

Prizes for everyone

The wind and rain stopped, the sun came out and the temperature rose for a few hours to smile on Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's 273rd flower show at the Free Church Hall, Northway, on Saturday 9 June. As well as all the usual sights and scents of a traditional flower show, excitement mounted as the growing crowd assembled to watch society Hon President Jonathan Ross judge the children's fancy dress and the adults' mad hats competitions in the garden. Dressed as assorted fruits, flowers and vegetables, or combinations

of all three, 24 toddlers and older children paraded in costumes varying from a water melon, carrots, a snowdrop, lettuce, baby sweetcorn, a King Edward potato and many many more. Jonathan Ross, with one of his dogs, was so impressed by all the competitors that he was unable to choose 1st, 2nd or 3rd and awarded prizes to everyone. The atmosphere was electric and cameras snapped his every move. When it came to the adults, just as they were all lining up for judgement, the most amazing hat, laden with flowers and fruit

and cooled by (quickly melting) ice, appeared at the gate and bowled everyone over. Two, including a hat worn by Janet Towers (pictured) and another by Barbara Kogut, were chosen as joint first prizewinners, and the chaos and excitement subsided as Jonathan left to walk his dog home, and the onlookers melted indoors to look at the show, buy plants from the two specialist plant nurseries selling their wares or to find the home-made cakes and tea in the small hall.

MARJORIE HARRIS



Suburb library makes history



Hetty Colchester gets the joke...



...whilst Jonathan Seres does the serious business

Suburb in Bloom winners

The Horticultural Society has released the results of the judging in its 2012 Suburb in Bloom best gardens competition, which took place on 17 July. Open to residents of Garden Suburb Ward, Highgate judge Sue Whittington allocated first prize to Diane Berger of Willifield Way for her 'lovely garden... an exciting and inspiring garden to visit', second prize to Marjorie Harris of Erskine Hill ('a garden full of

charm... a very pretty garden') and third prize to Leanne Newman of Hill Close ('simple and calm... creates a very pleasant and restful atmosphere.'). Diane Berger will be presented with the society's Millennium Cup at its AGM in November and she and the others will also receive garden vouchers. By coincidence, all three of the prizewinners have opened their gardens this year in aid of the National Gardens

Scheme (yellow book) and Diane and Marjorie (below) also opened theirs in aid of the Mayor of Barnet's charities.



Enjoy the rain!

The last Suburb News rainfall report was all about drought and how we desperately needed a repeat of last year's wet rain summer. By now, boy, have we had what was prayed for! The pious hope that it would not impact too badly on the Diamond Jubilee was dashed, but the British were, after all, given the chance to show how marvellously they put up with, or enjoy, the rain. As usual, the actual figures show that nationwide assertions that 'the country' is experiencing the wettest/driest, warmest/coldest period since goodness knows when are not necessarily true for every location. The wettest April on record didn't happen in the Suburb, because 0.8 of an inch fell after midnight on

April 30 and therefore had to be included in May's total. So the amount of 4.89 inches was less than the 5.57 in 2000 or the 5.18 in 1998. This also meant that May's total of 2.1 inches was only a little below average, rather than a lot. It is, of course, extremely rare that the exact timing of such a considerable amount of rain makes such a difference when writing about monthly figures. Fortunately such extreme devotion to duty (by looking out of the window at midnight!) is therefore not normally necessary. Also, fortunately for our excitement over excesses, June in the Suburb was similar to much of the rest of the country. The 5.65 inches recorded really was greater than the next wettest month of June 1997 when 5.58 inches were recorded; the average for the month is 2.59 inches. There were also two days, June 3 (the day of the Diamond Jubilee) and June 10 when over

an inch fell in 24 hours, a fairly unusual occurrence. The other publicised record of the wettest three monthly total since records began was also true of the Suburb. This year's figure of 12.64 inches was higher than the 11.64 inches of 1998 or the 10.59 inches of 2000. If a rather longer period of the winter and the summer so far (October to June) is considered, recent months have not been so wildly unusual. The average is around 23 inches while the recent October to June total was 21.2 inches. At the time of writing, four days into July, we have already had nearly an inch of water to add to that already in the ground, so perhaps it would be good to hanker a slightly drier, warmer month or two? On the other hand, after the spring writing perhaps this column ought not to wish for something that might not quite produce the desired for result!

DIANA IWI



Parky joins library volunteers at the Proms Literary Festival



Getting them reading early



Jeremy Clynes, Mike Fahey and Jane Blackburn

berrys

landscaping
design
patios
planting
drives

020 8209 0194

maintenance
turfing
watering systems
fencing
lighting



www.berrysgardens.com

Caring for the Suburb for 20 years

P R HARTLEY

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
& REGISTERED AUDITOR
Accounting & Taxation Services**

Call **020 8731 9745** or **07850 634395**

Email paul@prhartley.co.uk

www.prhartley.co.uk

JOSHUA BERGER
CARPENTRY

For all your professional
carpentry needs

I specialise in all domestic and
commercial carpentry
to the highest possible standards
Professional decorating services
also managed with over 10 years
of excellence

Call now for a free quotation

07811 911 389

joshuabergercarpentry.com