



The judges declared themselves impressed with the quality and quantity of entries for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's Autumn flower show where, among many other winners there were first prizes for (above) Diane Berger, Marjorie Harris, Diana Iwi and Chris Page and, in the right hand picture, Barbara and Arthur Kogut and Anne Crawley show off their prizes too



## Gallery - new shows

The Garden Suburb Gallery has some exciting new shows this Autumn and Winter. Starting this week with an exhibition by Monica Winner whose landscapes in oils will be showing until 25 November. Monica's work has been in Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions and the Royal Institute of Oil Painters, Mall Gallery. It is in the Ben Uri permanent collection.

In 'Large visions - small paintings' the exhibition shows very small oil paintings which are Monica's most recent medium for the expression of her feelings about the local landscape as well as an affectionate look at bathers of all shapes and sizes at the seaside.

After that we are mounting the first photographic exhibition showing the amazing work of Daniella Baron-Cohen who despite, as she says, 'having little technical know-how' produces beautiful still life studies of natural subjects. She loves walking

round the Suburb and the heath on frosty mornings looking for subjects for her camera. Combined with Daniella's photographs we will be showing more of the work of the Suburb's ceramic sculptor Sheila Seepersaud Jones whose bowls, dishes, jugs and teapots are "functional pieces that can also be read in two-dimensions as abstract paintings."

In December a show of Jennie Dunn's vibrant paintings will include some Suburb subjects but are largely the colourful compositions that have been so well received by London galleries. "She uses oils in a painterly way, loving bright 'life affirming' colours."

All these shows and the Christmas exhibition of work by all the Gallery artists are opportunities for gift buying as are the selection of books cards and ceramics always at the Gallery at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way.



Monica Winner's small oils at the Gallery 'til 23 November

Nature in close up  
by Daniella Baron-Cohen



The Suburb, Jennie Dunn's 'life affirming colours'

## My garden success and failures

I thought I would share with you my success and failures over the last season. My hot border has been quite beautiful for months. This can only be down to the variety of plants. I know that Helenium Moorheim Beauty is used everywhere but for me the star has to be Helenium Sahins Early. This has been flowering from June and, at this moment (late September), is still a mass of flowers and a firm favourite with the bees.

Crocsmia is another success in the garden. I, of course, have Lucifer but my favourite is Crocsmia Masoniorum. Firm upright foliage, the flowers are tightly packed giving far more impact than Lucifer.

I have parted company with a couple of Kniphofias (red hot poker) - far too much foliage and not enough poker for my liking. I also didn't realise that they were like caviar to the slugs - that doesn't suit me at all! My border is also interspersed with Stipa Arundinacea, a grass that survived the snow in winter and still looks great. The one thing I didn't realise is that it sets seed everywhere - I think I spotted some in Golders Green the other day! I will certainly be lifting and thinning it over the next month using it for its colours of green copper and gold.

I think that Cirsium rivulare 'atropurpureum' deserves a mention. The red thistle started

flowering in June and is still in flower, the only problem again being the foliage. Slightly overpowering, I have decided to move it nearer the back of the border as it is tall enough to cope - another plant that encourages bees and other fat furry things.

Another gem to flower for the first time was my Eucryphia. I purchased it five years ago as a 3ft stick from Great Dixter. It is now a slender little tree around six feet, rich dark evergreen foliage and a mass of cream flowers (not unlike philadelphus). I cannot believe I was so patient.

I had remembered to remove the flower heads on the Phlox earlier in the season as advised by good old Stephen and it really paid off. Great fat heads of flowers for months.

My major failures...I still have had no luck with the seeds of Rudbeckia Cherokee Sunset. I really do not know where I am going wrong. Maybe I am just simply lousy at seeds or perhaps just too impatient. If I gave them to a Good Samaritan they could do it for me. A friend gave me some plants which she had grown from seed (Cleome). They are a beautiful pale mauve, white and pink with a very interesting leaf; mixed in with the Phlox and verbenas they worked really well. I have collected the seed but am not really sure why!

I am busy planning trips for the Horticultural Society next year

and, for a change, am going to arrange a trip in February but only with your help. A snowdrop extravaganza - a visit to Bennington Lordship in the morning (yes I know it will probably be cold but to see the garden dripping in snowdrops and also to be able to purchase in the green makes it worthwhile), followed by lunch at a local inn and then on to see the snowdrops at Hatfield House. These gardens are only open for a few days. The trip will be on the 15 February, the cost about £16 (If you are a member of the RHS, please deduct £3 as Bennington is free to members but you must bring your card). As it is winter, the trip will be from 10.30am to 4pm. Please call me on 8455 0455 if you are interested, if not, I will be going on my own!

I hope you have stuffed your pots with tulips and hyacinths, covered with mesh to stop the tree rats scratching them out with their bony fingers. Winter pansies are a great aid, particularly if the tulips are planted underneath, greatly extending the season. I have noticed trays of wallflowers for sale at Finchley Nurseries. They look so much better than those poor miserable bundles held together with rubber bands, stuffed in buckets and still looking lousy when planted out - I'll be going for the ones in trays.

Happy Christmas and good gardening.

DIANE BERGER

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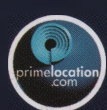
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## Rain, what rain?

Perhaps nobody was expecting a comment on rainfall this quarter. After all, the total of 3 ins in three months invites the response of 'rain, what rain?' There has, indeed, been a drought. This year's figure is less than half the average for the period, which is 6 1/4 ins. The previous lowest total is 4 ins. However, the drought is much worse than that. Every month since January has had well below expected rainfall, with four of the

months having less than half the average. This has resulted in a total of 13 1/4 ins for the year to September, compared with a mean of 21 ins.

At the beginning of the year, the heavy total of 2002 meant the drier weather was welcome. Plants flourished and the sunshine was wonderful. In August, the temperature reached 98 F (although this figure does not claim the accuracy expected of proper

records). By late summer, however, the heat wave, while in many ways thoroughly enjoyable, had reinforced the lack of rain to make parts of the garden that have not been watered, or watered enough, look thoroughly miserable. One dry summer does not make a pattern, but it is what we have been warned is likely to become much more common as global warming intensifies.

DIANA IWI

News, pictures, articles and letters are welcomed by the Editor, 26 Hampstead Way, NW11 7JL. Deadline for the Winter issue is 15 December for publication 24 January. 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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