Newsletter/Mailing list: Sign up [here](#). View our [privacy notice](#).



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