

Flaming June

Why do we use the expression Flaming June? I think we should change this particular phrase to Flaming, awful June. Yet more rain and highwinds and, yes, I did stake my Zantedeschias and Peonies etc. but I still had a certain amount of damage. The Zantedeschias were and still are fine but the particular Y stake support which I used for the peonies were too short and so my beautiful blooms were snapped off in their prime. Talking of peonies, do you remember me previously mentioning that I was going to move one, well I did and yes believe it or not it flowered, even though the world and his wife warned me against it. I always believe in giving it a go and on this occasion it paid off.

I did my usual annual trip to Chelsea this year and for me the plant of the show has to be Osteospermums. Vibrant purple and shocking pink mixed with pale lilac and white were used in many bedding arrangements and in containers. They really have been exceptionally good this year and I shall definitely use them in my tubs next year.

If any of you are members of the RHS and receive The Garden Magazine then you will probably remember an article in June this year. It was about a garden in East Rushton in Norfolk called *The Old Vicarage* and I was fortunate enough to visit it in June. A wonderful plantsmans garden and the layout was amazing. The structure in the planting and the use of the plant material was superb. Vistas through archways and windows cut in hedges to reveal another view, the whole thing was truly amazing. But then I cannot help thinking that if you throw money at something the end result should be pretty good or is that just me sounding bitter!

I wonder what the Trust would say if I cut porthole windows in my front hedge, do I dare!

I have been using my little book on gardens open for charity and one garden in particular is really worth a second or third visit. It is No 37, Heath Drive NW3 and its open days are in May and July. I went in May on

a lovely sunny Sunday and one of the first things to greet us was a *Davidia Involucrata*, (the handkerchief tree). In all her glory. Another gem were huge clumps of black bamboo, shiny black canes at least 8-10ft high. Now that really is a plant with structure and has to go on top of my Christmas list. This garden is a joy to visit. Do take advantage of the gardening scheme, it really does open your eyes to other plants and ideas.

My grass garden has proved to be very successful and I am very happy with the overall effect. Alan Titchmarsh hasn't showed us his again has he! Well you cannot win them all Alan. Now August is upon us that doesn't mean you can slack, keep removing weeds and wizz over the hedges.

If growing chrysanthemums (and someone has to) disbud if you want good blooms and apply high potash feeds. Actually I stroll around my garden and throw growmore granules over everything. Its not necessary to crawl around feeding the plants individually just stand back and throw and the joy of growmore is that you can see where it lands. I am not sure if this should be done at a specific time but I do it when I remember and it seems to do the trick, better than not at all, that is what I say. It's also time to do some pruning on deciduous shrubs if they are getting too large. It's quite amazing how much growth they can put on especially with a combination of rain and sunshine. Autumn Crocus and Colchicums can be planted now, don't confuse the two as they are quite different but they will both flower in the next few months.

September is bulb planting time except for Tulips which should be planted in October or November. Last year I planted a deep blue ceramic tub with two layers of Muscari (grape hyacinth) when they flowered it was beautiful as it was so densely planted. I am only sorry I didn't take a photograph, you will just have to believe me.

I have decided to grow bulbs with smaller, finer leaves. My Daffodills are beautiful but



the huge amount of foliage they produce takes for ever to die down so I am swapping them for Narcissus.

At the Spring Flower Show in Victoria I spotted two little beauties and I suggest you give them a go, *Narcissus Hawera* and *Narcissus Minnow*, very delicate with strong perfume and after flowering the foliage is hardly noticed. It is possible to still have colour in the garden in September. *Rudbeckias* and *Asters* are in full swing and *Schizostylis* are very happy at this time especially in a damp situation. Many clematis flower at this time and clematis 'Lasurstern' will be giving a second flush of flowers now.

I am still going to concentrate on perfume in the garden and treat myself to a *Trachelospermum Jasminoides*. This is an evergreen woody climber with a very fragrant perfume and will go very nicely with my *Sarcococca Confusa*, eat your heart out Estee Lauder!

I shall buy these plants at Wisley as they tend to keep the best species in stock and they also guarantee their shrubs for 2 years, not bad eh!

If you need ideas on what flowers at which time, there is a very good book available which I picked up in Tesco's for £5. It's called 'The Gardening Year' by Lance Hattatt. It's full of lovely pictures telling you what is in flower each month of the year and so gives you ideas for colour all year round.

Have you noticed how lovely the grass verges on the motorways have looked this year. Mile after mile of poppies and oxeye daisies and on the A1. I noticed many wild roses in massive clumps I wish local boroughs would do more to promote this or maybe we should scatter seeds as we drive along on our merry way just like Jonny Appleseed.

Good Garden.

DIANE BERGER

Summer and Autumn shows at the Gallery

The Garden Suburb Gallery has completed its third year during which time even more pictures by Suburb artists have been bought by Suburb residents and our artists have been kept busy with many commissions to paint your houses.

The Gallery is run by the Residents Association and manned entirely by volunteers, but needs some new people to join the team who are willing to spend a regular morning or afternoon once or twice a week in very pleasant surroundings. If you would like to help please call Gerlinde Bates on 201 8366.

Summer Show

An exhibition featuring the work of all the Gallery artists plus new ceramics, gorgeous silk scarves and other items that will make tempting presents to celebrate the summer.

Roger Scopes Exhibition

From mid September a one man exhibition of work by Roger Scopes whose watercolours so delicately catch the sunlight on trees and buildings of the Suburb. Those shown below have been sold, prints are available,

but a wide range of work will be on show, and not just pictures of the Suburb, from Roger Scopes who lives in Grey Close.

Up to the festive season

Chloe Hilary Gear, whose work has been a mainstay of the Gallery since we started, is mounting a long overdue show which opens November 7. Chloe's wonderful etchings sell in a number of galleries and her cards will be familiar to those who shop anywhere that sells good cards where they probably ask more than the Gallery's modest £1.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD



Consam update

CONSAM, the Conservation and Amenities Committee of HGS Residents Association has split up responsibility for different issues between its members writes Consam Chairman David Lewis.

We're mainly concerned with making sure that planning rules

aren't breached and that the regulators don't become too relaxed about their work. But as well as conservation, we also cover amenities.

So if you get no joy with the authorities (complaints to Barnet on almost everything should first be made to 359 4600), try us.

At the RA Annual General Meeting in March, former RA Chairman Eileen Wheelan kicked up a fuss about litter, pollution of Mutton Brook and supermarket trolleys. Well, Eileen, if after phoning 359 4600 a dozen times with your complaints, if Barnet doesn't respond, let us know and we'll see what we can do. (Incidentally rivers - Mutton Brook is a river - are covered by the Trees and Open Spaces Committee so its that committee's help you should be seeking on that subject). Well here we go:

Planning infringements are collated by Michael Rowley. He makes a list each month and takes them up with the relevant planning authority. If you see any change to a house, a hedge, a fence or anything else which you think shouldn't be there and possibly hasn't got permission, contact Michael. He is at 45 Denman Drive North, London NW11 6RD (458 2507).

If you see a satellite dish from the Street in the Suburb, you shouldn't have, because those with permission are supposed to be invisible. Phone HGS Trust on 455 1066 or 458

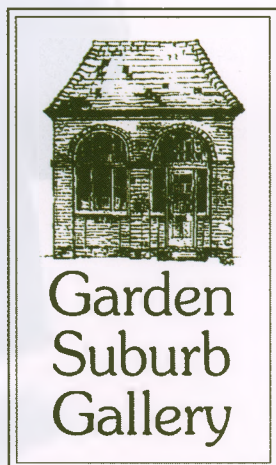
8085. Samantha Rosenfeld has recently drawn up a list of possible dish infringements and these will be sent to the HGS Trust.

Litter - including broken glass and overflowing litter bins, phone Barnet on 359 4600 to complain. If that fails ask Denis Ross (458 1352) to intervene. Escaped trolleys are more difficult. Report

them to the culprits which in Temple Fortune are generally Marks & Spencer (905 5636) or Waitrose(458 6645). Mervyn Unger is our trolley man on 458 1013 if all else fails.

Graffiti is awful - and there seems to have been a spate of it lately. If you see anyone doing it, dial 999. Otherwise our local trolleys are more difficult. Report

(continued page 10)



The Gallery, which is run by Residents Association volunteers and supported by the HGS Trust, sells Suburb books, maps, cards and the work of more than thirty local artists. Browsers are welcome.

The Garden Suburb Gallery

at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way
10 - 1 and 2 - 5 Monday - Saturday 0181 455 7410