



## Multiple prizes and royal approval

At a prizegiving ceremony held at the Guildhall on 3 October, the London Gardens Society presented Yvonne Oliver, of Asmunds Hill, with multiple prizes in its 'private members' gardens' category.

Yvonne was awarded a joint third bronze medal and certificate for her 'small front garden'. However, she swept the board for her 'small back garden', winning the first prize of a London Gardens Society cup, a gilt medal and certificate and the Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal awarded to the private member accumulating the most points in classes entered in the London Championship 2013. In the 'large back garden' category, Diane Berger and Marjorie Harris were awarded Highly Commended certificates.

The competition is open to gardeners throughout Greater London and Yvonne, Diane and Marjorie (all members of the HGS Horticultural Society) will open their gardens for the National Gardens Scheme in 2014.

At the Guildhall ceremony, in his welcome to the audience, Alderman Sir David Howard said, "Once again we were honoured to escort His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex on a tour of members' gardens. And what a wonderful display we saw. This year, in June, we visited Hampstead Garden Suburb... In parts of Hampstead Garden Suburb this developed into a safari, with HRH skilfully navigating a maze of back paths, known locally as twittens, between the gardens, and very evidently enjoying the expedition. Each of the spectacular gardens that we visited were all very different and unique in their own way. Just as spectacular was the enthusiasm and knowledge of the owners, as they explained the history of their garden, the planting schemes and the choice of flowers, shrubs and trees. It was all most impressive..." The three gardens Prince Edward visited on 11 June were those of Yvonne, Diane and Marjorie.

MARJORIE HARRIS

## Brownhill hosts private view

Suburb residents enjoyed a private view and drinks reception with Brownhill Insurance Group at the Fine Art Society in New Bond Street in September. Guests were given exclusive access to works by the Camden Town Group artist, Robert Bevan alongside Arts & Crafts items for sale.

The Brownhill event took place in the intimate setting of The Fine Art Society's first floor galleries. The exhibition presented work from the personal collection of Bobby and Natalie Bevan, which hung on the walls of their home, Boxed House in Essex. At the centre of the show was a group of paintings and exceptionally rare prints by Bobby's father Robert Bevan, which were for sale alongside

work by Augustus John, Harold Gilman, Edward McKnight Kauffer and Christopher Nevinston.

The Fine Art Society is one of the world's oldest art dealerships specialising in British art and design from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries and has traded from 148 New Bond Street since its foundation in 1876.

Gillian Henderson, Brownhill Director said, "we are pleased to be able to offer Suburb residents invitations to some of London's most prestigious art events. In 2013 we have also invited clients and friends to London Art Fair, Art 13, 20/21 British Art Fair and Masterpiece London and we were delighted to have been able to have organised this special event for our friends."

## Things to do in the garden this autumn

The nights are drawing in. Spiders' webs and seed heads shimmer in the early morning frost. It's time to prepare the garden for the long winter ahead.

Without all the froth of summer colour, garden structure is all-important, so make the most of your permanent planting. Now is an ideal time to reposition trees and shrubs and plant hedges. Remove, wash and store plant supports and clear up fallen leaves. After clearing away spent plant material, apply a mulch to the soil to insulate plant roots and suppress weed growth. If indoor storage space is unavailable, protect garden furniture with waterproof covers and fleece up tree ferns and other borderline hardy plants. Lift terracotta containers onto pot feet to stop water-logging and frost damage.

Climbing and rambling roses should be pruned and tied in now to prevent wind damage. It's also not a bad idea to prune shrub roses by about a third to prevent wind rock. Clear up fallen rose leaves to prevent black spot spores from over-wintering in the soil and don't add them to the compost heap.

Spare a thought for wild life in your garden over the coming season. Build a log pile as a shelter for insects and amphibians. It's not a good idea to light bonfires in case they are being inhabited by hedgehogs. Keep bird feeders well stocked and provide fresh water.

CAROLINE BROOME

Welcome to Caroline who has agreed to pen a regular column with advice for Suburb gardeners.



## 'The weather does lots of things...'

Rainfall this year has been very variable, as has the temperature. As regards the latter, first it was very cold being well below average for the first six months of the year, with the result that plants were well behind their normal growing, flowering or fruiting times.

As for the rainfall, in January the heavy rainfall of 2012 continued, but February was dry. March was wet, but April was dry. May was about normal, but in June the hosepipe had to come out. In June, July and August there were only 4.5 inches altogether, compared with an average of 7.3 inches. With our lovely heat wave in July, keeping plants happy became difficult. It was not until 13th September that the heavens opened again properly. It rained all day and

much of the night and by the morning there was over an inch and a half in the gauge. Another nearly half inch in the next few days meant no more worrying about watering.

Winds have been from an easterly direction more than usual this summer, helping to bring in the warmth from the continent. Having only the North Sea to cross, they are mostly dry winds. It is likely that we will soon be back to our prevailing Westerlies which will bring more rain. After all, October is on average the wettest month by a considerable margin. January and November are the next wettest followed by December. So more rain will fall, but we will not be seeing normal weather because that is not how weather works.

DIANA IWI

## Group coaching at Farm Walk Tennis Club

Farm Walk has group coaching available to non-members with their excellent coach. Two tennis sessions are held on Wednesday mornings, one for 'Rusty Rackets' and the other for tennis players of an intermediate standard.

The Rusty Rackets session runs from 9-10am and is on a play and pay basis. The Intermediate Course runs for 9 weeks during school terms, with the course being paid for in advance (you don't pay for rainy days).

Technique, drills, tactics and playing are covered in the sessions with lots of fun!

For further details please contact Lilla Brown (PTCA) on 07772 075694, 8202 9118 or lilla.brown1@gmail.com

The club now has floodlights installed offering members the chance to play until 9.30 pm all year round.

To become a member or to try it out free of charge, email farmwalktennis@googlegmail.com.

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## FHA – a Suburb charity

The Family Holiday Association was started in 1975 by Joan and Patrick Laurance in the spare room of their home in Hill Close. They both worked tirelessly for over 30 years to develop the charity and raise money for disadvantaged families to take a break from their often desperately difficult home lives.

Sadly Patrick died in 2008 but Joan still takes an active interest in the charity and attends local fundraising activities whenever possible. She still lives on the Suburb and is a well known member of the local community.

The FHA is the only national charity in the UK providing these much-needed breaks for families. Research undertaken by the charity has shown that the holidays matter and help to build happier and stronger families, which leads to a happier, healthier and positive society. The charity is working with politicians from all parties on the importance of holidays for families and society.

A simple holiday at the British seaside can make a real and lasting difference to both children and parents but the Family Holiday Association can only directly help a fraction of the millions who would benefit from a break.

According to government figures 2.2 million families, about 7 million children and parents, don't go on holiday each year because of poverty. Many cannot afford a day trip to the seaside never mind a simple holiday. This year the Family Holiday Association sent over 2,000 families on a break, usually to the seaside. Families are referred to the charity from various welfare sources such as social workers, GPs, and health visitors, as well as national charities such as Barnardos and NSPCC.

The North London Friends of the Family Holiday Association is one of 3 regional branches which organise fundraising events to supplement the fundraising activities of the national office.

The Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday November 16 is the main fundraising event for the North London Friends. The Fair will take place in the main hall of Henrietta Barnett School in Central Square from 11am-5pm. There will be over 30 stalls of unusual and affordable seasonal

gifts, including jewellery, candles, ceramics, natural skin products, scarves, hats, baskets, clothes and an independent book publisher. They are delighted that Jeremy Leach is bringing his pots from his Devon pottery to the Fair again this year. It is an ideal time to buy gifts which you would not normally see on the high street. There will be a cafe selling light refreshments as well as a cake stall, tombola and raffle.

The charity has come a long way from those early days when Joan and Patrick worked in their spare room in the Suburb – since then more than 150,000 parents and children have enjoyed a much needed break providing so many happy memories for the whole family.

More information on the Family Holiday Association can be found at [www.fhaonline.org.uk](http://www.fhaonline.org.uk).

If you would like to help with fundraising through the North London Friends of the Family Holiday Association please contact Sarah Robson, Chair, on 020 8883 0219 or [sarahrobson@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahrobson@hotmail.com).

## Christmas at St Jude's

**Sunday 22 December**

6pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve**

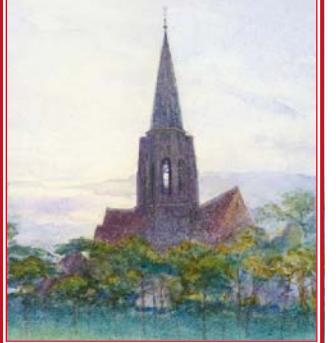
4pm: Children's Nativity Play  
11.30pm: Midnight Mass

**Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day**

8am: Mass of the Dawn  
1030am: Christmas Celebration followed by seasonal refreshments

All welcome

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