

GARDENING ON THE SUBURB

After many years of trying to grow plants that look so wonderful in books and magazines only to watch them shrivel and die before my eyes, I have now discovered how to save money and avoid disappointment.

This is just to stroll around the Suburb—we really do live in such a beautiful area, and as well as getting exercise you can see what grows well in our “difficult” soil. So many gardens have examples that we can follow. People are only too happy to tell you the name or type of plant and how it “does”! Just peep over the hedges! One garden which springs to mind is number 144 Hampstead Way. There is always something to see, a truly delightful garden. Don’t forget that you can also visit gardens advertised in Gardens of England and Wales Open for Charity 1997 price £3.50p. But best of all is the London Supplement at 30p and people, hopefully, will be opening their gardens on the Suburb Weekend June 21st–22nd.

When planning your garden try to have a flowering shrub every month, backed up by perennials and then a little summer bedding. You will then have constant colour and, once established, a low maintenance garden. (Bliss!)

Having established which plants and shrubs grow well, why not try for the best species of its type? Take Forsythia for example, some are quite leggy and spindly yet others are a vibrant yellow with flowers thickly crammed on the branches, quite breathtaking to see after a long winter and one of the first to peep into Spring. Forsythia Spectabilis is a good choice.

Mahonia “Charity”, a tall elegant plant with long racemes of yellow flowers is quite an architectural plant and if allowed to grow tall, makes a very good back drop in the garden. Spirea Arguta (Bridal Wreath) a cloud of white froth and then the Magnolias. They certainly do well around here and a stroll around at the end of a frost free March confirmed this. Magnolia Stellata, is a dwarf form and will fit in the smallest of Suburb, gardens!

Let’s not forget the perfumed shrubs such as Daphne Mezereum and the delightful Daphne Odora Marginata, which is outside the Health Centre in Temple Fortune Lane.

It is very fashionable to colour co-ordinate your garden (a bit like Jaeger!) and the results can be quite amazing. I have planted Acorus gramineus “Ogon” in a tub. This is one of the fashionable grasses, it looks rather like a Beatles hair cut but in lime green and placed next to my tub of deep blue pansies, the affect was stunning!

Wisley are promoting a range of Salvias which have been so popular for many years with gardeners, “Cambridge Blue” springs to mind, but last year, on one of my many trips to Wisley, I saw Salvia farinacea “Victoria”, a deep deep blue used as summer bedding. I was so impressed that I now have the seedlings coming on in my greenhouse and if they look half as good as they did at Wisley I shall be a happy bunny!

Take advantage of the warm days and get on with the boring task of weeding. Once it is done, treat yourself to a few sacks of mulch and this will slow down

the growth of weeds, retain moisture, give your garden the professional touch and will improve your soil consistency. When fresh weeds dare to appear, they can be removed with greater ease as they are not stuck in clay soil!

I do have a telephone number (should anyone want it), of a man who will come and cover the required area with well rotted horse manure. I did this last summer and it was well worth the investment.

As we approach May, June and July most of the hard work should have been done. Trim your lawns, but not too short because if we are in for a hot dry summer they won’t scorch quite so badly if the grass is a little on the long side.

I always stroll around my garden first thing in the morning with my cup of tea and look to see how things are behaving! If something looks to be in the wrong place, make a note and in the autumn you can move things around, just like rearranging the furniture.

It is approaching the time for planting tubs and containers. Do use a good compost but something with not too much peat—I find that this dries out too quickly and it is almost impossible to give it a really good soak. I am using an all purpose mix from the garden centre and then add John Innes No.3, I find that this gives it a bit more bulk and retains the moisture.

When planting up, use Osmocote granules as a food source thereby eliminating the use of a liquid feed as the granules will last throughout the summer.

I am using containers more and more in my garden. When something in the border is past its best, I replace it with a container and have instant colour when and where I want it.

Container gardening is a way forward and with our rainfall becoming less each year we will no longer be able to water with sprinklers and hoses, but a watering can for a few tubs is quite acceptable.

Containers are fun to work with and less back challenging. Garden centres offer many ideas for summer bedding. I am going to use trailing Petunias “Surphina” in a container, and Bacopa “Snow-flake” is another must. Why not try Butterfly Gladiolus—they are so attractive and don’t require staking, unlike their larger brothers and sisters. Please make sure that you water your tubs regularly and also water and feed spring bulbs with food high in potassium once they have died down, as this will help to plump them up for next year.

Now you can sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of your labour. I am off to Giverny next month, hopefully to come back with a few ideas and tips. If Monet can do it so can we!! Good gardening.

Diane Berger

Diana JAMES not Jones is the author of *The Story of Mazawattee Tea* which was reviewed in the Spring issue. The book is obtainable at the Suburb Gallery, and Josephs Bookstore, 2 Ashbourne Parade. The ISBN number is 185 821 458 X.

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

Winter 1997 competition on English Seaside Resorts
The names of the fifteen towns hidden in the box were:

Bexhill	Clacton	Morecambe
Blackpool	Eastbourne	Scarborough
Bognor Regis	Hastings	Skegness
Bournemouth	Lowestoft	Torquay
Brighton	Margate	Worthing

This was a very well subscribed competition. In fact, it was the most popular to date. Perhaps it was easier than previous wordsearches? Three quarters of the entries were correct, the incorrect ones had only minor errors. One correct entry, hand delivered on 12th February, did not have an identifying name and address. Thank you to everyone.

Elizabeth Watkins

WORDSEARCH

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF
POLITICAL LEADERS

Find and ring the names of 12 Labour Party Leaders this century. The names are hidden in the box of letters and may read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally.

N	M	A	O	F	G	X	H	S	B	V	S
D	A	C	M	D	C	L	Y	N	E	S	V
E	C	H	B	F	A	S	R	B	J	N	K
V	D	N	G	Y	N	A	U	S	A	C	J
T	O	O	F	A	A	Z	B	D	O	K	O
X	N	S	A	M	L	S	S	N	R	N	B
T	A	R	A	T	W	L	N	I	S	F	B
L	L	E	K	S	T	I	A	G	Q	D	E
X	D	D	C	M	K	L	L	C	R	Y	Z
O	Z	N	Y	I	B	T	E	S	F	U	K
S	T	E	L	T	F	N	P	E	O	Y	G
X	C	H	M	H	E	C	W	N	Y	N	R

If you are a senior citizen, you may list the answers on a postcard with your name, address and telephone number and post to: 35 Wildwood Road. The first correct entry drawn on the closing date, 20th June 1997, will receive a £20 Book Token. To help you on your way, we have given you the first answer.

Happy Hunting!

Elizabeth Watkins



Music from Japan [using a Koto]
Masami Fukuda and Mikiko Takahashi



Old Time Music Hall from Christine Fleming, Erica Eisenberg, Fiona Coote, Diane Lewis

An International Spectacular Musical Evening

On Saturday 1st March talent from all over the world was witnessed in the hall of the Garden Suburb Infant and Junior schools. Parents, staff and friends of the schools enjoyed the marvellous event organised by the P.T.A.

Musical and dance contribu-

tions came from India, Italy, England, Israel, Africa, Japan, and Persia.

The evening was made complete with the delicious samples of International food prepared by our school community.

BRILL ■ OWEN
CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

For a sensitive and sympathetic approach to Architecture and Interior design we offer a full or partial service to suit your requirements.

NICHOLAS BRILL M. SC. DIP. ARCH. RIBA MBIM
ASSISTANT TRUST ARCHITECT 1987-88

42 NEW OXFORD STREET • BLOOMSBURY
LONDON WC1A 1EP • TELEPHONE 0171-580 5747
FAX 0171-580 5626



ד"ר שמואל זק

A MODERN JUDAISM
“RESPONDING TO CHANGE
BUT ROOTED IN TRADITION”

is offered by

THE NORTH WESTERN
REFORM SYNAGOGUE

Alyth Gardens
Finchley Road, NW11

‘Alyth’ is a friendly community. It offers a first class Religion School, beautiful services in Hebrew and English, total equality for men and women, study opportunities for all, welfare support in times of difficulty, a range of social activities for all ages.

Enquiries for more information
are especially welcome from
Jews with no synagogue affiliation,

For further information contact:
Community Director, Lynette Chazen
on 0181 455 6763

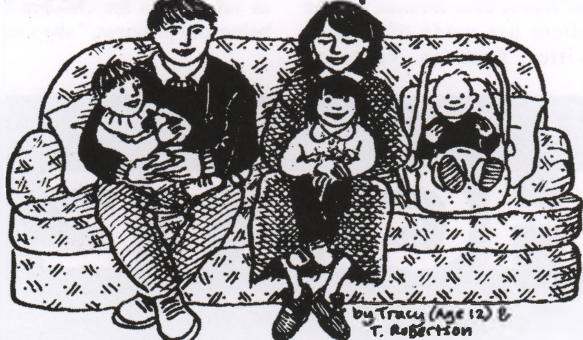


TEMPLE FORTUNE GARDEN CENTRE

Your Local Centre in
the Suburb for
Garden Goods and
Indoor Plants

788A Finchley Road, London NW11 7TJ
Telephone 0181 455 5363

Thanks to Respite Care



We all get a break...

Caring people are wanted to help Jewish families with children who have learning and/or physical disabilities.

By looking after a child for anything between an occasional few hours, an overnight stay, weekend or a few days during the school holidays, you can offer the parents a much needed break and the children an enjoyable change.

You can be from any type of Jewish background; single, married; working or not working – we’d like to hear from you. We need all kinds of Jewish people to help all kinds of Jewish children and families.

There will be training, support and payment for the care given.

If you can help please contact:

Gay Saunders, Norwood-Ravenswood Family Placement Service, Norwood House, Harmony Way, Off Victoria Road, Hendon, London NW4 2BZ.

Tel: 0181 203 3030

Charity Registration No. 105950

Norwood
Ravenswood