



Temple Fortune Hill garden. Jennie Dunn

It would seem to be no coincidence that since Jennie Dunn came to live on the Suburb, she has become addicted to painting, in particular in oils, but also in pastels, mixed media and anything which comes to hand. In 'Tea for Two' (left), "I chose oils for the vibrancy of the different greens in my back garden and the contrasts in light and shade on a sunny afternoon".

Her favourite subjects are either straight from nature - seascapes, landscapes, gardens and flowers, or boats, water or still-life. She frequently paints in Scotland particularly on the east coast (her father's family came from the Isle of Skye) and she herself obtained an MA from St. Andrews University.

She thinks her love of painting still-life stems from her

Shows for Suburb artist

love of interiors ("which has become heightened since moving to my home here") and of contrast, whether of shape and form or of colours. Now her two children are adults (they both live thereby), she lives with her husband, dog and two kittens in an Arts and Crafts house "which is full of light streaming in from its brilliantly clever design - there are no solid doors - each one has glazing allowing light to pour straight through from front to back".

She is addicted to colour and thinks this comes from her love of Scottish Colourist tradition. "I greatly admire their use of pattern and simplification of subjects to create stunning vibrant canvases. I myself respond very strongly to colour and am fascinated by the way it

affects mood and feelings".

She writes regularly on the subject of colour in oil painting for an art magazine and, very recently, for a book to be published next year. She has

now been selected to exhibit at Burgh House from 3rd - 16th February 1999. From Feb 17 the Garden Suburb Gallery will be devoted to her work, some of which is always on view.



Bigwood. Jennie Dunn



Tara Francis, Henry Walker, David Gregson and Eleanor Ryle rehearse for the St Jude's Christmas Eve nativity play. Report page 5.

Time to re-arrange your garden?

Was it just me or did anyone else notice how fabulous the autumn colours were last year, and they seemed to last for so long. Very few of us have gardens large enough to accommodate a tree for autumn colour only, but we are fortunate enough to live in a beautiful area where trees are both diverse and plentiful.

There was the most beautiful liquid amber on the Orchard and every day the colour change was really breath taking but for the rest of the year I must confess it looks like another old green tree!

Silver birches were also stunning, apart from the wonderful white trunks and branches, the small ovate leaves had turned to the colour of 22ct gold (I never was a 9ct woman!).

Acers are also famous for autumn colour and one of the most popular is Acer Palmatum Dissectum but I have never had much joy, the leaves would always shrivel and scorch and so I gave up that idea. I know only too well they are susceptible to wind damage and my garden is just too exposed. The funny thing is, I have a girlfriend who knows as much about gardening as open heart surgery and she has the most amazing example in her garden, its always the way isn't it!

I am a great believer in value for money and a plant I saw in Hampstead fitted the bill. It was Solanum Jasminoides 'Album' and it has scrambled 20 - 30ft up the side of a house. Small slender evergreen leaves

and clusters of white flowers from June - November, now that's good value. I have planted one at the base of rather a dreary tree and in just a few months it climbed a full 10 feet into the branches.

Those who took note last year and planted 'Sarcococa Confusa' and 'Lonicera Fragrantissima' are now basking in the heady perfume of these shrubs and those of you who didn't have missed out. Luckily nowadays we have most things available in containers and if you can't find them, ask the man at Finchley Nurseries he will always order for you if it is not in stock.

If the weather permits, pop outside and check all stakes and supports and tall shrubs for wind damage. We have had terrible gales and I am sure there will be more.

Now is the time to move plants and re-arrange the garden. Have a good look and see if you can improve yours maybe by changing the shape of the lawn or creating a vista. It's much easier to do this when the garden is bare. Try looking at the garden from an upstairs room, this gives a different perspective.

Height is something we overlook, treat yourself to a small tree and this is the ideal time for planting provided the soil isn't frozen solid. Browse through books and come up with some new ideas or maybe plan a new colour theme to your garden.

There are so many gardening programmes on the television,

which illustrate this so well. Try to imagine what Diarmuid Gavin would do if he were let loose in your garden. The first thing would probably be a total colour-wash on anything that didn't move. Although some of these programmes can be quite outrageous you can always pinch a few of the less dramatic ideas. I suppose I should tell you to keep raking leaves and getting ready for spring but I am sure you don't need me to tell you that.

March and April are the months for lifting and dividing perennials, protecting new shoots from slugs (nightmare!!) and to keep on weeding, don't forget to mulch and by doing so eliminate weeding in later months.

I thought I would try summer flowering bulbs this year. I must confess this only occurred to me as 'Bloms' catalogue has just plopped through my door. After a quick browse I decided on Lilies. I have had lily beetle in the past but I am quite prepared to try again. If I grow them in pots I can keep a closer eye on them.

Last year I grew Gladiolus Callianthus also called Acidanthera Murielae. They were so beautiful, tall like a gladiola but slim, delicate white flowers with a dark centre and perfumed. I will have more of these and last but not least a calla lily in an amazing black with spotted foliage. Calla Schwarzwalder, sounds quite outrageous but only time will tell.

Good gardening.

DIANE BERGER

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News, pictures, articles and letters are welcomed by the Editor, 26 Hampstead Way, NW11 7JL. Deadline for the Spring issue is March 12 for publication April 24. Views expressed in Suburb News are those of the authors and not necessarily of the publishers, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.

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