

AUTUMN GARDENING

Wind, rain and cloud characterise the weather in October — which is sometimes the wettest month of the year. So gird up your strength and whenever possible, keep at that October digging, for the end of October/beginning of November forms one of the most constantly stormy periods of the year. Outdoor work becomes severely restricted, especially on our heavy suburb clay, as the ground approaches saturation point. The ideal situation is to have the soil dug over early in the autumn to get the maximum benefit from the winter frosts, and the soil is thus broken down into good condition for spring planting. Opinions differ as to whether it is better to plant in the autumn or in the spring. Over the years I have found that if I am dividing a well-established plant, such as perennial phlox, late autumn plantings are satisfactory. However, on my heavy, cold clay soil, new cuttings or small plants brought from a garden centre or delphiniums grown from seed, are better left until spring arrives so that they don't have tender root systems trying to survive our miserable winters.

Remove summer bedding plants in time to plant the spring bedding flowers, (Sweet

William, Wallflowers, Pansies etc), and have them established before the bad weather comes. Wherever possible use discarded plant material to build up the compost heap. This also includes fallen leaves. If short of compost space put the leaves in a dust-bin plastic bag, make a few holes up the sides of the bag, put in two or three spadefulls of soil, and let the bacteria in the soil get to work on the leaves in the bag. Now is the time to really come to terms with your lawn. You will never get a good lawn with bad drainage. Now is the time to remedy defective drainage — if necessary lay new drains. Aerate, scarify, hollow time and treat established lawns with autumn feeding. If the need arises now is also the time to treat the lawn against earthworms. That may all sound like long, hard work, but two hours treatment now, will eliminate far more work next year.

Do you want to improve the quality of your apples and/or cherries? Simply apply a band of vegetable grease (or buy proprietary greasebands) to the fruit tree trunks now, to catch the wingless female moths which climb up the trees in winter to lay their eggs on twigs or fruit spurs so that little

worms can hatch just in time to invade your developing fruit next year. Why not buy your tar oil (or similar) spray for fruit trees and roses now, then when an unexpected clear sunny day arrives in the winter months, you will be free to go ahead with the winter spraying.

If not already planted, daffodils should go into the soil immediately. Don't use manure or general fertiliser as the winter rains will wash the nutrients away. Use bonemeal which is a slow release nutrient that will still be active next spring, Tulips and Hyacinths and many of the smaller bulbs, should be planted during October and November.

It's worth taking a few minutes to jot down the successes and failures in the garden this year. It will help enormously when the seed catalogues come tumbling through the letter-box and you settle down to that armchair gardening in mid-winter.

CLAYFINGERS

COMMUNITY CAFÉ



Joseph and Rachel Samuel, William Beedle, Daphne and George Sivertidis, back row. Emily Barrow, Oliver Sharpe, middle, and Nicholas Beedle, front.



Stuart Gray and Geoffrey Beedle deep in conversation.

The 'Community Cafe' took place on Friday 2nd September on the front green in Temple Fortune Hill. Eight children were involved, they organised and ran the event themselves. They planned the menus, bought the food, cooked the cakes and biscuits and invited some local neighbours and friends to come. All the proceeds, a total of £43.39, went to the Sudan Emergency Fund, via the Midland Bank in Temple Fortune.

William and Nicholas Beedle were the hosts of the cafe and their kitchen at Temple Fortune Hill was the centre of operations! Waiters, waitresses and customers all had a great time. The children, aged between five and 13 years, were William and Nicholas Beedle, Daphne and George Sivertidis, Rachel and Joseph Samuel, Emily Barrow and Oliver Sharpe.

'It was wonderful seeing the communal green being used for a community event.' RB

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

The Art and Architecture of London: An illustrated guide by Suburb resident Ann Saunders, first published in 1984, appeared in a revised, extremely handsome, paperback edition in April of this year (Phaidon: Oxford, £12.95). The book was hailed by critics as 'informative, unstuffy and totally reliable', 'unlikely to be soon surpassed', 'useful and stimulating', endorsed by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, and very soon sold 10,000 copies. It is a cornucopia for the lover of London, its art and architectural treasures. Written with scholarship and affection, it reflects Ann Saunders' knowledge of, enthusiasm for and dedication to her subject.

Ann has written 'ever since before I could write'. **The Art and Architecture of London** follows other publications including **Regents Park from 1086 to the Present** (Bedford College, 1969) and the rewriting of two volumes of Arthur Mee's **London**. From the earliest age she had a mania for buildings and London has always been her 'thing': a history graduate of University College London, Ann's initiation into the history of the city and its architecture really began during her seven years as Archivist at the St. Marylebone Public Library. Today she is President of the Camden Historical Society and of the St. Marylebone Society, Editor of the London Topographical Society and of the Costume Society, and, in addition, lecturer on the history of London at Richmond College and the City University. Last, but not least, Ann Saunders is on the Suburb Archive Trust: her connections with the Suburb date back to 1935 and schooldays at Henrietta Barnett.

The Art and Architecture of London represents many years of

research and writing. In 480 pages, generously illustrated, it covers the City, Westminster, 'North of the River' and 'South of the River', in four separate sections. Each section comprises chapters which are in the form of itineraries, for example, 'London Bridge and Riverside' takes the reader on short excursions west of the Bridge, past the Tallow Chandlers, Skinners and Innholders Halls to Southwark Bridge, and east past Monument, Billingsgate and Custom House to Allhallows, Barking. Buildings, sites and points of interest are described and sketch maps clearly show locations. 'North of the River' will take you on a gander around Barnet, with a substantial pause at Hampstead Garden Suburb — according to Ann, 'the most satisfying, both architecturally and socially, of all London's early twentieth-century developments'.

The book may be too large for your handbag or pocket, but you can always read a chapter and then set off on a tour of discovery of the delights of London! EC



LETTERS

22 September 1988

Dear Sir,

I was delighted with the response to my letter in the last issue of 'Suburb News' concerning litter on the Suburb and suggesting that caring residents might establish 'Litter Free Zones'. A number of people wrote offering direct help or expressing general support, including one well wisher in

Worthing who was born in one of the first houses to be built in Willifield Way.

If there are still others who would like to join our small team and offer practical help I would, of course, be delighted to hear from them.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Loyd

12 Meadway London NW11 7JS

Karen Leach



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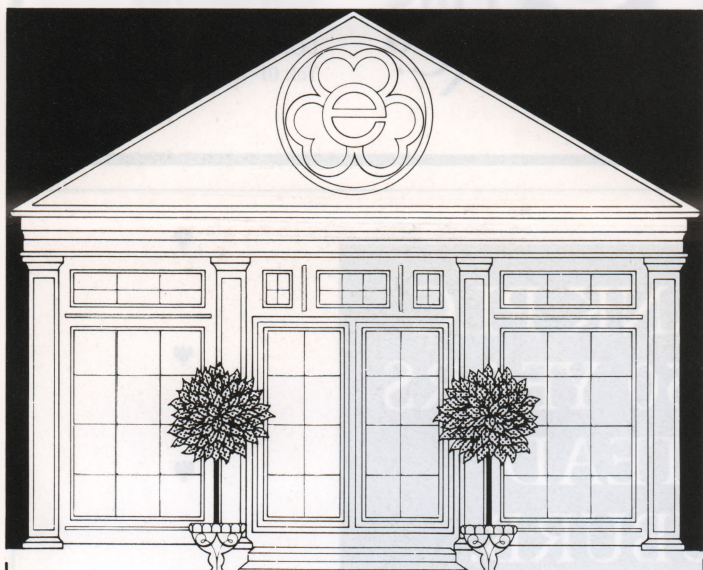
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