

GARDEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L

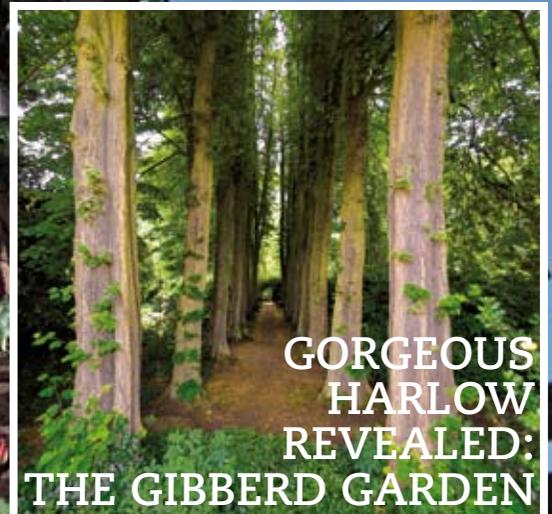
ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2008

The Essential Companion to the Garden and Outdoor Living in North London & Hertfordshire

ON THE ARBOUR • AT HATFIELD HOUSE • IN YOUR GARDEN

RENAISSANCE OF THE ROSE

*Unveiling Mysteries of
Light in your Garden*



GORGEOUS
HARLOW
REVEALED:
THE GIBBERD GARDEN

FREE ROSE CATALOGUE



David Austin's 120 page 'Handbook of Roses' contains over 800 varieties together with three new David Austin roses for 2008, and a selection of old roses, climbing roses, ramblers and modern roses. To receive your free copy, please call 01902 376300 quoting GC3 or request online at www.davidaustinroses.com



DAVID AUSTIN®
www.davidaustinroses.com

GARDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

187A LANARK ROAD • MAIDA VALE • LONDON W9 1NX

t 0845 456 4176

e info@gardenconfidential.co.uk

w gardenconfidential.co.uk

EDITORIAL

EDITOR

Melanie Wand

e editor@gardenconfidential.co.uk

ADVERTISING

DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED

t 0845 456 4176

e sales@gardenconfidential.co.uk

e classified@gardenconfidential.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

e subs@gardenconfidential.co.uk

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

SBD on behalf of Garden Confidential

w sbd.org.uk

ART DIRECTION

Steve Brown

e steve@sbd.org.uk

PRINT & DISTRIBUTION

PRINT

Headley Brothers

t 01233 623131

e printing@headley.co.uk

w headley.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION

Regal Distribution

t 020 8782 1741

e info@regal-uk.com

w regal-uk.com

Garden Confidential is distributed free to 43,000 selected homes with gardens in north London and Hertfordshire, with 8,000 additional copies available at local nurseries.

ALDENHAM • ARKLEY • BARNET • BOREHAMWOOD • BROOKMANS PARK • CROUCH END • CUFFLEY • ENFIELD • FINCHLEY • GOFF'S OAK • HADLEY WOOD • HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB • HIGHGATE MILL HILL • MONKEN HADLEY • MUSWELL HILL • NORTHAW • PALMERS GREEN • POTTERS BAR • RADLETT • SHENLEY • SOUTH MIMMS & RIDGE • SOUTHGATE • TOTTERIDGE • WINCHMORE HILL



Cover: GAP Photos/J S Sira

Opinions expressed by authors and services offered by advertisers are not specifically endorsed by the publishers. Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or transparencies are accepted on the understanding that the publishers incur no liability for their storage or return. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and may not be reproduced without permission. All prices are correct at time of going to press.

©2008 Garden Confidential



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

Functional, informative, inspirational, CONFIDENTIAL



HAVE YOU NOTICED how glorious the roses are this year? Roses synonymous with English gardens unsurprisingly need English rain and what a lot we've had this year – thank goodness!

However, the popularity of roses has been waning for many years – the sterility of the old rose garden is much to blame – but now, wonderfully, change is upon us. Designers are seeing their worth again and using them in a myriad of different ways. *Garden*

Confidential celebrates this in our second issue with a little help from our friends. Have a look at what Joe Swift has to say on page 11 whilst on page 15 Philippa Pearson shows how she used them in fresh fashion within the traditional setting of Hatfield House. If you visit, do check out the *Encounters* sculpture show in Hatfield's Wilderness Garden. See page 30.

Warm nights entice us in to the garden. Particularly as summer draws on we find ourselves sitting out till midnight – in the dark! Every year, I wait till August and think I must do something about lighting my garden and then it's September and it's too late. So we asked Peter Burian (page 36) for his thoughts on the matter, and we put together a north London lighting directory for all our *Confidential* readers.

We highlight this time a sad aspect of wildlife on page 50 – the appalling decline of the once ubiquitous sparrow in our gardens. But its not all doom and gloom: we give some tips as to what each and every one of us can do to help ameliorate the problem.

Capel Manor's head of Horticulture, Tom Cole kindly invited us in to Capel and reminded us what a fascinating and eclectic place it is. Yes, it's a college but the gardens are open to the public and are a must-visit for every gardener.

I do believe strongly that function and beauty should go hand in hand, and with this in mind we investigated garden gloves in *Tools of the Trade* (page 44.)

And for those budding garden historians out there I couldn't resist taking you all to Gibberd House. But don't just read the article on page 22 – go there yourselves with our 2 for 1 offer and let me know what you think.

I hope you find your *Garden Confidential* functional, informative and inspirational.

Melanie

Melanie Wand, Editor

e editor@gardenconfidential.co.uk



CONTENTS

FOCAL POINTS

7 ROMANCING THE ROSE

In an issue devoted to roses how can one afford to overlook the Rose Arbour?

11 JOE SWIFT

Roses are undoubtedly the nation's favourite plant. Joe Swift lets *Garden Confidential* readers in on a few of his secrets.

15 ROSE FEVER AT HATFIELD HOUSE

Last year 400 roses were planted at Hatfield House. Garden design consultant Philippa Pearson guides us through the house's rose gardens.

27 CONFIDENTIAL ANNIVERSARY

On 12 July, the internationally renowned Capel Manor College celebrates its 40th birthday. *Garden Confidential* talks to Tom Cole, its inspiring Head of the School of Horticulture, to discover what's on offer to prospective students and visitors this summer.

30 IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY...

Sally Baxter features the summer sculpture exhibition *Encounters* in the grounds of Hatfield House.

34 UP ON THE ROOF

Green roofs in the UK date from the 1930s, but a conservative building and planning culture has traditionally served to constrain their installation. Gemma Sargant discovers a renaissance is now well underway.

36 AH! SWEET MYSTERY OF LIGHT!

How to light up your garden. Professional advice on the good, the bad and the ugly – electrically speaking!

42 USING WATER INTELLIGENTLY

What a terrible waste! If you look at a handful of households you will see millions of litres of useful, valuable water spiralling down their collective drainpipes each year. Does this waste matter? Neal Landsberg thinks so...

PERENNIALS

19 PERFECT BEDDING PARTNERS

Harmony and contrast can make or break a relationship. For this issue we suggest some rose partnerships made in heaven.

22 CONFIDENTIAL HISTORY

The Gibberd Garden: Melanie Wand visits a masterpiece of twentieth century garden design and comes home amused, stimulated and charged up with ideas for her own garden.

44 TOOLS OF THE TRADE

There is a certain satisfaction to getting all dirty and muddy when gardening but there are also times when the novelty of dirt under our fingernails wears off. Amanda Paxton checks out gardening gloves.



Heathcote & Ivory
London • Paris • New York



34



36

47 TIMELY VISITS

Recommended inspirational rose gardens.

48 CONFIDENTIAL PLANNER

Key tasks to complete now to ensure your garden remains beautiful year round.

49 CONFIDENTIAL ESSENTIALS

Our MUST HAVES for this autumn.

50 CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

Numbers of common starlings and house sparrows have tumbled over the past couple of decades. The front line in this conservation battle is our gardens.

53 CONFIDENTIAL POTAGER

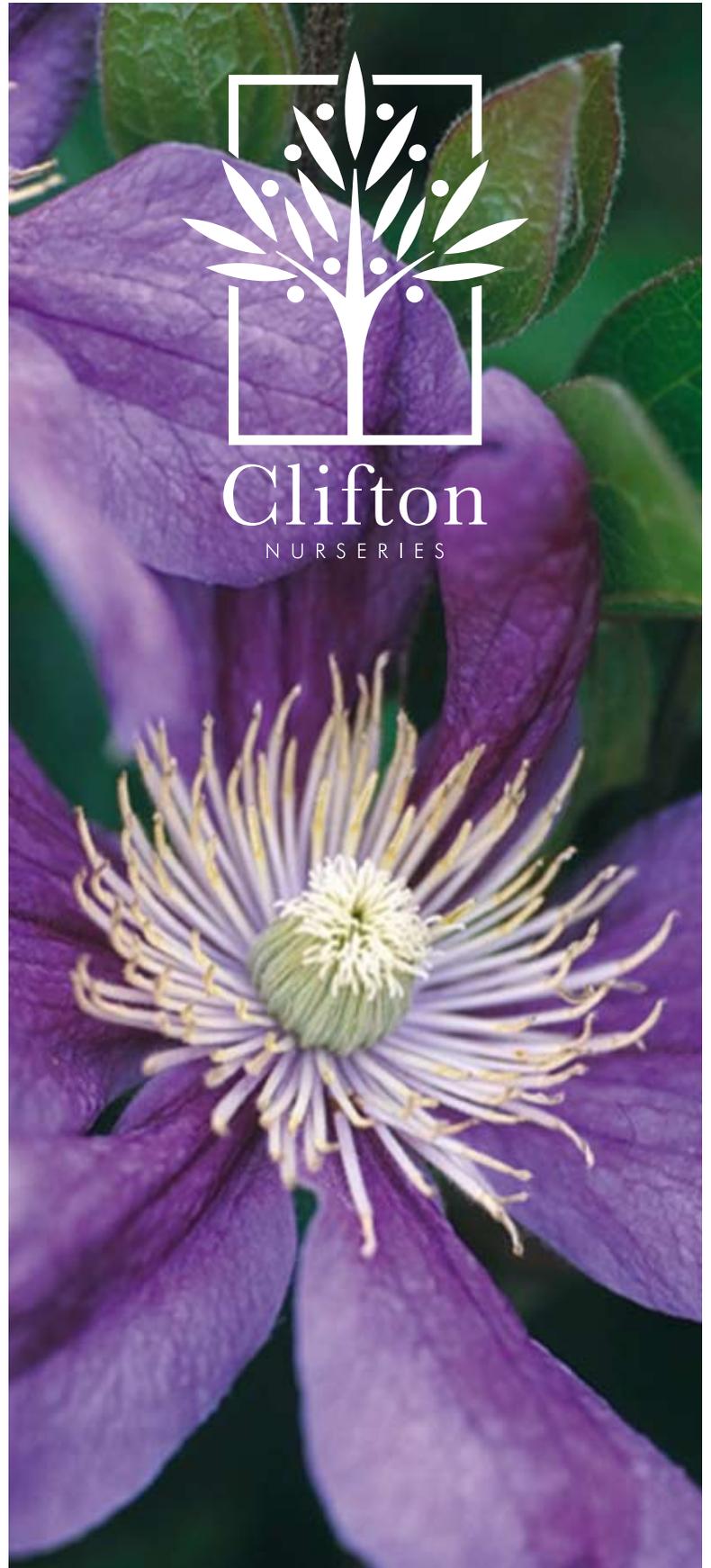
Grow your own lettuce to ensure a daily supply of fresh salad leaves throughout the summer.

54 NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Every year around 3,600 beautiful gardens to visit are listed in the NGS Yellow Book – GC lists the gardens open in our north London area over April, May and June.

57 CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Every season brings its own fair share of joys and problems in the garden. Share your pleasures and despairs with us.



Clifton
NURSERIES

Organic Food & Cafe
Plants . Containers . Florist
Furniture . Sculpture . Gifts . Delivery
Designing, Building & Maintaining Gardens
5A CLIFTON VILLAS, LONDON W9 2PH
0207 289 6851 www.clifton.co.uk



ROMANCING THE ROSE

In an issue devoted to roses how can one afford to overlook the Rose Arbour?

We all know that there is nothing lovelier than pink roses scrambling over an arbour to conjure up old-fashioned romance in the garden.

But what do we *really* mean by an arbour? Is it really a pergola that we want? So often arbours get confused with pergolas, gazebos with summer houses with the word trellis bandied around apparently describing them

PERGOLA

Probably best to start with the pergola as it is the general name applied to all. It is technically a long and free standing structure often spanning a pathway. It is primarily a structure that uses timbered, brick or metal uprights with overhead cross beams. However it can be attached to the house and using the overhead beams provides shade over the patio.

A Trellis Walkway

Although roses can be trained to climb up pergola posts, an attractive alternative is to incorporate trellis into the pergola, making more of a tunnel effect. This provides a firmly defined line with

all. And yet these structures are vital to a garden – they provide year-round interest even when there are no blooms.

I asked the team at *Garden Confidential* what they thought an arbour was and received four totally different answers! So on behalf of all our readers out there, we thought we should clear the matter up once and for all.

partial transparency. It also allows for the rose to be trained across to encourage flowering at a lower level rather than all on top. Arched and ogee structures can be added to the top to soften the whole effect.

Confidential Advice: There should always be an enticing focal point at the end of the tunnel!

ARBOUR

These were originally shady hideaways formed by overhanging plants and trees supported or trained over lattice work. They date back to mediaeval cloisters and were elaborated on by the Tudors. A rustic arch by a fence is perhaps our



closest equivalent. However very quickly, seats were placed within to provide for that meditative moment, so that these days an arbour is a seated structure. They are intended for use in the garden further away from the house. They are often called bowers.

A Trellis Arbour

You can get arbours now with the seating built into the ready-formed trellis and topped with a roof – slatted, trellised or fully closed.

Confidential Advice: Choose scented flowers to grow over the arbour to refresh and enhance contemplation!

Opposite page: Sundial adds interesting focal point to pergola
This page: A seated painted trellis arbour (above); Elegant Victorian gazebo (left)



◀ **GAZEBO**

This is a building which has two or more open sides. They tend to be either octagonal, wooden and oriental in style or more fancy made out of metal with a rather Victorian traditional feel. They are intended as focal points but the open archways can be used effectively to frame views in different directions. They are not seated areas.

Confidential Advice: If you have a long path, break the space up by putting in a gazebo half-way down.

THE ALTERNATIVES

There are other structures for your roses to tumble over. **Obelisks** can be used as focal points but also in the middle of a bed to add height,

without taking up the space of a tall shrub or tree. **Rope Swags** attached to brick columns or wooden uprights are another simple and beautiful way to screen, and the ropes act as wonderful hosts to roses. A rose rambling through the branches of a **large fruit tree** after the blossom has finished provides a second flush of colour and doesn't interfere with the fruit. ■

CHOOSING THE RIGHT ROSE TO PIN TO YOUR STRUCTURE

GERTRUDE STEIN ONCE famously remarked that "A rose is a rose is a rose" – well hopefully after reading this issue of *Garden Confidential* you will no longer be in agreement with that! But a common problem when choosing climbing roses is to make the mistake in thinking that all climbers have the same habits. They do not – put *Bobbie James* on your two metre high trellis and it will have it down in three years!

CLIMBERS

As a general rule climbers are best for walls and fences. They are generally not flexible enough for training through arches, but because they are upright in stance some of the smaller ones are good for arbours, pillars and obelisks. They also take well to pruning. *Garden Confidential* recommends *Zéphirine Drouhin* for arbours as it is thornless and fragrant.

RAMBLERS

Ramblers are best for rustic fences, pergolas, screening and privacy. They ramble over everything! The smaller ones are good for gazebos. *Garden Confidential* recommends *Félicité Pépétué*

for just being lovely.

Within this group are the 'scramblers' as Peter Beales calls them, and they are the ones to use to climb through trees.

Garden Confidential recommends *Rambling Rector* as it never fails to do its job.

However within this rule there are plenty of variations. Always note height and width, soil and site tolerance, single, repeat or continuous flowering and only then choose the colour!

And as we always say in *Garden Confidential*, don't be afraid to ask the rose supplier for their advice.

Anthony de Grey Trellises



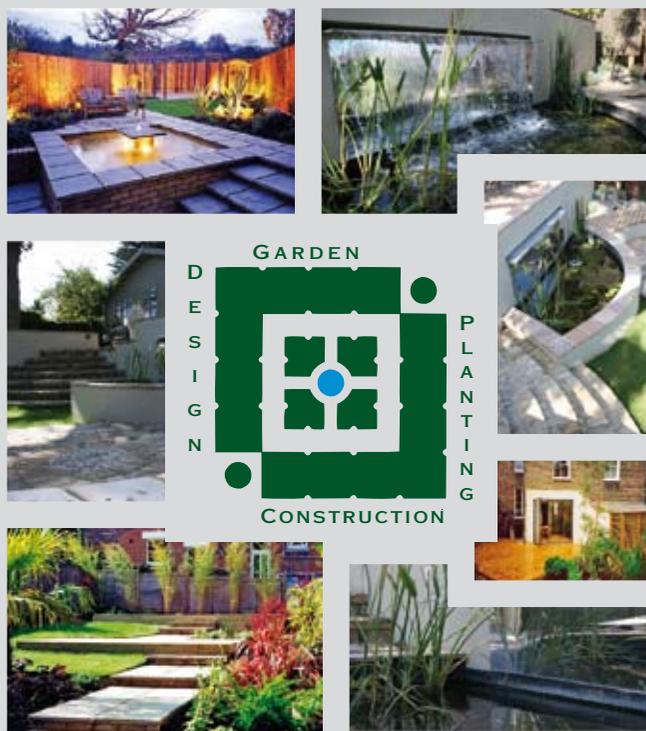
Architectural Trellises made to order in a wide range of panel designs and lattice options
Arbour seats, Gazebos, Pergolas, Pavilions, Planters and Decking

Broadhinton Yard
77A North Street
London SW4 0HQ



Tel: 020 7738 8866
Fax: 020 7498 9075
www.anthonydegrey.com
sales@anthonydegrey.com

STEPHEN BUDGETT



WWW.STEPHENBUDGETT.CO.UK
TEL: 020 8372 6385
MOBILE: 07973 365939



Rosa Commandant Beaurepaire and Rosa Comte de Chambord with Nepeta Six Hills Giant and Viola cornuta

Well I love roses, but I also like the modern trends for a wilder look and with some sensitive under planting, the two need not be mutually exclusive. Herbaceous perennials are a natural fit for roses as they perform through the summer both as a complementary bloom and as a living mulch and, as winter rolls around, they die down to allow a good spread of manure. Nepeta Six Hills Giant or Perovskia Blue Spire look great spilling over the edges and softening the rose's knobby grey stems with their pale blue haze of flowers. Another of my favourites is Stipa tenuissima whose soft silvery seed heads and gentle sway are a perfect juxtaposition for the gnarled solidity of a rose trunk.

Spring bulbs also make a great companion for roses as they can be mulched in winter, don't interfere with the rose's big roots and leave room for summer planting. A low growing Narcissus like Tête à Tête or Jetfire is ideal as the flowers won't run into the rose stems, but Muscari, Iris, Anemone and many others look great too. ■

Guy Pullen can be contacted at Clifton Nurseries on 020 7289 6851

IN A FORMER life it was thought that roses looked well enough on there own. Sterile beds of bare earth could be carved up by serried ranks of fragrance-free roses. Perhaps a couple of marigolds would keep them company, but mostly it was just roses and mud. This style is still occasionally seen in elderly seaside towns, but has otherwise gone the way of Spotted Dick

WORDS: GUY PULLEN IMAGE: ANDREW LAWSON

and DDT. More recent trends have seen rose sales fall as planting becomes loose with a bit of the wild about it. Roses have been overlooked and sidelined and, though they are still held dear to the majority, trendsetters too often see them as irrelevant and undesirable – how many roses do you see in Chelsea show gardens?

Kingsmere Buildings

Come to **Kingsmere Buildings** for all aspects of garden buildings, whether you are looking for a garden shed, summerhouse, garden office or a garage, **we specialize in all types of garden buildings.**

From design to completion, our buildings are designed around your needs, and so are bespoke.

Whether it is for combined storage and outside living space, an office or children's playroom to giving teenagers their own space.

We carry out a **free site survey**, so there's nothing to lose, or call us where we will be happy to discuss your requirements.

Agents for Lidget Garages.

Kingswood Nursery, Bullsmoor Lane,
Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 4SF
Tel: 01992 701033

www.kingsmerebuildings.com





**See Britain
in bloom
this Summer...**

...and enjoy 2 nights for the price of 1

This Summer, make the most of visiting any of the beautiful RHS recommended gardens, as featured on our online interactive garden guide, and stay nearby at one of over 100 conveniently located Holiday Inn hotels, with our exclusive 2 nights for the price of 1 offer.

What's more, to celebrate Holiday Inn's garden at the Hampton Court Flower Show we're offering you the chance to win:

- A fantastic **garden makeover worth £6,500** in our Holiday Inn Green Room competition*
- The new **high performance Olympus E-3 camera** in our 'Gardens in Bloom' photographic competition*

To enter, or for more information, visit holidayinngreenroom.co.uk

To book your 2 for 1 weekend deal: Visit: ihg.com/rhs241 or call **0870 400 8135** quoting '2 for 1'



TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) 2 for 1 offer consists of two consecutive night stays for the price of one, based on two adults sharing a standard twin/double room (max. 2 adults per room) at participating hotels only. Breakfast not included, room only. 2) Stays are available over Fri, Sat and Sun nights with many hotels offering midweek availability – please check at time of booking. 3) Full payment must be made at time of booking; no cancellations or amendments permitted; no refunds given. 4) Up to 2 children under the age of 18 stay free when sharing a room with up to 2 adults, if suitable accommodation is available. 5) Single supplement will be charged at the full room per night price. 6) Offer valid on new bookings only. 7) Offer applicable for weekend stays until 31st August 2008. 8) Limited availability may be applicable in selected hotels over public holidays. 9) All rooms are subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these offer rates. 10) Rates may vary by date of booking. 11) Offer not available to groups and can not be used in conjunction with any other offers or special promotions. Promoter: InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), 67 Alma Road, Windsor, Berkshire. *Terms and conditions apply, please see holidayinngreenroom.co.uk for full details.

Treat your garden to a summer makeover

Call **0207 619 0100** for a free consultation



modulgarden

High quality designer gardens the easy way

www.modulargarden.com

MG21



ROSA MODERNA

A hot border using roses, dahlias, achillea and crocosmia



Roses are undoubtedly the nation's favourite plant. BBC Gardener's World's **Joe Swift** lets you in on a few of his secrets.

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE inextricably linked with traditional formal rose gardens and looser cottage-style gardens, roses can work wonderfully well in more modern gardens too. You'll often see them included in cutting-edge Chelsea flower show exhibits where they combine well with soft grasses and perennials, which proves their resilience to fashion. I think we'll see plenty of them over the coming years incorporated imaginatively into a wide range of schemes. Because there's such a huge range of roses – shrubs, ground covers, hybrid teas, climbers, ramblers, patio roses amongst many others – there will always be one which will suit your setting and style of garden. The detail in the form and colour range of their blooms makes it hard for other plants to compete and the perfume of many, especially the old varieties, is surely one of the most heavenly scents on the planet.

Rather than going for an out and out traditional rose garden look, which creates a rather static monoculture and doesn't provide a great habitat for beneficial insects, try mixing them in with other plants. I find climbers particularly useful in a small garden to cover a wall or fence and recently incorporated a cheery pink climber *Zéphirine Drouhin* into my

own garden. It thrives on a shady fence, and as it's thornless isn't a worry with the kids around. *Souvenir du docteur Jarmain* is a must-have climber too with wonderful strongly scented deep flowers and upright matt foliage. It too will cope with a little shade. It will also repeat flower, which means better value for money, which can't be bad. Try underplanting it with the frothy *Alchemilla mollis* or variegated *Hosta Gold Standard* to provide plenty of light-coloured yellow green and golden green foliage low down to help set it off.

Roses can work wonderfully well in the more modern garden – often seen in cutting-edge Chelsea exhibits with grasses and perennials

Rosa glauca is another of my favourites, and can work as a single specimen – say against a coloured rendered wall in a contemporary garden or mixed in with other plants – as it's an undemanding and natural-looking plant.

It is a species rose reaching a height of two metres and a spread of 1.5. Its simple, single, cerise-pink flowers with pale pink centres are followed by spherical, red, autumn rose-hips, and its greyish-purple leaves makes it a good all-rounder. If you want a hotter, altogether spicier planting scheme then *Rosa L.D. Braithwaite* is a richly fragrant, fully double, flattish blooms of rich glowing crimson. It's a wide-growing, bushy plant with greyish-green foliage. Try growing it in a border with some bright perennials such as *Achillea Cloth of Gold*, which has flat heads of golden yellow flowers on tall stems held above ferny grey foliage, or alongside the exotic looking but easy to grow yellow and vibrant orange-red *Crocosmia Jackanapes* with its fresia-type flowers and sword-like foliage.

If you've had problems with old roses because of their need for frequent care, try tough species roses such as *Rosa rugosa Alba*, a single white-flowered variety. *Alba* grows to two metres and about the same width. Its foliage is a rich, crinkled, dark green and its flowers are single white blooms with golden centres, which appear for a big show in spring and repeat sporadically throughout summer and early autumn. The highly fragrant blooms will scent a small garden single-handedly.

◀ **PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE**

THE IDEAL TIME to plant roses is during the dormant period, but when the ground is free of frost. You will only be able to buy bare-rooted plants during this period whereas container-grown plants can be planted throughout the spring, although recently potted-on plants should ideally be left in their containers through to the autumn to develop a strong root system. Prepare the ground well and incorporate plenty of organic matter. Both bare-rooted and container-grown plants should be planted with their 'union' or base of the stems just covered.

Prune your roses hard back to around three or four buds on each stem. This will stop them getting straggly in later life. Mulching regularly will keep them healthy. Different roses need different ongoing pruning:

- ◆ Modern bush, hybrid teas and floribundas flower on the current year's growth so prune back to five to seven buds from the base in February/March.
- ◆ Once flowering, shrub roses shouldn't need any pruning except to take out any dead, diseased or damaged branches. To keep in shape prune after flowering, but you will lose the hips that year.
- ◆ Repeat-flowering shrub roses can be pruned in February/March by reducing some of the younger stems by a third, deadheading in summer and tidying up.
- ◆ Climbing roses can be pruned when tying in new growth laterally, which encourages flowering. Try to keep a combination of new and young growth and take out any really old, spent branches.
- ◆ Ramblers should be pruned after flowering if necessary, but most are best left to their own devices.

HOW TO BUY

CONTAINER ROSES CAN be bought all year round, and the advantage of buying them in flower is that you can see exactly what you're getting. If the weather isn't good for planting – for example too hot and dry – just keep watering it in the container until the autumn, when it'll be safer to plant. Bare rooted plants can be bought online or by mail order and will be delivered in the winter. They can be planted through to early spring if the weather is mild, but should be heeled in until planted. There are many specialist rose nurseries who can advise you and have the best ranges, and many have comprehensive websites. ■

JOE'S TOP TEN ROSES

All available from David Austin Roses
www.davidaustinroses.com



GLAUC

Single, cerise-pink flowers with pale pink centres in June and July followed by spherical, red, autumn rose-hips. Arching, species rose has greyish-purple leaves and ornamental rose-hips.
Size: 1.8m x 1.5m



GERTRUDE JEKYLL

Fragrant, double, deep pink flowers from July to September and greyish-green leaves. The flowers of this popular, repeat-flowering bush rose have a classic old-fashioned fragrance.
Size: 1.5m x 1m



MOYESII

This Chinese mountain rose has deep pink or red flowers with golden stamens, followed by large and beautiful hips.
Size: 3m x 1.8m



ALBERTINE

Vigorous rambler, fragrant, fully double, light salmon-pink flowers on reddish-green stems in June and July and mid-green leaves.
Size: 6m x 5m



CHARLES DE MILLS

This gorgeous, old, Gallica rose has fully double, fragrant, magenta-pink flowers with closely packed petals in July and mid-green leaves.
Size: 1.2m x 0.9m



TUSCANY SUPERB

Gallica rose which is deliciously fragrant, double deep crimson-maroon flowers with closely packed petals in summer and dark green leaves.
Size: 1m x 1m



SHARIFA ASMA

This beautiful, repeat-flowering English rose has fragrant, double, blush pink flowers from July to September and mid-green leaves. Best planted in partial shade to protect the delicate petals from hot sun.
Size: 1m x 0.8m



MARGARET MERRILL

This rose has flowers of a hybrid tea type, pearl coloured and strongly scented. Dark green foliage. Good for cut flowers.
Size: 1m x 0.6m



WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

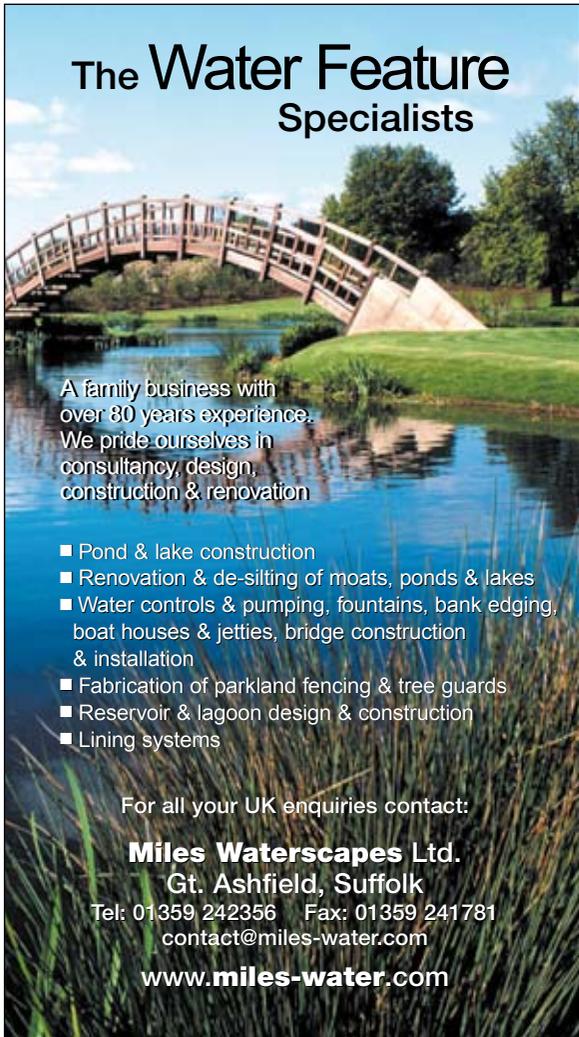
A wonderful white shrub rose with a hint of pink in the centre. Masses of fully double flowers on an upright bushy shrub.
Size: 1.2m x 1.2m



BANKSIAE LUTEA

A rampant climbing species rose. The large trusses of pale yellow double flowers are fabulous, but usually over by mid-June.
Size: 6m x 6m

The Water Feature Specialists



A family business with over 80 years experience. We pride ourselves in consultancy, design, construction & renovation

- Pond & lake construction
- Renovation & de-silting of moats, ponds & lakes
- Water controls & pumping, fountains, bank edging, boat houses & jetties, bridge construction & installation
- Fabrication of parkland fencing & tree guards
- Reservoir & lagoon design & construction
- Lining systems

For all your UK enquiries contact:

Miles Waterscapes Ltd.

Gt. Ashfield, Suffolk

Tel: 01359 242356 Fax: 01359 241781

contact@miles-water.com

www.miles-water.com

MILES



Greenhouses

Lean To's

Patio
Glasshouses

Coldframes

Planthouses

Accessories

Contact

☎ 0800 0851 652



gabrielash.com

thestoneyard
.co.uk

Long Barn
Sidbrook Orchards
Taunton TA2 8NH
United Kingdom

Phone: 08458 679 237 (local rate) | Fax: 0700 6069608
Email: info@thestoneyard.co.uk | Web: www.thestoneyard.co.uk



TheStoneYard.co.uk is your premier source for granite – we offer a full range of granite products including setts, kerbs, posts, building and paving products at affordable prices as well as custom machined and polished items. All our high quality stone is quarried and fabricated in-house at our EEC approved quarry site in Portugal by our team of experienced stone masons. By buying from us you are choosing the ethical alternative to unregulated Chinese and Indian stone. Granite setts 10x10x5cm £19 per m² + VAT
With nationwide delivery service.





Myddelton House Gardens

Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 9HG

01992 702 200

www.leevalleypark.org.uk



These gardens are an enchanting place to visit at any time of year. Born of one man's passionate interest in plants; the gardens were created by E.A. Bowles an expert botanist, author, artist and Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. He was the Great Great Uncle of Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles.



Within the gardens is the national collection of award winning Bearded Iris, thousands of naturalised bulbs and many plants of real character. The gardens also have a beautiful carp lake, a conservatory and a number of historical artefacts collected by Mr Bowles.



Myddelton House Gardens Voucher

Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 9HG

2 for 1

When one full price ticket is purchased, excludes Bank Holidays, charity open days and guided walks.

Reference: Garden Confidential



Fairweather Landscapes



**Design & Construction
Your Complete Landscaping Service**

Patios ■ Decking ■ Fencing ■ Brickwork ■
Turfing ■ Paving ■ Irrigation

Childs Hill, London NW2

Mob: 07802 413 440 ■ Office: 020 8723 5784

E-mail: preston@fairweatherlandscapes.co.uk

www.fairweatherlandscapes.co.uk



HATFIELD HOUSE

COUNTRY SHOW

Traditional Breeds Show

Children's Farm

Arena Events

Celebrity Cookery Theatre

Steam and Vintage

Rural Crafts

Country Pursuits

Home & Garden

Free parking



The best three days of the summer
15th, 16th & 17th August 2008

10am to 6pm • Adults £8.50 Senior £7.50 Child (5-15) £4.00 Family £33.00
Advance & Groups Adults £8.00 Senior £7.00 Child £3.50 Family £30.00

For more information, call 01707 287010
or book online at www.whatsontickets.com

Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 5NQ
www.hatfield-house.co.uk



HATFIELD HOUSE



ROSE FEVER AT HATFIELD HOUSE

Last year over 400 roses were planted at Hatfield House – definitely a spot to seek out your favourite rose. By Philippa Pearson. Photographs by Daniel Martin.

VOTED AS THE nation's favourite flower, the rose is deservedly proud to be top of the blooms. Roses are the icebreakers at the party, the one plant that everyone will make a bee-line for and discuss the fragrance and colour. There's a place in everyone's garden for a rose or two whether as a shrub in the border, or a climber to clad a wall, archway or pergola.

Hatfield House cleverly uses roses throughout the gardens in many situations. Some are key features in perennial-filled beds, others scramble over pergolas to create a heady scented walkway whilst some borders just feature roses, roses and more roses. Hatfield House was built between 1607 and 1612 by Robert Cecil, Elizabeth I's Chief Minister, and to match his grand house Cecil created a stunning garden. John Tradescant the Elder, a formidable plantsman who introduced many of the garden plants we grow today, was sent abroad to bring back rare plants for the garden. During the 18th century the gardens fell to the ravages of time and neglect but were restored in Victorian times by the Second Marquess. The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury, mother of the present Lord Salisbury, later dedicated over 30 years to the restoration and improvement of the garden and today the garden is planted for year-round interest and

colour by Lady Salisbury and her team.

The Privy Garden was originally designed in Victorian times, based on an old plan in the archives. The Dowager Lady Salisbury re-planted this area in the late 1970s, putting in many David Austin English roses. These provide the beautifully shaped flowers of old-fashioned roses combined with a wonderful scent but instead of just flowering once in a season, they flower

The sixteen square box-edged beds in the main parterre have old fashioned roses mingling with choice perennials and bulbs

perpetually. The species rose, *Rosa glauca*, is also used in the segmented beds here. This fine rose has unique plum-grey foliage and lots of scarlet hips in the autumn.

Enclosed by high brick walls, the Scented Garden is a delight for the senses. A long border at the back runs the width of the garden and is planted entirely with old-fashioned and English roses. Last year, this border was completely

re-planted, not a task for the faint-hearted as over 400 roses were planted. This is definitely a spot to linger to enjoy the captivating fragrance and seek out your favourite rose amongst the extensive range here, which include many climbers trained on tripods adding height and interest. Flowers from old fashioned roses in the herb garden are collected to make pot-pourri for the House. A rose trail is available which lists key roses and dates they were introduced to the gardening world.

Over in the East Garden, parterres on different levels are filled with topiary and rare plants, with walks leading down to the lake. The sixteen square box-edged beds in the main parterre have old-fashioned roses mingling with choice perennials and bulbs whilst the retaining wall in the lower parterre has climbing and rambling roses, alternating with trained heritage fruit trees. The East Garden is the private garden of the Salisbury's and is only open on Thursdays.

The West Garden and park are open until 30th September, daily from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The East Garden is open on Thursdays only.
Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 5NQ.
Telephone 01707 287010 www.hatfield-house.co.uk

Writer and garden designer, Philippa Pearson has gained RHS medals for her show gardens and is Consultant Gardener at Bocket Hall.
Telephone 01767 651253 www.philippapearson.co.uk



The Walled Garden

PHILIPPA'S PRIVATE TOUR

Enjoy an afternoon in the Garden at Hatfield House in the company of a garden expert.

RHS award winning designer, Philippa Pearson will lead a private tour of the West and East Garden at Hatfield House.

With over 12 years' experience of working in horticulture, Philippa's great passion is plants, especially perennials and plants for year-round interest. She has worked with some of the finest people and organisations in the gardening industry.

Philippa has gained prestigious RHS Bronze, Silver-Gilt and Gold Medals for her show gardens and is qualified to RHS Diploma in Horticulture level, studies taken at Shuttleworth College, Bedfordshire. She is also a gardening writer and editor.



Tour date: Thursday 17th July, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Tickets cost £22.50 per person

To book, please call 01707 287010 or book online at www.whatsontickets.com

HOW TO GROW ROSES

-  Roses thrive on heavy clay soil, can tolerate sandy conditions but do not like chalky soil. Improve soil prior to planting by mixing in plenty of well-rotted garden or farmyard manure.
-  Do not plant roses where there have been some before, wait at least two years before re-planting as rose sickness can occur. Alternatively, remove soil and replace with fresh from elsewhere in the garden.
-  Treat aphids with an organic pesticide if you can. A few black spots on leaves are not that unsightly; fallen leaves should be collected and burnt to prevent fungal spores over-wintering in the soil.
-  Many shrub roses are suitable for smaller gardens, try *Jacqueline du Pré* – creamy yellow; *Tuscany Superb* – purple red; *Anna Pavlova* – blush pink; *Comte de Chambord* – mid-pink and a fine fragrance; *Rosa Mundi* – striped crimson and white and introduced in the 12th century.

WHERE TO BUY ROSES

 **David Austin**
Bowling Green Lane
Albrighton
Wolverhampton WV7 3HB
Telephone: 01902 376300
Email: retail@davidaustinroses.com
www.davidaustinroses.com

 **Peter Beales Roses**
London Road
Attleborough
Norfolk NR17 1AY
Telephone: 0845 481 0277
Email: info@peterbealesroses.com
www.peterbealesroses.com

 **Harkness Roses**
The Rose Gardens
Cambridge Road
Hitchin
Hertfordshire SSG4 0JT
Telephone: 01462 420402
Email: harkness@roses.co.uk
www.roses.co.uk



GIS CONSERVATORIES WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO!



STEVENAGE GARDEN CENTRE, GRAVELY ROAD, STEVENAGE SG1 4AH. TEL: 020 8364 5552 WWW.GISWINDOWS.COM



London's Finest Turf And Topsoil



- Top Quality Rolawn Turf and Topsoil
- Delivered Throughout The London Area
- Professional Preparation And Laying

Birchen Grove, Kingsbury, NW9
Tel: 020 8905 9009
www.londonlawnturf.co.uk



The London Decking Company

Timber Decking Suppliers

- Softwood and Hardwood Decking
- Range of Accessories
- Express Delivery Across London
- Design and Installation Service
- Log Cabins Supplied and Erected
- Complete Landscape Construction

020 8200 0882

Greenhouse Garden Centre
Birchen Grove
London
NW9 8RY





PLANTS GALORE & TYNDALL'S GARDEN CENTRES

We are a family business established in 1935. Both of our centres Plants Galore and Tyndalls, are situated in the midst of the country side, yet easily accessible and easy to find.

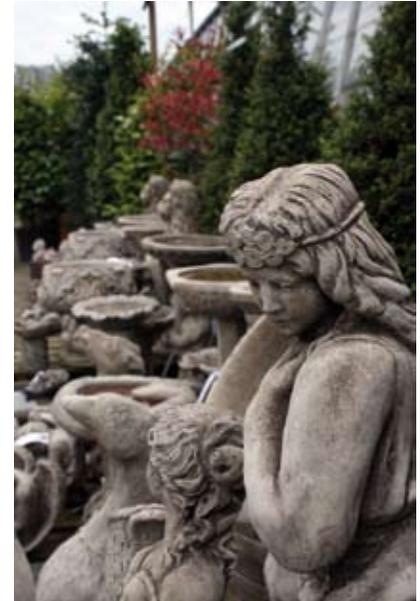
Within our centres we grow the majority of plants on site, this allows us to offer top quality produce and competitive prices.

Our speciality is designing and growing hanging baskets, we produce over 12,000 each year, we offer a large variety of styles and choice of flowers.

Both centres also have a wonderful giftware section offering a large range of gifts for both the garden and home. Along with this there is a great selection of garden furniture to accommodate for most garden sizes and styles.

At the Tyndalls centre we have an aquatic area, specialising in koi; we have "The Style Gallery LTD" – quality bespoke framing service; we also have a traditional coffee shop, serving hot and cold food and beverages.

Come and visit, and see for yourself the choice and quality we have to offer.



Large selection of Garden Furniture

Opening Times:
Mon - Sat,
9am - 5pm;
Sundays,
10:30am - 4:30pm

Hamlet Hill, Roydon, Essex, CM19 5JY
tel: 01279 792321



 **PLANTS GALORE & TYNDALL'S**
GARDEN CENTRES
*Exclusive offers for readers of
this magazine*
10% Off any product
Offers only valid with this voucher. Offer ends 31st August 2008
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotion or offer. Usual
restrictions apply.
Hamlet Hill, Roydon, Essex, CM19 5JY

Perfect Bedding Partners

Harmony and contrast can make or break a relationship. For this issue we suggest some rose partnerships made in heaven.

If you've got some perfect late-season partnerships (not necessarily roses) and would like to share them with us at *Garden Confidential*, please email the pictures. We will, with your permission, print the best in our next issue. The most attractive, as chosen by us, will win prizes (see page 32).

IMAGES: **ANDREW LAWSON**



▲ Opposites attract and none better than this relationship of Clematis *Blue Moon* entwined with Rosa *The Nipper*.

▼ How perfect is this Rambling Rose *Albertine* for the Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*?



HODGES BARN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

▼ Dark pink Digitalis and Linaria purpurea make charming companions to lovely Rosa *Fantin Latour*.



DESIGNERS: NORI & SANDRA POPE



▲ Shocking but oh so sexy! Rosa *Dorothy Perkins* cascading down the aisle with Tropaeolum *speciosum*.

Compiled with help from Andrew Lawson Photographic Library and Peter Beales Roses. Plants stocked at **Clifton Nurseries**, 5A Clifton Villas, London W9 2PH. Tel: 020 7289 6851; e-mail: enquiry@clifton.co.uk and at **Notcutts Garden Centre**, Hatfield Road, Smallford, St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 0HN. Tel: 01727 853224; e-mail: stalbans@notcutts.co.uk Please check stocks with the nurseries first as availability varies.



The contrasting shape of the buxus ball works well with the beautiful upright iris and the purple heuchera



This *Phlomis russelliana* is a stunning architectural plant. Its old flower stalks look striking even in winter



The golden flowers of this *Potentilla* work brilliantly in this mixed border as does the golden leaves of *Spiraea Goldmound*

BORDER SKIRMISH

TV gardener Antony Henn and his team at *gardensforlife* are based at his family's garden centre and restaurant, The Dutch Nursery near Hatfield. *gardensforlife* are offering a free garden consultation to readers of this feature.



THERE ARE THOUSANDS of new homes being built in Britain every year and most of them will have barely a single plant in them!

If you're lucky there will be some 'crammed-together' shrubs in the front garden that the builders have *planted* – I use the term loosely – to try to make an impression to the potential new purchaser. Maybe a tree or two struggling for life in sub-soil and builder's rubble but almost certainly metres and metres of bare fencing!

Those plants that are there are usually better lifted and replanted to their correct spacing, allowing the true form of the plant to be enjoyed as they mature. Be sure to prepare the ground before re-planting them, with organic compost and good soil, especially if the soil you've been left with is devoid of organic matter and looks barren and lifeless. Note that if weeds are flourishing then your plants will have a good chance too!

When plants are grown too close together they merge into one mass and lose their individuality unless lovingly pruned and kept apart.

If what I have described above is your garden, don't panic! As here are some tips to help you design and plant your perfect border.

STEP 1

Decide the 'look' that you would most like to have in your garden borders. Here are a few to choose from: cottage garden; Mediterranean; mixed English border; evergreen border; shady border; colour co-ordinated border; contemporary border; dry border or wildlife border to name but a few.

STEP 2

Once you know the style you'd like, you must then find out which border is in sun or shade. If you would like a Mediterranean feel then you can 'cheat' by planting the usual suspects in the sun (lavender, cistus, rosemary etc.) but in the shadier areas plant things like euonymus, choisya, some euphorbia and evergreen hardy ferns that would not clash too much and give a cohesive look to the overall garden.

STEP 3

Mark out the outline of the border using perhaps a hosepipe so you can get a good idea of the shape and width of the bed. Don't be too mean with the dimensions as anything less than a metre will look stingy and too tight even in a tiny garden. The wider the bed the more tiering and layering you can achieve with plants of varying heights.

Curvy borders look great but ensure that you use a true arc by using string on a peg to get a perfect curve, it looks so much better than weak wiggles!

Perfectly straight edges work brilliantly in contemporary or formal gardens. Always use a timber or plastic/metal mowing edge to maintain a perfectly straight edge and save yourself awkward maintenance.



Persicaria bistorta grows well in sun or partial shade



Once planted, a feature such as this garden room makes a perfect place to relax



Allium buxus and salvia make a stunning combination

STEP 4

Strip off the turf in small manageable squares without killing yourself and try not to take all the soil with you! 3–4 c.m. of turf roots and soil is enough.

Then use a strong fork to dig over the ground as deep as you can, full depth of the fork is ideal. Before you do this though, spread about 5 or 6 centimetres of organic matter over the bare soil so that when you dig it over, the compost works its way into the soil and helps to make it friable and will add nutrients and essential humus.

Break the lumps up after they have dried off a bit with the back of the fork so it's easier to plant later. Ideally you should sprinkle a handful of fertilizer every square metre also if the soil is looking tired.

STEP 5

Set out your plants at the correct spacing and keep standing back and thinking about the eventual shape and size of the plant in say three years. Traditionally, landscape designers and gardeners imagined how big trees and plants would be in, say, 10–50 years! Obviously nowadays many people move on in 3–5 years so the garden needs not only to look good straight away but also for the time they are living there (in other words, we generally plant too close together, even the professionals!).

STEP 6

Soak the plants thoroughly before planting. Dig the hole so that the top of the root ball is just below the level with the ground. 'Tickle' the roots so that you've slightly broken the coiling effect of pot-bound plants, this encourages the roots to spread out properly.

Firm in the soil around the roots so there are no air gaps and make sure the top of the roots are not showing above the ground as the plant will dry out too quickly.

Mulch with organic matter or fine bark to look good and conserve moisture.

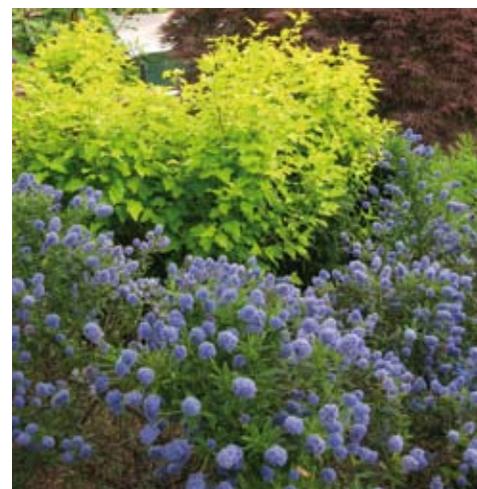
Water regularly for the first few months (two or three times a week should do) until the plants are established. They will need less and less watering as time goes on, only in prolonged dry spells.

If you don't want to wait, then mature plants can be purchased to give an immediate effect!

Trees of a certain size give an amazing feel of establishment and offer welcome shade. They soften the harsh brickwork of the house and can make a property feel homely and welcoming.

Large trees should be planted by the supplier as they have the right equipment for the job and usually offer a guarantee as long as the trees are watered and cared for thereafter.

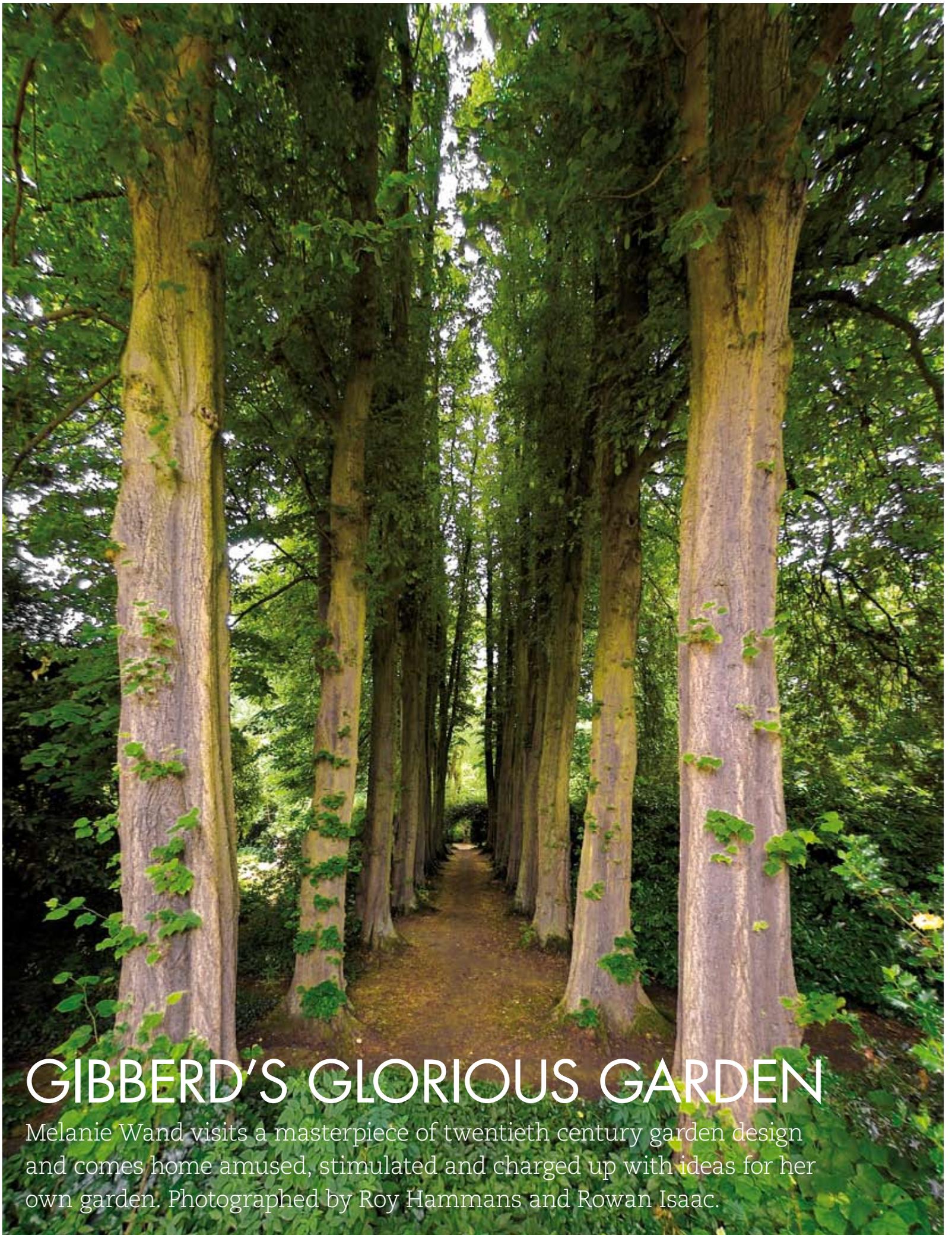
For a consultation, design, landscape or maintenance enquiries please call 01707 663541; preferably e-mail antonyhenn@gardensforlife.com and view our new website at www.gardensforlife.com



Physocarpus Dart's Gold also looks stunning when planted with this purple Acer and blue Ceanothus



We plant alliums in most of our gardens. They produce a fabulous display in early summer and are perennial



GIBBERD'S GLORIOUS GARDEN

Melanie Wand visits a masterpiece of twentieth century garden design and comes home amused, stimulated and charged up with ideas for her own garden. Photographed by Roy Hammans and Rowan Isaac.



This page: The columns and urns from
Coutts Bank; the West Patio;
The South Terrace
Opposite page: The Lime Avenue

AS EDITOR AND accredited historian to *Garden Confidential* my remit is to find a garden of historic interest and beauty within our designated north London area. However it must also be different and perhaps for one reason or another been overlooked or not yet fully discovered. The Gibberd Garden in Harlow fulfils all these criteria.

Harlow Town does not immediately call to mind a vision of beauty, grace, sculptures and an iconic garden – and yet that’s exactly what it encompasses. Villages united by designated fields and natural woodlands centre on a pedestrian

precinct, enlivened with sculptures by artists as renowned as Henry Moore and Elizabeth Frink with the beautiful Gibberd Garden just on its borders.

The garden has become a series of rooms, each with its own character

This did not happen by accident, but was due entirely to Sir Frederick Gibberd.

A landscape architect who began working

in the 1930s, Gibberd designed an extraordinary variety of projects including Terminals 1, 2 and 3 at Heathrow Airport, Liverpool Cathedral, Regent’s Park Mosque and the Kielder Reservoir. During the Second World War he took a course in town planning and as such when the New Towns Act came into being in 1946 he was uniquely qualified to design Harlow New Town. Having accepted the commission, to save commuting he set about finding himself a house in the area. In 1956 Sir Frederick found and bought the 16 acres in Marsh Lane now known as the Gibberd Garden.

◀ THE GIBBERD GARDEN

Although Sir Frederick was looking for a home, his mandate was that it had to include a large area of land in which he could create his own garden. When he saw a property in Marsh Lane he immediately recognised its possibilities. The bare bones were all there; a magnificent lime tree avenue, gazebo and formal pool sited on the side of a small valley with spectacular opportunities to develop the whole area. He spent the first year cutting back the overgrown areas and then 'consulted the genius of the place, exercised some intuition, without which no art exists'. And it is his intuition that makes the Gibberd Garden such an inspirational place.



The Wild Garden

Although the Gibberd Garden is often referred to as a 20th century masterpiece, you would be hard put to date it. Indeed its overriding quality is its timeless air. Sir Frederick kept all the early 20th century features that hark back to Edwardianism and added 50s and 60s

mass structural plantings, concrete, pebbles and sculptures in an eclectic way that is so fashionable today. And his consummate sense of unity and cohesion is such that one believes it all to have been put together simultaneously. If you have the chance to go into the house you will see the culmination of this in the archetypal 60s living-room extension, which of course he designed, with its wonderful picture window framing the Edwardian formal pool and 1920s gazebo.

One of the garden's greatest charms is that it is foremost a private affair. Sir Frederick designed it for his own pleasure. He took the luxury of not producing a grand plan but let the overall design take shape as it felt best, continually consulting the genius of the place. He was one of the earliest to rummage through architectural salvage and if he found something he liked he found a place for it. In the entrance garden he set six pillar capitals into the retaining wall just because he liked them – and they work wonderfully well. At the time he was modernising the head office of Coutts bank, Strand WC2 and they no longer wanted their Roman columns so he took them and placed them in his garden – 18th century folly-style. As you round the corner into the western border of the garden, these towering columns look grandly down on you and situated as they are under the trees, look profoundly right in their new home. For his terrace by the gazebo he set pebbles in concrete adding old bottles and shells – idiosyncratic but wonderfully in tune with feel of the place. And, always enjoying a joke, he placed a terracotta head of Queen



Queen Victoria, terracotta – artist unknown

Victoria right beside the broken bottles! He adored his grandchildren and created a moated castle – glorious fun for them and us.

Ultimately it is a designer's garden. Sir Frederick was not a plantsman nor did he see this as his remit. His concern in garden design is best summed up in his words 'Garden design is an art of space, like architecture and town design. The space, to be a recognisable design, must be contained and the plants and walls enclosing it then become part of the adjacent spaces. The garden has thus become a series of rooms, each with its own character, from small intimate spaces to large enclosed prospects.' The Gibberd garden is exactly this.

Spaces defined by
hedges and trees
create a succession of
vistas and surprises

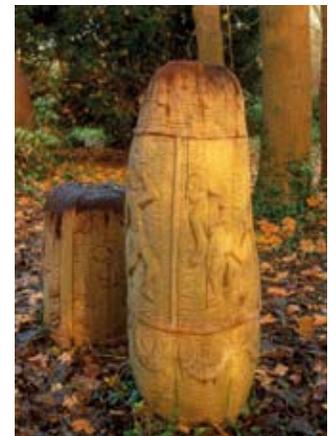
The site being on a slope allowed Sir Frederick to have great fun terracing the different levels. Steps, walls and paths link serene courtyards to sylvan glades, allowing access in and out, in the most unexpected fashion. Spaces defined by hedges and trees create a succession of vistas and surprises. In a very contemporary way he used trees and shrubs to balance and frame but also to provide vertical accents or horizontal masses. The tapestry hedge is a fine example of this. The visitor, unaware, is guided through each room lingering but equally impelled forward to the next. In all there are 12 acres to wander through – formal areas at the top leading to informal spaces taking one gently down to the Wild Garden. Here a knot of paths conduct one down to the stream and dam where banks are strewn with wild garlic and marvellously extravagant clumps of bamboo.



The Tapestry hedge

The Sculptures

The third dimension to this individual garden is Lady Patricia Gibberd, Sir Frederick's second wife. He met her whilst working on Harlow – she was on the board of the Harlow Art Trust. Although there were three sculptures in the garden before their marriage, it was she who really introduced Sir Frederick to the world of sculptors – hence the Moore and Frink in Harlow – but also the sculptures found all over the garden. There are over 80 of them, some poignant such as *Mother and Son* by Gerda Rubinstein, fascinating as Christopher Crouch's *The Passage* and the extraordinary *Totems* by Robert Koenig. However the beauty of all of them lies in their meticulously chosen positions. It is hard to tell whether the site was found for the sculpture or the sculpture commissioned for the area, so harmoniously do they all fit into their locations.



Sir Frederick Gibberd, by Gerda Rubinstein

Clockwise from top: *Torso* by John Farnham; *Coiled Pot* by Monica Young; *Mother and Son* by Gerda Rubinstein; *Totems* by Robert Koenig

Restoration

Sir Frederick died in 1984 and although it was his intention that the garden on his death should become available to the people of Harlow for their 'recreation and education', due to massive disputes about his will, the garden fell into disrepair. Fortunately garden writer Jane Brown intervened and The Gibberd Garden Trust was set up in 1995.

Over the last ten years the garden has been restored in the most sympathetic fashion. As with all restoration work the question whether to cut back or replant, remove rebuild or repair, is tortuous. Sir Frederick himself said in a BBC *Monitor* programme that he would hate to see the garden frozen in time. With the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the team of gardeners, mostly volunteers, led by resident gardener Jackie Philpott and Brian Taylor, has already accomplished a great deal, and although plenty of work remains, the garden is being restored to what it was: a masterpiece of 20th century design. ■

SEE FOR YOURSELF

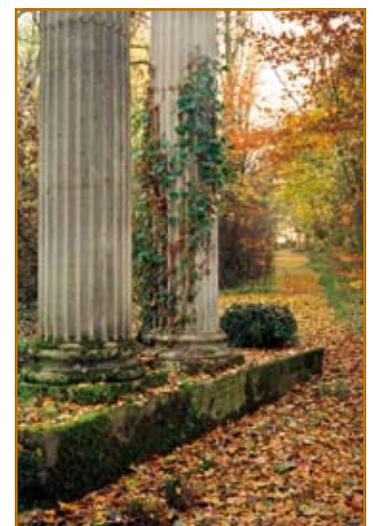
The Gibberd Garden, Marsh Lane, Gilden Way, Harlow, Essex CM17 0NA is open to the public from April to September on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2 p.m – 6 p.m. Entrance Fees: £4.00 (concessions £2.50, children aged 6–16 £1.00, under 6 free).

Roy Hammans' images can be viewed at www.weepingash.co.uk



HARLOW'S OWN SECRET GARDEN

THE GIBBERD GARDEN, designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd, the master planner of Harlow New Town, is not as well known in the area as it should be. Situated on the B183 Harlow Sheering road, its seven acres contain over eighty sculptures set in glades, 'rooms' and groves. A stream with a waterfall, a moated castle and a gazebo are some of the sights to see. We are open from 2pm to 6pm every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Bank Holiday until 28th September. Come and find the garden this summer and bring the coupon below to obtain a special entry only available to Garden Confidential readers. We also serve exceedingly good homemade cakes!



2 for 1
ENTRANCE

ONE FREE ENTRY
with every full-paying adult at
the Gibberd Garden, Harlow
(Tel: 01279 442112)
Valid until 28 September 2008

www.thegibberdgarden.co.uk

DENNIS CARVELL
MI HORT.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
CONSTRUCTION
HIGHLY CREATIVE
PROVEN QUALITY WORK
ESTABLISHED 1978
NO JOB TOO SMALL

01442 242401
0790 191 8562



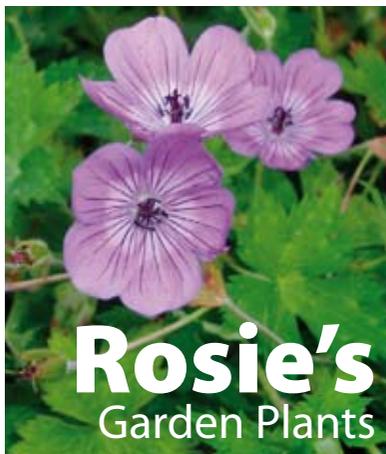
WWW.DENNISCARVELLLANDSCAPES.CO.UK



HALCYON GARDENS

DESIGN ▶ CONSTRUCTION ▶ MAINTENANCE

19 LINKSIDE
WOODSIDE PARK
LONDON N12 7LE
TEL/FAX: 020 8343 4585
MOBILE: 07973 821 187
INFO@HALCYONGARDENS.CO.UK



**Hardy Geraniums,
Asters, Roses
& 'Your Name'
Plants**

Phone, email or post for year-round mail order catalogue.

01622 715777

Fieldview Cottage
Pratling Street, Aylesford
Kent ME20 7DG

www.rosiesgardenplants.biz

Rosie's
Garden Plants

Capel Manor College



School of Garden Design

has gained a national reputation for the quality of its garden design courses. Former students have won awards at many prestigious horticultural shows and developed successful careers in the field of garden design.

Le Jardin de Vincent

Our picture shows Chelsea Medal Winning Garden in 2007 which was designed by former students and has re-located to Capel Manor Gardens.

FOUNDATION COURSE FOR GARDEN DESIGN (NOCN) Level 2

1 day a week for one year

This course has been specially designed as an introduction to the specialist courses in garden and planting design. During the year students gain the skills, knowledge and confidence required for more advanced NOCN courses. It covers horticulture and plant knowledge as well as drawing and graphic skills.

GARDEN DESIGN PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE (NOCN) Level 3

1 day a week for one year

This course follows on from the Foundation Course for Garden Design and aims to equip students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to start out as a practising garden designer. A wide range of topics is taught through illustration lectures and workshops. Projects are used to develop students' drawings, graphic design and presentation skills.

This course does not cover planting so students need to take the Plants and Planting Design course as well.

GARDEN DESIGN PLANTS & PLANTING (NOCN) Level 3

1 day a week for one year

This course is intended for anyone who wishes to extend their plant knowledge and enhance their creative skills. Alongside lectures and plant ident walks a range of projects is used to develop students' plant knowledge, their awareness of plant association and design, and their drawing and presentation skills.

For further details please contact Student Registry on
08456 122 122
Capel Manor College
Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield EN1 4RQ www.capel.ac.uk



The Walled Garden at Capel Manor

On 12 July, the internationally renowned Capel Manor College celebrates its 40th birthday. *Garden Confidential* talks to Tom Cole, its inspiring Head of the School of Horticulture, to discover what's on offer to prospective students and visitors this summer

WORDS: [CHRISSIE MACLACHLAN](#)

BARELY MINUTES FROM the M25 and Great Cambridge Road lies a scented oasis: 30 verdant acres surrounding the fine Georgian manor house and Victorian stables of Capel Manor. The manor enjoyed centuries of distinction as an ancient estate, acquired in the 15th century by the Capels (later Lords of Essex); the current house was built in the 1750s. Thanks both to the vision of its last owners – who left the house and gardens in Trust – and that of the modern college's founders, this erstwhile aristocratic family seat is now one of Britain's most eminent seats of horticultural learning.

Capel Manor is Greater London's only specialist College of Horticulture, Floristry, Garden Design, Arboriculture, Animal Care and Countryside Studies. Amongst its myriad attractions for visitors are richly planted themed gardens (including historical, Italianate maze, Japanese and famous ex-alumnus Kim Wilde's Jungle Gym Garden); the celebrated Sunflower Street, relocated from Chelsea Flower Show and

a welcoming visitors' centre with garden gift shop and summer plant sales. There's a packed programme of events celebrating the college's 40th birthday this July – and, of course, an unrivalled selection of full and part time training courses for students from 14 to 60-plus.

As Tom Cole, Capel's charismatic Head of Horticulture, says: 'Whether you're looking at your first career – or your next career – we've got a vocational training course. We also get quite a few professionals coming in to top up their skills and increasing numbers of people just wanting to learn specifics – such as growing their own fruit and veg. We've teamed up as one of the RHS partnership colleges to provide accessible, relatively inexpensive courses and every year the demand for our short, one-day programmes goes up.'

The seeds sown at Capel 40 years ago are certainly bearing fruit. Since Tom arrived in 1991, the college has blossomed and now encompasses five centres within the M25 with

◀ some 3,000 students – 1,200 in Horticulture alone. And Tom's a shining example of how far a career in horticulture can take you; he's travelled the globe lecturing, from Japan to America, as well as hosting regular 'Q&A' radio phone-ins and writing gardening advice columns.

Green fingers run in the Cole family: 'My grandparents were market gardeners just outside Canterbury; my grandmother was very into her dahlias and my grandfather was very into his roses and tomatoes! Every summer I was down there playing in the garden. I always knew it wasn't going to be an office job for me.'

After an HND in Commercial Horticulture Tom honed his skills in everything from fruit propagation to perennials, shrubs and trees to composting and feed. A management trainee programme at the Chelsea Gardener revealed a talent for teaching: 'I started doing some informal training when products came in, telling people about the different types of bulbs, how to plant up, using containers.' Introduced to Capel by Charles Fenwick, owner of the Chelsea Gardener, Tom eventually applied to teach a YTS programme. '4 November 1991: my first day of teaching... I was really nervous, but immediately realised I should've been doing it years ago. I loved it.'

**We're not set in aspic.
We continue to be a very
innovative college, always
offering something new**

Seventeen years on, Tom's still loving it – and fiercely proud of Capel's ever-growing success. 'It's been amazing, seeing the college expand. And the gardens; back in '91, hardly any of these gardens were here. Some have come back from Chelsea or Hampton Court [where Capel regularly collects a plethora of awards] and now we're revamping some of the older ones. I like that aspect of things changing; we're not set in aspic. We continue to be a very innovative college, always offering something new.'

The 200,000 visitors who pour through the gates each year would agree. Recognised as a Centre of Vocational Excellence, Capel Manor College is both a superb educational resource and simply a lovely place to visit for garden inspiration. Make a date this summer to go and wish it many happy returns! ■

Capel Manor College and Gardens, Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 4RQ. Tel: 08456 122122; enquiries@capel.ac.uk; www.capel.ac.uk



Tom's tips for summer viewing at Capel Manor

THE WALLED GARDEN

Climbing roses are coming into bloom, colourful border shrubs.

JARDIN DE VINCENT

2007 Chelsea Silver-Gilt Flora award. Mediterranean style, drought-resistant planting. Very simple, lots of good repetition, blocky drifts of grasses.

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH GARDEN

2007 Chelsea Silver-Gilt award. Has matured well and will be wonderfully hot in terms of colour.



Designers Janet Honour and Patricia Thirion, with Hannah Gordon

CAPEL MANOR'S NEWEST garden, Le Jardin de Vincent, was opened on 7 June by Hannah Gordon, pictured above between designers Janet Honour and Patricia Thirion. Janet and Patricia became great friends while students at Capel Manor College and set up in business together in 2006.

The garden is inspired by fragments of paintings by van Gough, who lived in Provence between 1888 and 1890, the 'Yellow House' and the famous 'Irises'. Originally created as a courtyard at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2007, the garden was awarded a Silver Gilt Medal.

Le Jardin de Vincent is composed of soft gentle greys, greens and blues. These colours bring to life the striking blue of the irises and sunshine orange in the *Calendula* (marigolds). A fig and oleander lean lazily against the house and three Italian cypresses brood, dark green, in the north-west corner by the window. A small olive tree provides welcome shade and is surrounded by lavenders, cotton lavenders, thyme and ox-eye daisies. *Calamagrostis* leaves mimic the wheat fields so often painted by Van Gogh and a splash of red is provided by geraniums in terracotta pots on the window sill of the house.

SUMMER AT CAPEL MANOR

15 JULY

Advice session for prospective students.
5:30–8 p.m.

25 JULY

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.
Open-air theatre with the Chapterhouse Theatre Company.
6:30–8:30 p.m. Adults £12, Students and Children £8, Family Ticket £35 (2 adults and 2 children).

26–27 JULY

Fuchsia and Family Fun Show.
Annual Fuchsia Show and advice (open from 1 p.m. on the Saturday). Plus magic shows, storytelling, face painting and other 'green' activities for children.

16–17 AUGUST

British Gladiolus Show and Gough Park Allotment Show

7 SEPTEMBER

Enfield Chrysanthemum Show.
Classic and Vintage Car Show.
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

20 SEPTEMBER

City Harvest Festival

OPEN DAYS 2008

Twice a year the College campus at Enfield is open on Saturday for prospective students, family and friends to look around. Current students provide demonstration and displays and there are opportunities to talk to staff and students about the College and its courses.
Next open day is **15th November 2008**

GARDEN & LANDSCAPE DESIGN

by Lara Copley-Smith



If you are truly seeking an Inspirational and Creative Team to realise the potential of your garden...

Telephone: 01276 507345 Mobile: 07947 070454
email: gardenlandscapedesign@yahoo.co.uk
www.garden-landscape-design.co.uk



penchant landscapes



Contemporary and traditional garden design, bespoke design and construction service.

Hard landscaping • Planting • Irrigation • Lighting
Water Features • Bespoke Commissions
Free initial consultation.

A: 65 The High Street, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2SL
T: 01727 847 703 M: 07855 747 373 E: info@penchantdesigns.co.uk
W: www.penchantdesigns.co.uk

STYLE YOUR GARDEN TO YOUR HOUSE



AM Gardens specializes in designing gardens to reflect the period of the house, whether Victorian, Edwardian, Arts & Craft, between the Wars or Post Modernist. Plans include formal layouts incorporating contemporary planting where appropriate.

Call Melanie Wand BA Hons
Garden Designer/Garden Historian

on 077 100 37002 for a free consultation

All manner of garden design and construction undertaken

HISTORIC GARDENS

Review



Lively - well-informed - lavishly illustrated
For everyone who is seriously interested in the world's wonderful heritage of parks and gardens

Available by subscription only.
Please look at www.historicgardens.org for details.



IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY...

Hare Standing / Hare Crouching (bronze resin) by Rodney Munday. This Hertfordshire sculptor Rodney Munday is well-known as an 'animalier' and has won prestigious awards in the UK and France for his work.

'GARDENS SHOULD BE a place of discovery, inspiration and delight' say Hatfield House and they have managed to fulfil all of these with their summer sculpture exhibition.

The works that make up *Encounters* were chosen to reflect the natural environment and the pieces on display include animals, birds, plants and organic abstracts.

The result is that the naturally beautiful Wilderness Garden has been turned into an enchanted garden, with the exhibits displayed throughout. You're not quite sure what you're going to come across next among the banks of wild flowers, tall grasses, great oaks and a giant Californian Redwood – relics from the garden's days as an arboretum. As the organisers say themselves, be prepared to encounter the unusual.

There are 23 exhibits in total created by artists from Hertfordshire and from the West Country who have been brought to Hatfield through the team's collaboration with Stone Lane Garden arboretum and sculpture exhibition in Devon.

The works vary dramatically in subject and

WORDS: **SALLY BAXTER** IMAGES: **STEVE BROWN**

treatment from the naturalistic – such as a charming pair of boxing hares by Hertfordshire sculptor Rodney Munday, through to the fantastical – a leaping unicorn by Ed Netley from the West Country. Elsewhere father and son team Gary and Thomas Thrussell from Bodmin Moor have created a six-foot-wide spider that can be found crawling through the undergrowth, as well as a beautiful and also oversized butterfly.

The sculptures have brought this part of the garden to life

One of the delights of *Encounters* is being able to get close to the exhibits. So you can examine the work and skill that Devon's Alicia Castrillo put into her splendid willow *Hawk* that looks like it's swooping down to pick up prey, or enjoy eye-to-eye contact with a majestic *Red Stag* by

Somerset's George Hider, knowing it would never happen in real life.

Hertfordshire artist David Undery's *Voice of Nature* is a dramatic abstract piece with a gold finish. Baldock-based Undery, says: 'My art has always been about touch and feel. I wanted this outdoor sculpture to react to its environmental setting and become a natural part of its surroundings. For me it's as if the sculpture's golden ear listens sympathetically to its ambient sounds only to sing out silent notes in reply, reacting with its glorious situation.'

Lady Salisbury says of the exhibition: 'The sculptures have brought this part of the garden to life. The quality and craftsmanship of the work is outstanding, and there is a great variety of materials, shapes and forms. I hope that visitors will enjoy the exhibition and return many times over the summer.'

Encounters is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. until the end of September. Entry is included in the Garden ticket (£5.50 adults; £4 Child). All work is for sale and many of the artists are happy to produce work to specific commission. ■

The work in *Encounters* is for sale. Some pieces form part of limited editions and many artists are happy to produce pieces in different materials to suit particular settings. For more details about the artists, please ask for an information sheet or see the exhibition page in the garden section of the Hatfield House website. To purchase a work, please contact the House Office: 01707 287093, email: visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk. Artists with a * symbol also exhibit at Stone Lane Gardens, Devon. www.stonelane gardens.com



Black Fish (marble resin) by Mark Humphrey. Working from his studio near Royston, Mark's sculptures can be found in private collections and gardens throughout the UK, Europe and the USA. He was awarded the SAND's public commission for Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead.



Voice of Nature (concrete) by David Undery. David had his work selected for the Merrill Lynch garden at last year's Chelsea Flower Show and his work can be found in private collections in the UK and the USA. David works from his studio in Baldock, north Hertfordshire.



Stag (steel horse shoes) by Tom Hill. Tom uses horseshoes to create spectacular animal forms. Based just a few miles from here in Tewin, Tom first exhibited at Hatfield in 2005 and his *Elephant* family group is installed in the East Garden.



Red Kites (mild steel) by Adrian Payne. Adrian takes his inspiration from nature and in this case, the *Red Kites*, which are now a common sight near his Buckinghamshire forge. Adrian created his sculptures in a variety of metals and finishes to suit a particular garden setting.



Leaf (wood) by John Spielman. Born in Welwyn Garden City, John has had one-man exhibitions across the country. His works are now in private collections throughout the world. John plays an active role in promoting Hertfordshire artists through the work of the Hertfordshire Visual Arts Forum.



Red Stag (reclaimed metals) by George Hider*. South Somerset-based George creates striking life-like forms by cutting, bending and welding recycled and scrap steel. In time the pieces will rust and acquire a brindled effect. His animals and birds can be found in private gardens in the West Country and at Stone Lane.



Masks (ceramic) by Pauline Lee*. Pauline takes the beautiful surroundings of her home by the River Dart in Devon as her inspiration. Her textural evocative ceramics use natural forms to convey atmosphere and elements of nature. Pauline's work is wide-ranging, from masks to figures, landscapes and organic shapes.



Butterfly (mild steel and copper) by Gary and Thomas Thrussell*. From the heart of Bodmin Moor, father and son team Gary and Thomas use mild steel, copper and stainless steel. They enjoy depicting small insects on a giant scale, but also create pieces for domestic settings and public works.



Hawk (steel and wicker) by Alicia Castillo*. From her workshop in Honiton, Devon, Alicia works willow into a steel frame to develop a sense of movement and energy within the sculpture. Working mainly to commission, her animal, bird and human forms can be seen in parks and gardens throughout the South West.



Sprite (stone) by Cathy Wood*. Cathy usually works with stone from her local area around Bath. She takes her inspiration from natural forms and enjoys creating sculpture that will enhance outdoor spaces.



In Agreement (stone) by Angela Holmes*. Utilising a wide variety of stone, Angela creates fluid forms which have a quiet energy. A member of the South West Sculptors Association, her work can be found in collections in Europe and the UK.



Leaping Unicorn (wire) by Ed Netley*. West Country artist Ed Netley creates his sculptures using steel and wire. Each is created to life size, according to the artists' idea of form and feeling. His wire elephants, horses and birds are complemented by figures for both private and public commissions.



Vestiges (oak) by Anthony Rogers*. Anthony takes his inspiration from the dynamic energy of the natural world, the flowing lines and swirling rhythms of the landscape near his Somerset home. He has completed numerous private commissions in wood and exhibited widely, including at Westonbirt Arboretum and various sculpture exhibitions in this country and abroad.

CONTACT OUR LOCAL SCULPTORS

Tom Hill 01438 717336

Mark Humphrey 01763 257337

Rodney Munday 01279 843652

Adrian Payne (Great Missenden) 01494 489869

John Spielman 01992 581688

David Undery 07970 027004

Encounters in the West Garden at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire AL9 5NQ

Entry to the Park & West Garden: £5.50 adult, £4 child

Located 21 miles north of London, M25 junction 23, 7 miles. A1(M) junction 4, 2 miles. Signed off A414 and A1000.

Entrance opposite Hatfield railway station.

For more information, please see www.hatfield-house.co.uk or call 01707 287010

C O N F I D E N T I A L COMPETITION

IF YOU HAVE some late-season *Perfect Bedding Partners* and would like to share them with us at *Garden Confidential*, please e-mail your photographs together with a description of your chosen shot.

We will print a selection in our next issue. The most attractive, as chosen by the *Garden Confidential* team will win:

FIRST PRIZE: a Family Ticket (worth £30 for 2 adults and up to 4 children) to the Hatfield House Country Show on the 15–17 August 2008. Together with two pairs of gardening gloves as tested and reviewed in this issue.

2 RUNNERS-UP: will each win a family ticket to the Hatfield House Country Show.

HATFIELD HOUSE COUNTRY SHOW

Enjoy A Taste Of The Countryside is the theme of this year's show, which runs from 15–17 August. Visitors can enjoy an enormous choice of attractions, endless shopping plus rural entertainment.

- ◆ Radio and TV personalities (John Craven; celebrity chef John Torode; and Trevor Harrison (the Archers "Eddie Grundy")
- ◆ Dancing Dog Display
- ◆ Falconry
- ◆ Polo and Heavy Horses
- ◆ Traditional Steam Driven Vehicles
- ◆ The "Dancing Sheep" show
- ◆ Children's farm
- ◆ Donkey Rides
- ◆ Longbow Archery
- ◆ Clay Pigeon Shooting

See www.hatfield-house.co.uk or call 01707 287010 for more information

RULES: Only one entry per household. Entries must be received by 1st August 2008 at *Garden Confidential's* offices (address on page 3 of this issue) and winners will be notified by phone, post or e-mail by 14th August. Entrants must be 18 years or over. The prizes are not open to employees of *Garden Confidential*, or their families and agents. No cash alternative is available. The judges' decision is final; no correspondence will be entered into.

Chipperfield Garden Machinery



Lawnmowers
Chainsaws
Garden Tractors
Cultivators
Leaf Debris Blowers
Hedgecutters
Electric Mowers
Petrol Trimmers
Petrol Brushcutters
Ride-on Mowers
Scarifiers

• SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • REPAIRS

• Allen • Apache • Ariens • ATCO • Billy Goat • Bosch • Dynamic • Efco • Harry • Hayter • Honda • Kawasaki • Masport • Mountfield • Qualcast • Rover • Ryobi • Sarp • Shibaura • Simplicity • Solo • Stiga • Stihl • Tanaka • Viking • Westwood • Wolf

Chipperfield Garden Machinery

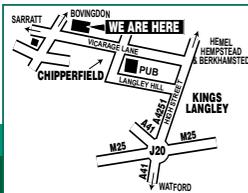
The Garden Centre, Langley Road, Chipperfield, Herts WD4 9EG

01923 269377

In the Garden Centre,
next to the Land Rover Garage, in Chipperfield

www.chipperfield.co.uk

OPENING HOURS: MON - FRI: 8.30AM TO 5PM,
SAT: 9AM TO 4PM, SUN: SEASONAL - PLEASE CALL



DenSheds Limited

Suppliers of quality leisure buildings



- ◆ Garden Sheds
- ◆ Playhouses
- ◆ Garden Offices
- ◆ Summer Houses
- ◆ Concrete Garages

- ◆ Base Laying Services Available
- ◆ Fencing & Decking

So come & browse our huge range of products and discuss your exact requirements!

Our display village is open 7 days a week

020 8449 5049

www.densheds.co.uk

Wyevale Garden Centre, Duke of York, Barnet EN5 4RR
(A1000 between Barnet & Potters Bar)

POND PUMPS DIRECT

Pond Pumps Direct - The UK's leading supplier of aquatic equipment for over 25 years

Make The Most Of Your Garden Paradise

• OASE • HOZELOCK • HEISSNER • FISH MATE • BLAGDON • KÄRCHER • UBBINK •



LOWEST PRICES -

We set the most competitive prices, not follow them!

TOP EUROPEAN BRANDED PRODUCTS -

All with manufacturers' warranty

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS -

Up to 60% off thousands of stocked pumps and filters

FREE NEXT WORKING DAY DELIVERY -

To UK mainland on orders received by 2.00pm Monday to Friday (N Scotland 2 working days)

PROFESSIONAL IMPARTIAL ADVICE -

From industry trained staff 9.30am - 6.00pm Monday to Saturday, 11.00am - 4.00pm Sunday (No answerphones!)

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO - *Over 35% of our sales come from recommendations and repeat orders*

NO HIDDEN EXTRAS -

All prices include VAT & Delivery

We also have extensive stocks of stunning water features, garden irrigation systems, pond and garden lighting, branded pond liners, pond vacuums and all the accessories for your water gardening needs.

Tel: 0151 448 9111

Or click: pondpumpsdirect.com

Pond Pumps Direct, 139 Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool. L25 0ND

anablep

Quality with Affordability

www.anablep.com



UP ON THE ROOF

The green roof trend started in Germany and is a more commonplace sight in other parts of Europe than here in the UK, but a conservative building and planning culture has traditionally served to constrain their installation.

Gemma Sargant discovers a renaissance is now well underway.

WHEN WAS THE last time you really looked up and considered the city roofscape? For most of us, this space way above eye level is purely functional, the uppermost part of a building that protects us and its contents from exposure to the elements.

However, this roof space could be argued to be one of our most under-used urban assets, with the potential to provide numerous social, economic and environmental benefits.

Our quality of life – and indeed the quality of our environment – could be greatly improved by the creation of well-designed, so-called green, brown and recreational roof spaces.

A green roof, as the name suggests, is created when vegetation is grown on a roof structure.

This phenomenon is by no means modern – think here of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and traditional turf-roofed dwellings. These can be seen as the original pioneers of this increasingly popular green trend.

In modern society, where space is at a premium in urban areas, green roofs are perhaps even more environmentally relevant than ever. I am happy to report that this greening design solution is increasingly becoming accepted and welcomed into mainstream design and construction.

The benefits of green roofs are many: kind to both the environment and to the pocket, and they are both beautiful and functional. They are wonderful building insulators and help to regulate temperatures throughout the year, reducing energy consumption and therefore energy bills.

Vegetated roofs can also help to reduce flooding in urban areas by slowing the flow of storm water.

Plants are super-efficient air purifiers and improve air quality by trapping dust particles, absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

Green roofs need to be located in a shade-free area and general topsoil is unsuitable being too heavy and too fertile. Instead, use a shallow and well-drained substrate such as gravel or brick rubble mixed with nutrient-poor soil.

Sedums are one of the most effective plants to grow, as they are capable of withstanding harsh conditions such as strong sun and wind. These small but tough plants thrive on shallow substrate and need no irrigation. They also come



Sedum green roof

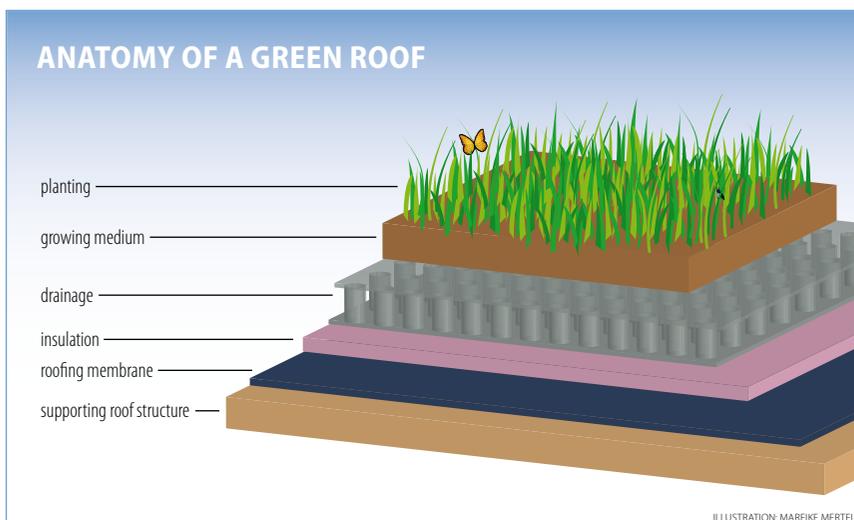


ILLUSTRATION: MAREIKE MERTEL



Recreational roof terrace

in a wonderful array of shapes and colours.

Where there is ease of access to the roof, you could consider a wildflower meadow; not only will this look visually stunning but it will also attract bees and butterflies. Access is required as the meadow will need to be managed and cut down once or twice a year after the wildflowers have self-seeded.

While green roofs are fantastic, a brown roof can be more suitable for use on larger scale industrial or nature reserve rooftops.

This type of roof is created when substrate, local aggregate excavated during construction being the most sustainable source, is moved onto the flat roof, rather than transported to landfill, and plants are allowed to colonise naturally over time.

Brown roofs can help to mitigate and replace the loss of brownfield sites and these high-rise nature reserves provide a habitat for many plants, insects and insectivorous birds like the

Black Redstart, an endangered species that requires this type of environmental condition for feeding.

A recreational roof terrace is an open, accessible space that can be used and enjoyed for a wide range of activities that suit your budget, personality and lifestyle. Roof spaces can be dramatic places with breathtaking views of the city and skyscape.

They can provide a recreational space for outdoor eating, growing vegetables, or a high-tech, state of the art space with hot tub, fire-pit and outdoor audio and visual entertainment. Whatever your use, a thoughtful and well-designed roof space will really make a difference to your everyday life, and will add economic and environmental value to your property.

The physical, mental and social benefits of direct access to open space are well documented. As our city expands and we live in higher density and closer proximity to our neighbours, we really

need to make imaginative use of this asset just above our heads.

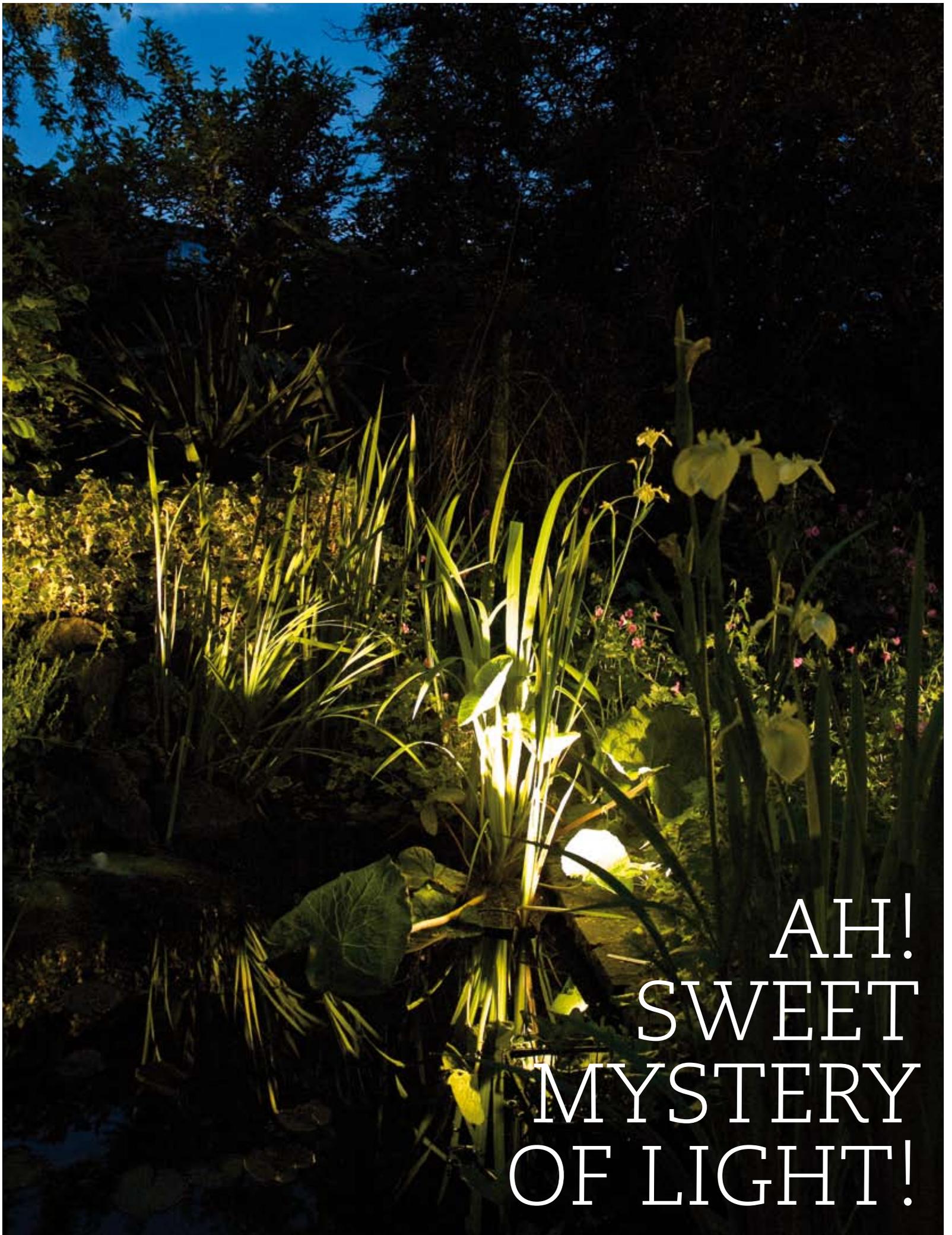
Architects and engineers should always be consulted on projects due to issues of planning permission and building regulations. Likewise, I would always advise consulting a professional designer to maximise the potential of your outdoor space.

Whether you have a garage, shed, flat, house, office or factory, why not consider the potential opportunity to develop this roof space into a spectacular 'living roof' place?

Like the lyrics of that well-known song by The Drifters:

*I climb way up to the top of the stairs
And all my cares just drift right into space
On the roof, it's peaceful as can be
And there the world below can't bother me...*

Gemma Sargant is Senior Designer at Urbanroofgardens Ltd
www.urbanroofgardens.com



AH!
SWEET
MYSTERY
OF LIGHT!

“I GO TO NATURE TO BE SOOTHED AND HEALED, AND TO HAVE MY SENSES PUT IN ORDER”

John Burroughs (1837–1921)

WORDS: **PETER BURIAN** IMAGES: **STEVE BROWN**

THERE IS A yearly average of 4,300 hours of darkness in South East England of which there might be more than 1,500 waking hours during which the beauty and nocturnal mystery of our gardens could be better enjoyed. Are we doing so? If not – why not be ‘soothed and healed’, after dark?

Our rooms are extensions of our gardens – the space will be there long after the house is dust. Windows and French doors are only membranes but, when people prefer not to close their curtains or blinds after dark, the glazing acts as a mirror. Even with a little badly selected garden lighting, room reflections create barriers. Americans often refer to those as ‘veiling reflections’. Thus our evening world diminishes and the wholesome sense of space shrinks to the illusory proportions of the rooms.

There is hardly need to state how much better and more cheerful we can feel in sunlight or in good artificial lighting (not *foulrescent* – I add).

Recently a survey found that on average many general staff enjoy only approximately 20 minutes of daylight during a working day. And we wonder why ill health abounds?

So many of our moods are influenced by sunshine or its dearth and also by what we see. Many children are frightened of the darkness beyond the room – there is often the feeling that ‘someone is looking in’ and, not infrequently, there is! This is another reason why bare roof lights or Velux windows can be ‘spooky’ at night. So, even a little well-chosen exterior lighting can prevent those feelings and give reassurance.

In the early 1960’s many felt ‘guilty’ about

having any garden lighting. Most were troubled about being thought of as “ostentatious” – not that they were much concerned with energy use. Then, almost all sparse garden lighting was by inefficient, spiked spotlights using bulky and hot 240 volt, pressed armoured reflector lamps (PAR 38’s). Many, being badly placed, shrivelled the precious vegetation and it is still common to see scorched plants, struggling to survive the injury.

Now, people are more worried about energy, but even more vexed about security. Additionally, people are now more careful of ‘safety’ – whatever that might mean. For in these litigious times no homeowner wants to give grounds for some rapacious, no-win-no-fee legal ‘parasite’ to dent their home-insurance premium with a successful claim, for instance in “failing to provide either a safe night-time approach to the front door or for other mishaps in the rear garden”. Even from burglars! Yes, burglars!

You think that a joke? A north London magistrate confided how a burglar* fell through roof glazing. He *allegedly* injured himself and successfully sued the property owner for substantial damages on the basis that, “the area around the window was hazardous at night”! Rub your eyes! Please read that again! So did the magistrate. That, together with other daft legislation biased in favour of villainy, spurred the magistrate to conclude that it was resignation time – after more than 25 years on The Bench.

[It is not quite true that The Health & Safety Executive are trying to locate the Creator to serve

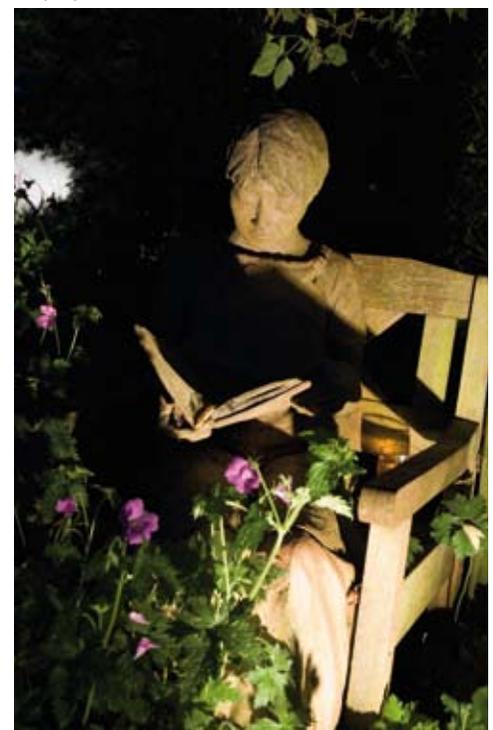
* He didn’t qualify for “The Darwin Awards” – because he survived.



Calming



Intriguing



Captivating



Ever beckoning

a notice of intended prosecution for producing such a 'dangerous' creation.]

We find that all garden lighting, whether front of house or rear should embrace these aspects: beauty, modelling, mystery and accent; safety – with discretion; startling security – tamperproof if possible; energy efficiency – obviously; easy maintenance.

What is needed?

Unfortunately, both for interior or exterior lighting, many believe that lighting fittings and 'pretty' pictures is the way forward to a DIY lighting scheme. "Please can you send me catalogues or point me to sources of where I can see what's available?" That's frequently heard by many a designer and supplier. It's like asking a pharmacy for their stock list. Supposing they gave it? Would the petitioner *know how to use it*? Buying paint at Winsor & Newton doesn't make a Michelangelo nor a violin from Chappell's, a Perlman! Commonsense is: first *diagnose* – then *prescribe*.

The only certain method is a *physical* examination. Because it is a given that everyone's garden differs and everyone has preferences, we always visit gardens at sunset and, when fully dark, try out various effects with portable versions of the lighting we might deploy. Only in that way can an owner see exactly, in part, what the final appearance might be.

Few stockists bother to wire equipment, test it, and carry out night trials 'in the field' or are aware of weaknesses (until the complaints start

up). Usually the vocational, competent electrical installer becomes aware of the shortcomings often when installing them or worse when called to deal with them after they have been in service.

For example, everyone is extolling LED's as the Second Coming. Extravagant claims abound. "These will save the purse, the Nation, the Earth, the Galaxy, the Universe, the Creation (if the HSE don't abolish it first).

"The life is 50,000, 100,000 hours – eternity" is the 'shout'. Bunkum.

We tested a so-called 100,000 hour, £15.00 plus 'low-voltage-substitute' LED in the most auspicious circumstances – cool location, dry,



A tantalizing pot

and vibration free. It lasted precisely 3,500 hours – and we can't remember from whom we bought it otherwise the vendor would be getting a call.

The power was abysmal – nowhere near that of a 12 volt 20 watt dichroic lamp – which would have cost around £2.50 and used only £4.90 in electricity: Total £7.40. If one had to pay an electrician to remove the faulty LED, make telephone calls to the vendor or write letters, handle the administration, p & p the failed unit to the supplier, ("sorry, we need to inspect it") and pay the electrician again to return – if a replacement arrives, the real cost is many times that.

Know thy product

In the 'good old days' the traditional ironmonger, for instance, would also know what all of his goods were for: what tools did what, which adhesives to use for what applications, what paints to apply, and countless other "how to's".

Alas, today most lighting equipment suppliers of now, mostly Chinese-made goods, are not fully experienced in their use, suitability and durability.

Never ask a barber whether you need a haircut

A fitting may look good in the packaging; if only that were guarantee enough for its serviceability. The paint can fall off in a matter of months or the lamp holder can disintegrate. So, often, asking a *supplier* for impartial advice can be like going in to say, Cringe Cars' showrooms and asking whether one should buy, a Ford, BMW, Mercedes, Lexus, Citroen or other? Guess what?

"We here at Cringe Motors have got *just* the car for you..." Surprise, surprise. But who can blame them?

Beauty, mystery, modelling and accenting

The dressing of the garden with lighting is difficult – harder than good stage lighting. Oh yes... "All the world's a stage..."

A while back we assisted Disney on location outside the frontage of a fine building in Hampstead. I told the lighting director, "You chaps have it so easy!"

"Easy?" he replied.

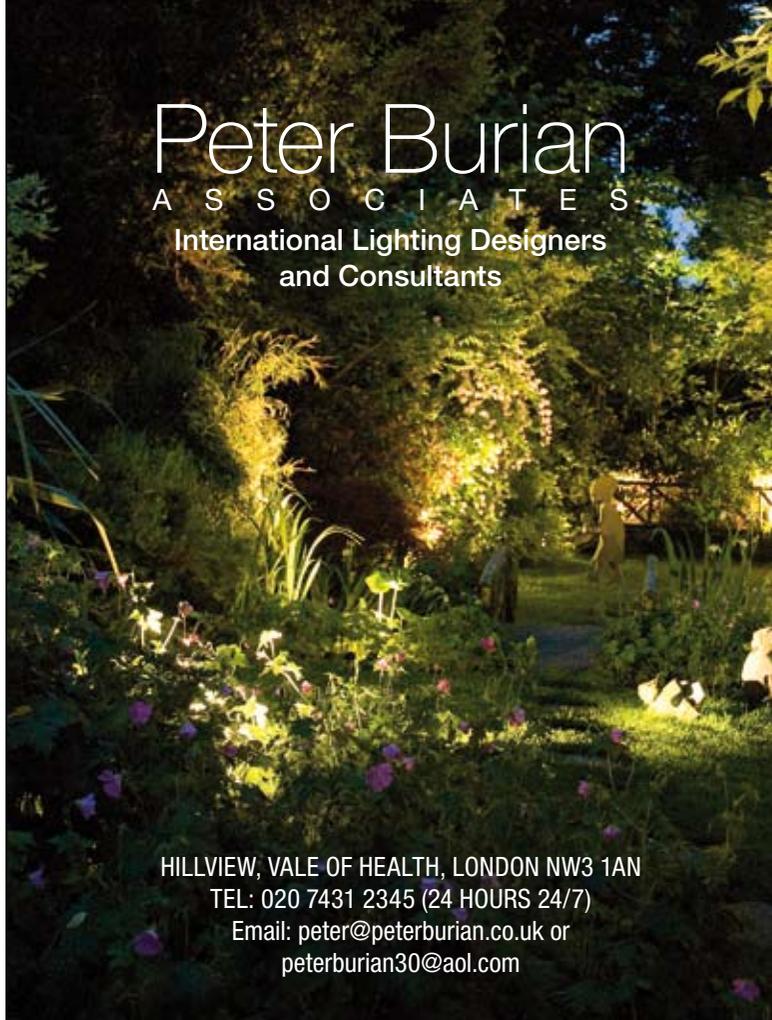
"Because you only have to make it look well from one view, and you don't care about blasting, frizzling and dazzling the actors, (with

Amanda Broughton



RHS Award Winning
Garden Designer
 Garden Design & Maintenance

Tel: 020 8449 5781
 Mobile: 07899 828370
www.abroughtondesign.com
 QUEENS ROAD, BARNET, HERTS EN5 4DG



Peter Burian
 ASSOCIATES
 International Lighting Designers
 and Consultants

HILLVIEW, VALE OF HEALTH, LONDON NW3 1AN
 TEL: 020 7431 2345 (24 HOURS 24/7)
 Email: peter@peterburian.co.uk or
peterburian30@aol.com

safe · timeless · beautiful



markilux for those warm summer nights

The markilux 1550 awning is designed especially to create a relaxing and inviting atmosphere to entertain your guests in. Halogen lighting fitted into the front profile giving that special ambience to any occasion.

This award winning awning also provides shading from the sun during the day enabling you to enjoy your outdoor space to the full.

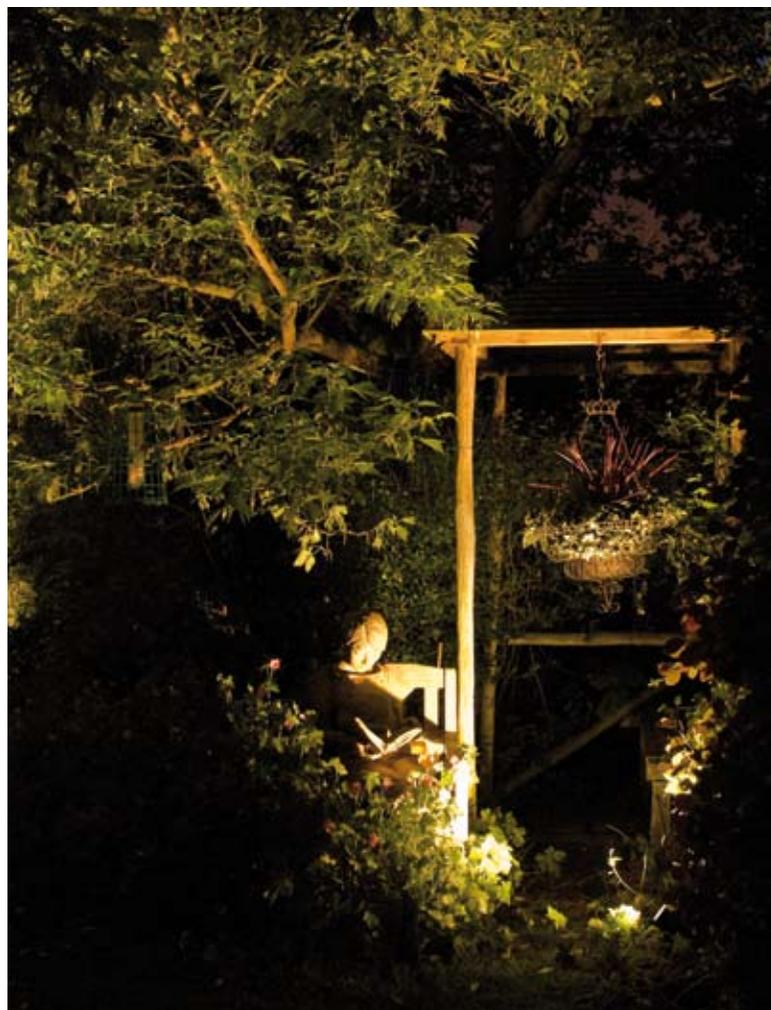
www.markilux.com

markilux (UK) Ltd. Tel. 01244 394 209





Exquisite effusion



Poetical

210 kilowatts of light) but we have to make it look good from *all* angles”.

“Wow... you’re right... I’d never thought of that, never realised it.”

So, in garden and landscape lighting, the ruination of ‘beautiful’ is – wait for it – DAZZLE! Even a pen torch in the dark can be excruciating and seen for miles. Unlike cats, who can stare unflinchingly into a powerful torch, we humans do not have the same tolerance to glare or dazzle. In war, smoking on deck on board ship at night is a court-martial offence – the tiny glowing cigarette end can be seen over huge distances. Therefore, it is vital that our eyes are led to what is lit and never led to the light *source* the better to enhance the mystery and modelling of the garden. Sensitive positioning of light sources is required, hidden from usual viewing points.

Safety – discretion

It is mostly possible to provide ‘safety’ lighting which is subtle and discreet so that it does not invade or detract from the overall effect.

Security – efficiency and shock

Rather than the ubiquitous and clumsy halogen ‘car-park’ floods, it is very simple to have the entire garden lighting come on when the space is visited by unwelcome ‘guests’. Villains have been known to shatter obvious passive infrared activated floodlights by means of catapults, air guns and even paint ball markers before a burglary. There have been cases where the wall mounted halogen floods have caused a fire.

A while ago we designed a garden lighting-scheme in Hadley Wood and included small, inconspicuous but powerful ground-based lights targeted at the two low-height gates. We also had flowerbed lighting and discreet but effective buried uplights.

Three days after installation, actually at 3:15 a.m., the modest audible alarm and indicator came on in the rear master bedroom. The owner rose, went to the front, peeped through the net curtains, saw the entire lighting ‘on’, but seeing nothing amiss, reset the alarm and assuming it to be false, resolved to call the installer the next day. At 8:30 the following morning his wife drove

the young ones to school and saw 100 yards on, two police cars, a police van and a neighbour. Stopping, she asked what was happening and was told, “We were burgled last night.”

Clearly, a burglary was *attempted* at our client’s home but thwarted by the ‘scary’ lighting, and further up the road, where there was none, it succeeded.

Simple maintenance

Some lighting equipment can be tricky to clean or to change a lamp so at the outset one should always take careful interest in the simplicity or complexity of maintenance. If that needs the skills of a heart-surgeon or those of a precision watch-maker to do that, something clearly has been overlooked.

Happy lighting, happy ‘soothing’, happy ‘healing’... happy times.

Only readers of *Garden Confidential* can obtain free telephone advice from Peter Burian on 07970 107781

Peter Burian Associates, International Lighting Designers & Consultants, Hillview, Vale of Health, London NW3 1AN

ABSOLUTE ACTION

Focus House, No.6 Tonbridge Rd, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8RP | Tel: 01622 351000 | Fax: 01622 351001

ALTIMA LIGHTING SOLUTIONS

Light Source : 4 Chase Road, London NW10 6HZ | Tel: 020 8453 8740 | Fax: 020 8965 8010

**ANTHONY de GREY GARDEN LIGHTING**

Anthony de Grey offers a wide range of elegant, realistically-priced, low-voltage Garden Lighting, manufactured to a high standard in New Zealand. Spotlights, both adjustable and fixed, and spread lights on spikes are available as well as surface, inground, step and recessed lights in a variety of heights. Tall bollards and twin lights too! All are available in three finishes - Copper, which acquires a patina with age, Anodised Aluminium to co-ordinate with contemporary schemes and Black which blends into the background. Broadhinton Yard, 77a North St, London SW4 OHQ | Tel: 020 7738 8866 | sales@anthonydegrey.com | www.anthonydegrey.com

BLUE BEACON LIGHTING

Intermail PLC, Horizon West, Canal View Rd, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5XF | Tel: 0870 241 3992 | bluebeacon@intermail.co.uk | www.bluebeacon.co.uk

BRABIN & FITZ

22 Bridge Street Row, Chester CH1 1NN | Tel: 01244 314838 | Fax: 01244 342742 | sales@brabinandfitz.co.uk | www.brabinandfitz.co.uk

**BRUCE MUNRO**

Bruce Munro is an international lighting designer and sculptor in light. His fibre optic *Field of Light* installation was inspired by a trip through central Australia's red desert, and covers 10 acres. The acrylic stems lie dormant until darkness falls, then bloom with gentle rhythms of light, allowing the viewer to 'see the wood from the trees'.

Long Knoll Barns, Cokers Lane, Kilmington nr Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 7HU | Tel: 01985 845228 | Fax: 01985 845333 | info@brucemunro.co.uk | www.brucemunro.co.uk

BYGONES ARCHITECTURAL RECLAMATION

Nackington Road, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7BA | Tel: 01227 767453 or 0800 043 3012 | Fax: 01227 762153 | bob@bygones.net | www.bygones.net

CAMERON PETERS

The Old Dairy, Home Farm, Ardington, Wantage, Oxfordshire OX12 8PD | Tel: 01235 835000 | Fax: 01235 835005 | info@cameronpeters.co.uk | www.cameronpeters.co.uk

CHARLES EDWARDS

582 King's Road, London SW6 2DY | Tel: 020 7736 8490 | Fax: 020 7371 5436 | charles@charlesedwards.com | www.charlesedwards.com

CHELSEA LIGHTING DESIGN

Unit 1, 23a Smith Street London SW3 4EJ | Tel: 020 7824 8144 | Fax: 020 7823 4812 | info@chelsealighting.co.uk | www.chelsealightingdesign.co.uk

CHRISTOPHER WRAY

591-593 King's Road, London SW6 2AP | Tel: 020 7751 8701 | Fax: 020 7751 8699 | sales@christopherwray.com | www.christopherwray.com

CRESCENT LIGHTING

8 Rivermead, Pipers Lane, Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 4EP | Tel: 01635 878888 | Fax: 01635 873888 | sales@crescent.co.uk | www.crescent.co.uk

DELTALIGHT

94 Webber Street, Waterloo, London SE1 0QN | Tel: 0845 7577087 | Fax: 020 7620 0985 | design@deltalight.co.uk | www.deltalight.co.uk

ECLIPSE GARDEN LIGHTING

Osborne House, 3-5 Portland Rd, Hythe, Kent CT21 6EG | Tel: 01303 237273 | Fax: 01303 237310

GARDEN BUILDERS

259 Munster Road, Fulham, London SW6 6BW | Tel: 020 7381 8002 | info@gardenbuilders.co.uk | www.gardenbuilders.co.uk

HOLLOWAYS OF LUDLOW

140 Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 2PG | Tel/Fax: 01584 876207 | 121 Shepherd's Bush Road, London, W6 7LP | Tel: 020 7602 5757 | Fax: 020 7602 6561 | info@hollowaysofludlow.com | www.hollowaysofludlow.com

ILLUMINA LIGHTING & INTERIORS

9 New Bridge Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2AA | Tel: 01872 263038 | illuminalighting@btconnect.com | www.illuminallighting.co.uk

JOHN CULLEN LIGHTING

Showroom & design : 585 King's Rd, London SW6 2EH | Tel: 020 7371 5400
Fax: 020 7371 7799 | Warehouse & sales : Unit 24 Talina Centre, Bagleys Lane, London, SW6 2BW | Tel: 020 7371 9000 | Fax: 020 7736 7403 | sales@johncullenlighting.co.uk | www.johncullenlighting.co.uk

LIGHT IQ

1 Rylett Studios, 77 Rylett Crescent, London W12 9RP | Tel: 020 8749 1900
Fax: 020 8749 1999 | enquiries@lightiq.com | www.lightiq.com

LIGHTING FOR GARDENS

7 Dunhams Court, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 WB | Tel: 01462 486777 | Fax: 01462 480344 | sales@lightingforgardens.com | www.lightingforgardens.com

LOUIS POULSEN UK

Unit 44, Barwell Business Park, Leatherhead Rd, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2NY | Tel: Tony Craddock 07966 484316 | Fax: 020 8397 4455

MARSTON & LANGINGER

192 Ebury St, London SW1W 8UP | Tel: 020 7881 5717 | Fax: 020 7824 8757 | Workshop: George Edwards Road, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 8NL | Tel: 01328 864933 | Fax: 01328 851067 | US Address: 117 Mercer Street, New York, NY 10012 | Tel: 212 965 0434 | Fax: 212 965 0694

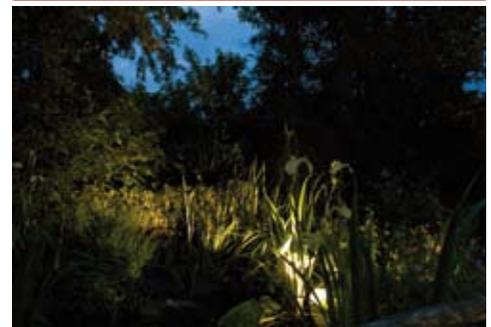
MODE

1 The Office, Cole Street Lane, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5JA | Tel: 0870 2403606 | Fax: 01460 30678

**MOONLIGHT DESIGN**

Moonlight Design is a dedicated UK garden lighting design company based in London. Garden lighting is very often installed by companies who have electrical knowledge but rarely do any of these companies have any horticultural qualifications or experience. This is where Moonlight Design stands out from the crowd as not only do we have qualified electricians we also have qualified horticulturists.

9 Essex Road, London E4 6DG | Tel: 020 8925 8639 | enquiries@moonlightdesign.co.uk | www.moonlightdesign.co.uk

**PETER BURIAN ASSOCIATES**

One of the UK's longest established and award-winning leading, independent international lighting consultancy and design practices. Covering over 45 years' experience in interior and exterior architectural lighting projects including residential, architectural, commercial - also offices, galleries, retail units and public spaces. Full designs for gardens and landscape. We regularly advise top architects, engineers, interior designers, landscapers and discriminating clients, directly. No answer phones and no charges for telephone guidance.

Hillview, Vale of Health, London NW3 1AN | Tel: 020 7431 2345 | peter@peterburian.co.uk

PHILLIPS & WOOD

4 Wilson Walk, off Prebend Gardens, London W4 1TP | Tel: 020 8222 8117 | Fax: 020 8748 9752 | info@phillipsandwood.co.uk | www.phillipsandwood.co.uk

SPIRES LIGHTING

8 West End Industrial Estate, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1UB | Tel: 01993 704229 | Fax: 01993 706987 | sales@spireslighting.co.uk | www.spireslighting.co.uk

TORNADO LIGHTING + DESIGN

2 Stable Yard, Danemere Street, London SW15 1LT | Tel: 020 8788 2324 | Fax: 020 8785 7017 | jamesfox@tornado.co.uk | www.tornado.co.uk

VAUGHAN

G1 Chelsea Harbour Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0XE | Tel: 020 7349 4600 | Fax: 020 7349 4615 | webenquiries@vaughanlighting.co.uk | www.vaughandesigns.com

USING WATER INTELLIGENTLY

What a terrible waste! If you look at a handful of households you will see millions of litres of useful, valuable water spiralling down their collective drainpipes each year. Does this waste matter? Neal Landsberg thinks so...



WELL, MOST PEOPLE are unaware of the extent of it, and the missed opportunity to rescue a precious garden in a drought – legally. And then there is the cost-saving element as water charges are increasing at an alarming rate.

Let's take a look in more detail and see how different it can be. Individual 'average' households produce hundreds of thousands of litres of so-called 'grey water' from baths and showers alone. It is worth clarifying that we are not talking here about 'black water' – sewage from toilets or kitchen sink water which is laden with chemical and organic matter. There are also systems that will process grey water so that it can be used indoors for toilet flushing, and again here we are just looking at the more straightforward use on gardens merely requiring a degree of filtering.

The surprising thing is that we pay for mains water twice. Once coming in as potable (drinking) water – yes we even water our lawns and bedding plants with it – and then we pay again for its disposal via sewerage charges. If that isn't bad enough, when a drought strikes and the hose pipe bans kick-in, our gardens scorch and shrivel for want of a legal drop or two, whilst the cavalry charges down the plug hole.

Hmmm... have you spotted the opportunity yet? They have done in other countries. Take Australia for example (and there are many more), where grey water is routinely used for watering trees, shrubs and beds 'down-under'.

You may ask, 'what about rainwater?' A good question. It is indeed wonderful stuff and it is free to boot! Rainwater harvesting into tanks for

We pay for mains water twice. Once coming in as drinking water... and then again for its disposal

storage is another good thing to do, particularly when excavating whilst landscaping a garden, as you need a good size hole to bury a good size tank, or a good size corner to hide it away. The big disadvantage is during a drought when there is little or no rain by definition and the garden remains at serious risk. If there is only a small rainwater butt, or even two, it will provide only brief respite until they run out and fail to replenish.

The advantage of a good grey water system is that you can reuse a lot of your waste water at least so long as it is flowing into your home, regardless of the rainfall. Sometimes a well thought out combination of grey water and rainwater is right, especially for larger gardens.

The good news is that there are now grey water harvesting systems to suit all sizes of gardens. A computer controlled irrigation system can direct measured quantities of grey water onto predefined zones of bedding or shrubs for the duration of a shower or bath. The system will remember how much was applied and either top it up or move onto the next zone after the next wash. There are systems where there is no need for a tank as the water is pumped straight to the right part of the garden as soon as grey water arrives from the down pipe. It even flushes itself to remain odour-free.

Finally, we have an important piece of the sustainability puzzle, since using grey water lowers your carbon footprint and helps to make sure your investment in a beautiful garden does not go down the plug hole either.

Watermatic Ltd specialise in all aspects of garden irrigation, and supply grey water and rainwater harvesting systems. Contact them on: 01923 83 99 88 and www.watermaticltd.co.uk



Watermatic

Garden Irrigation Solutions

Gardens remain healthier and survive longer with controlled application of water.

Recycle household waste water

Holiday with peace of mind

Low Carbon gardens

Reduce water costs

Irrigation Systems

Rainwater Harvesting

Grey Water Recycling

Install · Design · Aftercare

Contact us for a free estimate

Office: 01923 83 99 88

info@watermaticltd.co.uk

www.watermaticltd.co.uk



**Waterperry
Gardens**



- 8 acres of stunning ornamental gardens
- Quality plant centre
- Teashop • Gallery • Museum.

Inspirational gardens, quality plants, sumptuous food and great ideas for the home and garden.

Waterperry Gardens, Waterperry, Near Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ
Tel 01844 339254. www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

MOONLIGHT DESIGN

Garden lighting design and installation specialists
Supplying and installing the finest light fittings



www.moonlightdesign.co.uk

email: enquiries@moonlightdesign.co.uk

Tel: 020 8925 8639

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL READER OFFER

Heathcote & Ivory

London • Paris • New York

Garden Confidential has teamed up with luxury toiletry maker Heathcote & Ivory to offer all our readers this fabulous Gardeners' Canvas Bag at the special Confidential price of just £12.00 (R.R.P. £20.00).



The Gardeners' Canvas Bag is the ultimate hardy canvas carry bag with Heathcote & Ivory's gardeners' design, containing tools, a hand scrub, nail brush, hand wash, hand lotion, bath salts and a fragranced candle. A top treat for the hard working gardener.

To take advantage of this special offer use the **Garden Confidential reader promotion code below** when you purchase through Heathcote & Ivory's website at www.heathcote-ivory.com

log on to
www.heathcote-ivory.com
and use code
GC2NLH



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

There is a certain satisfaction to getting all dirty and muddy when gardening but there are also times when the novelty of dirt under our fingernails wears off. **Amanda Paxton** considers the options.

A FEW HOURS spent weeding, planting or generally tending your garden can be both relaxing and satisfying with your efforts being instantly rewarded. The after-effects of scrubbing nails and fingers are less welcome, and lots of gardeners prefer to use protective gloves.

Not all gloves are equal however... The various gardening tasks may mean more than one pair for the gardener who will not want to use the same gloves to handle seedlings as fighting brambles. The quality of material, fit, waterproofing and thoughtfulness of design varies hugely and it pays to think a little about your own individual requirements before parting with your money.

The UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) rating

may increasingly be a purchasing factor, but was only identified in one of the pairs assessed, so is not included as a separate feature.

Bearing in mind that the following gloves are made for different tasks, *Garden Confidential* assesses on the basis of durability, style, water protection and dexterity.

DURABILITY

Some canvas gloves can appear seemingly tough but accidentally grabbing a bramble runner will expose their thin protection. The most impenetrable gloves are leather, but protection can come at the expense of dexterity. For the purpose of our assessment, durability is the ability to happily grab hold of brambles, nettles and rose stems.

STYLE

This may mean nothing to some, yet others may only buy on looks. We look at the attractiveness of the glove and give a view.

WATERPROOF

Few tasks in the garden involve no dampness. Weeds and vegetation will hold up raindrops or dew, and earth has a water content too. Gardening in gloves that offer no water protection is miserable and cold.

DEXTERITY

Again, it's horses for courses and using a 'one size fits all' glove will mean frustration with fiddly jobs and pain with tackling thorns. ■

For the purpose of the assessment we rate from 1 to 5, with 5 being excellent.



ATLAS GLOVE
They say...
 'Protects your hands yet provides dexterity.'
The Confidential View...
 We agree! They fit well, feel supple and are suitable for most weeding, planting and dividing jobs. The rubberized fingers and palm give excellent protection against nettles and other nasty weeds, but the cuff length would require the gardener to wear long sleeves with nettles. Our tester found them waterproof enough to handle wetter soils and vegetation – and no grubby fingernails. In fact, she refuses to return them.

Durability	3	Overall Rating	13
Style	4		
Waterproof	3	Price	£6.99
Dexterity	3		

Available in 7 colours from www.atlasgloveshop.co.uk or phone 07940 731984



CATH KIDSTON SUMMER TOILE GARDENING GLOVES
They say...
 No accompanying claims
The Confidential View...
 The material is pretty, but affords a poor fit with no waterproofing. The material and fit would not enable the wearer to use for tasks requiring dexterity, yet are not protective enough for thorns and the suchlike. Pretty, but pretty useless too. Summer toile? Looks more like summer toil to me. However, would make a wonderful present for anyone not intending on doing any gardening

Durability	2	Overall Rating	9
Style	4		
Waterproof	1	Price	£6.00
Dexterity	2		

Available from www.cathkidston.co.uk or telephone 08450 262 440



FOXGLOVES ORIGINAL
They say...
 'Sleek, classic design excellent for gardening and a wide variety of outdoor activities... keeps hands and fingernails clean... snug fit and complete dexterity... UPF rating of 50+ for maximum sun protection... machine washable.'
The Confidential View...
 These gloves fit well and do give excellent dexterity, suitable for planting seedlings, planting out or light weeding. Only the masochistic would consider handling a rose with these gloves. They're also not waterproof so most jobs will lead to soggy fingers.

Durability	1	Overall Rating	11
Style	4		
Waterproof	1	Price	£16.99
Dexterity	5		

Available in 9 colours from www.foxgloveseurope.com



GOLD LEAF 'SOFT TOUCH' (Endorsed by RHS)
They say...
 'Ideal for those requiring an extremely close fitting glove which offers incredible durability whilst retaining unmatched dexterity... affords a surprisingly high level of protection against thorns and alike.'
The Confidential View...
 These gloves are seriously nice. They're flexible and soft, making them suitable for most gardening tasks, save perhaps the more fiddly jobs. Our tester was able to grab hold of nettles, brambles and rose stalks with no nasty surprises.

Durability	4	Overall Rating	15
Style	4		
Waterproof	4	Price	£18.99
Dexterity	3		

For stockists call 023 8040 2025 or look at the stockist locator page on www.goldleaf-gloves.com



GOLD LEAF 'TOUGH TOUCH' (Endorsed by RHS)
They say...
 'Offers a high level of protection against thorns and the like, whilst retaining an incredible soft feel which results in very unusual dexterity for a glove so robust as this...'
The Confidential View...
 These are beautifully-made, impressive gloves suitable for handling rose clippings, tough brambles, nettles etc. They could probably do a good job of lassoing steer too. The leather is treated for extra water resistance and the fleecy liner gives additional warmth. An excellent pair of gloves, dexterous for thick leather, but too thick really for general light gardening.

Durability	5	Overall Rating	17
Style	5		
Waterproof	5	Price	£22.95
Dexterity	2		

For stockists call 023 8040 2025 or look at the stockist locator page on www.goldleaf-gloves.com



TOWN & COUNTRY ULTIMAX
They say...
 'Ultimax is the perfect choice when comfort and dexterity is paramount and is equally well suited for activities from DIY and gardening to professional construction and material handling.'
The Confidential View...
 These gloves are quite jolly. They fit nicely and have cute little features such as reinforced rubberized fingertips and a towelling panel for brow-mopping. The backs are very flexible and sport a 'neoprene knuckle shock absorber'. In fact they wouldn't look out of place on a triathlete, but the wet does get through eventually.

Durability	3	Overall Rating	11
Style	3		
Waterproof	2	Price	£14.99
Dexterity	3		

Available from www.townandco.com or telephone 01530 830990 for stockists



TOWN & COUNTRY PROFESSIONAL HEAVY DUTY GAUNTLET
They say...
 'These heavy duty gauntlets are made from hard-wearing leather with a tough leather palm for added protection. The extra long, reinforced safety cuff on these gloves fully protects wrists.'
The Confidential View...
 These leather gloves are soft, easy to wear and do protect against rose thorns. They are waterproof and have a warm fleecy lining. The cuffs are a good protective length and the dexterity is really quite good for leather. Overall, a good pair of gloves.

Durability	5	Overall Rating	16
Style	4		
Waterproof	4	Price	£9.99
Dexterity	3		

Available from www.townandco.com or telephone 01530 830990 for stockists



TOWN & COUNTRY NINETEEN60 'THE COMFORT'
They say...
 'Combining rustic charm and elegance, a luxurious collection of traditional gloves and garden wear for the keen gardener.'
The Confidential View...
 The brown leather is robust against thorns and brambles with its reinforced palm and fingertips. The elasticated cuff has a velcro close. Nicely presented in a box, they would make an old man very happy.

Durability	5	Overall Rating	13
Style	2		
Waterproof	4	Price	£20.00
Dexterity	2		

Available from www.townandco.com or telephone 01530 830990 for stockists

SERENA

Pools Limited

Contact us by telephone:
020 8368 2275

Or visit us online at:
www.serenapools.com/home.htm

We have been dealing with swimming pools for over 30 years and can provide you everything you need for your swimming pool including chemicals, heaters and accessories.

When it comes to the installation of a swimming pool we are in a position to undertake all aspects of the installation from construction through to tiling and can also carry out a refurbishment of an existing pool.

We not only construct and refurbish pools but we carry out routine maintenance on pools also.



**Come and grill us
on our Barbecues...**
**and get some honest,
red-hot impartial
advice!**



-  **Large showroom display of gas and charcoal barbecues**
-  **Assembly and delivery available on selected models**
-  **Full range of accessories including patio heaters**

For more information call us on:

01707 287287



6 - 12 Hatfield Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1HP
Visit our website: www.gtbbq.co.uk



If you have been fired-up by this issue of *Garden Confidential* dedicated to roses, but not sure how to implement in your own garden we suggest a visit to the following for some inspirational ideas.



KNEBWORTH HOUSE

The rose garden has recently been completely renewed with a mixture of 250 modern bush roses and older shrub roses, chosen for their distinctive fragrance and giving individual blocks of colour. The rose beds, combined with herbaceous borders and two lily ponds, provide the centrepiece to the 25 acre formal gardens.

Knebworth House, Gardens & Park, Knebworth, Hertfordshire SG3 6PY
 Tel: **01438 812661** Fax: 01438 811908
 e info@knebworthhouse.com w knebworthhouse.com

Open daily 28 June–3 September; Weekends only, 6–28 September
 Facilities: Licensed tea room and Gift Shop

Direct access from junction 7 of the A1(M), Stevenage South (A602). Nearest railway station: Stevenage. There is a taxi rank at Stevenage station, walking is not recommended.



THE GARDENS OF THE ROSE

Hertfordshire's best kept secret – wonderful roses in a peaceful setting minutes from the centre of St Albans. Old and modern rose varieties, together with shrubs, trees and companion plants. The Tea Room serves a varied selection of cakes and light lunches together with mouthwatering afternoon cream teas.

The Royal National Rose Society's Gardens of the Rose, Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans Hertfordshire AL2 3NR
 Tel: **0845 833 4344** Fax: 01727 850360 e mail@rnrs.org.uk w rnrs.org.uk

Gardens are open Wednesday–Sunday until 28 September from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Facilities: The Tea Room and selected rose sales

Buses 321 and 724 from St Albans go to the Three Hammers pub and then you have to walk up the lane.



MANNINGTON HALL GARDENS

The gardens around this medieval moated manor house feature a wide variety of plants, trees and shrubs. Throughout the gardens are thousands of roses especially classic varieties. The Heritage Rose and Twentieth Century Rose Gardens have designs reflecting their date of origin (from the C15 to the present day) and in the kiosk is a display about rose history.

Mannington Hall, Norwich, Norfolk NR11 7BB
 Tel: **01263 584175 / 768444** Fax: 01263 761214
 e laurelwalpole@manningtongardens.co.uk w manningtongardens.co.uk

May–September: Sundays (12 noon – 5 p.m.) Also open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from June to August.
 Facilities: Tea rooms

Mannington is signposted near Saxthorpe by the B1149 Norwich–Holt road. Turn right (towards Holt) at the roundabout, and soon after turn right towards Matlack.



HYDE PARK

The Rose Garden is one of the most beautiful cultured gardens in Hyde Park, nestled away in the south-eastern corner close to the Wellington Memorial. The garden is a very separate part of the great park, offering a place of refuge and rest to weary travellers both from the park and the nearby Knightsbridge streets.

The Park Office, Rangers Lodge, Hyde Park, London W2 2UH
 Tel: **020 7298 2100** Fax: 020 7402 3298
 e hyde@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk w royalparks.org.uk/parks/hyde_park

The park is open 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. in the summer, and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the winter
 Hyde Park has a range of catering outlets, with offerings from simple ice creams and sandwiches to 3 course meals.

Tube: Lancaster Gate & Marble Arch on the Central Line; Hyde Park Corner & Knightsbridge on the Piccadilly line. Numerous buses too.



C O N F I D E N T I A L P L A N N E R

Timely care lessens the workload and revitalises your garden



ILLUSTRATIONS: LENA STREBNOVA

JUNE - JULY

Unless you managed to get down a thick layer of mulch this spring, weeding is probably the biggest task at the moment. Boring as it is, it needs to be done because the weeds tend to hog the light, water and soil nutrients so depriving the plants you intended to grow.

Extra watering is essential for all containers and any trees and shrubs you planted this spring. Ideally your garden is planted with tolerant varieties making extra watering for the rest of the garden unnecessary but in prolonged dry spells you're best to water in the early morning or evening when temperatures are lower. If you're close to a busy road it'll make the garden a little less dusty and more pleasant for you too. If the lawn goes brown, don't panic; grass usually comes back when the rain starts again.

Deadhead roses and annuals to keep fresh flowers coming through. Try to feed the annuals fortnightly with a high potash feed: tomato feed or flower tonic for best results. Feed roses in July to help them through the rest of the summer. Cut back herbaceous geraniums, you'll get fresh new foliage, deadhead early flowering herbaceous such as delphiniums and lupins; these may give you a second flush of flowers.

Prune early summer flowering shrubs if they are getting too big for their allotted space or excluding light from the ground layer and give exuberant hornbeam hedging a trim. Always try to water and feed after pruning.

If all that wasn't enough, you'll still need to be vigilant for aphids, sawflies on roses and fruit bushes; pick off curled bay tree leaves as no spray will do a better job and treat again for vine weevil and of course the ever present slugs and snails.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Relax; water when you need to; pick some of the gorgeous flowers for the house; eat your hard-worked fruit and veg. There will still be weeding but not as much as the previous two months. If you must do some work, you could clip back lavenders after they finish flowering and they will be less straggly in the winter. Wisterias benefit from attention now too, decide which of those long new stems you want to keep in the overall framework and prune the remainder back to 30cm long. Clip yew hedging late August/September. Plant autumn flowering crocus in August for flowers next month and get your bulb order in by the end of August to plant in September.

Compiled by Ceri Evans B.Sc.(Hons), Organic Garden Maintenance, Environmental Garden Design & Landscaping, Enquiries: 07804 657 363

STOCKISTS OF QUALITY LAWN MOWERS, GARDEN MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT



UNBEATABLE CHOICE & VALUE
SALES • SERVICING • SPARES • REPAIRS

COME TO THE COMPANY THAT
REALLY VALUES YOUR CUSTOM

GARDENING ENTHUSIAST TO
PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTOR

COLLECTION & DELIVERY SERVICE

MOWERS
RIDE-ONS
BLOWERS
SHREDDERS

CHAINSAWS
SPREADERS
CULTIVATORS
SPRAYERS

STRIMMERS
AERATORS
LADDERS
FERTILIZER

CLOTHING
SAFETY EQPT
HAND TOOLS
FLYMO SPARES



020 8805 3937

ENFIELD GARDEN SUPPLIES

www.enfieldgardensupplies.co.uk

Unit 1, Leaside Business Centre, Millmarsh Lane, Brimsdown, Enfield EN3 7BJ

Regency

Awnings (U.K.) Limited

Specialist suppliers and installers of patio awnings



We don't supply garage doors, security shutters or internal blinds.

For awnings, come to the experts.

So for patio awnings

- using only the highest quality components
- installed by our factory-trained fitters
- for years of maintenance-free and trouble-free use
- free on-site design/consultancy service

For a copy of our free brochure call:

01494 794508

Copsham House, 53 Broad Street, Chesham, Bucks HP5 3EA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ESSENTIALS

Confidential's 'MUST HAVES' for this autumn

Everyone thinks how difficult it is to have late-summer interest in the garden without resorting to annuals. Here we feature just a few of our favourite perennials which do the job beautifully!



GAP PHOTOS / HOWARD DICE

GAP PHOTOS / MARK BOLTON

GAP PHOTOS / FIONA McLEOD

GAP PHOTOS / RICHARD BLOOM

ASTER X FRIKARTII MÖNCH

They just keep on going. Sprays of lavender-blue flowers with gold centres. Trouble free and totally reliable. Combines well with *Achillea Coronation Gold*.

Height: 70cm

Flowering season: July–October

Cultivation: Grow in well-drained, moderately fertile soil in full sun.



CALAMAGROSTIS X ACUTIFLORA KARL FOERSTER

Simply the best. Wonderfully versatile either as background, specimen or massed. Upright green foliage producing foxy pale purple flower spikes that turn to gold in autumn. Associates well with *Lythrum* (see *Spring 2008 issue*) and the *Asters* on the left of this page.

Height: 170cm

Flowering season: July–October

Cultivation: Grow in full sun on dry or wet soil.



HELENIUM MOERHEIM BEAUTY

Gorgeous but a little tricky. Coppery red flowers with chocolate brown cones on stiff upright stems. Do not cut back till you see the new leaf growth at base in the spring.

Height: 120cm

Flowering season: July–September

Cultivation: Grow in deep moisture-retentive soil in full sun.



MACLEAYA CORDATA

A very reliable architectural plant with lovely wide-lobed decorative glaucous foliage. Produces large plumes of airy buff flowers.

Height: 200cm

Flowering season: June–August

Cultivation: Grow in moderately fertile soil in full sun but will tolerate light shade.



ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM WALTHER FUNCKE

Sturdy umbrella-shaped heads with rich red-ochre colouring on feathery grey-green foliage. Associates well with many grasses.

Height: 60cm

Flowering season: June–August

Cultivation: Grow in light soil in an open site with full sun. I struggle with them on my London clay soil, but as I love them I persevere!

THE FEATHER FORECAST



SUE TRANTER/IRSP/IMAGES.COM

The common starling is just one of the many species at risk

Numbers of common starlings and house sparrows have tumbled over the past couple of decades. The front line in this conservation battle is our gardens. By **Tim Webb**.

A FIFTH OF Greater London's land mass is made up of private gardens containing two-thirds of the Capital's trees. There's no comparison with the rural gem of Hertfordshire and its vast green areas, but look to the wildlife contained in both urban and rural gardens and you're in for a shock. They've both seen numbers of common starlings and house sparrows tumble over the past couple of decades.

We, as gardeners, have done a remarkable job of ridding our lawns of leatherjackets; the larvae of the crane fly, which eats grass roots, causing bald patches in our lawns. Sadly, leatherjackets and crane flies are one of the starling's staple foods. They need these to provide moisture and food for their chicks. As for house sparrows, the jury is still out on the cause or causes of their decline. Lack of shelter and food are the two

main areas of our research but there is also work focusing on air pollution, climate change and disease.

Ivy is great for insects and birds, providing shelter and food... especially if grown up a wall

The front line in this conservation battle is our gardens. It is here that individual actions have real impact. Science gave us the means to get rid of pests like leatherjackets and we grabbed this opportunity to improve our lawns.

A lawn, preferably containing wildflowers, is the foundation of a good wildlife garden. Add structure with fruit trees and native hedges or shrubs and you are well on your way to creating

the sort of garden that can attract and support wildlife.

Ivy is great for insects and birds, providing shelter and food while taking up little space, especially if grown up a wall. Next, you will need some nectar-rich flowers. Creating as many different habitat types as possible will widen the range of wildlife you attract. With this in mind, try to think of a way of creating a water feature where birds can drink and wash.

Looking after wildlife once it has arrived is the next trick and this comes down to technique. TV garden makeovers and glossy magazines portray gardens as clean, manicured places; the ideal we all aspire to, but it is not reality. Gardens are ever-changing places.

Many insects, such as ladybirds or lacewings, over-winter in dead plant stems; so leaving these

until spring provides a ready army of aphid-eating garden helpers. Leaving some long grass also helps insects survive cold weather. Long grass at the foot of shrubberies helps prevent these areas drying out in the wind and creates a warm, damp environment, benefiting plants and wildlife. Piles of leaves or wood are also crucial, but if you think they look ugly, stick them in a hidden corner where they won't be disturbed or hide them behind willow or hazel screens.

Birds love plants that have berries or seeds. Great news for fans of structurally imposing plants such as teasel, honesty or cardoons. Replace tired fences with mixed hedging plants to create impenetrable barriers keeping intruders out. Use native beeches, hazel, blackthorn and buckthorn but mix in some dogwood and dog-rose for colour.

Of course, in a wildlife garden there is no room for pesticides and herbicides. If you get the balance right, you'll find the birds, mammals, toads and insects you've attracted will help keep mobile pests at bay. Ground covering plants and mulch help reduce weeds. However, the hard graft of maintaining it all falls to you. Look on



DAVID NORTON (RSPB-IMAGES.COM)

Both adult ladybirds and the larvae feed on aphids and small insects

Birds love plants that have berries or seeds... such as teasel, honesty or cardoons

this as a saving in gym fees as you bend, stretch and lift. The rewards of a garden bursting with

wildlife are worth every aching muscle.

You can grow vegetables, salad and fruit and still live in peace with wildlife. It just takes a bit more effort. You may well have to live with netting or cages but if you plan your garden carefully, these can be screened. Companion planting is another good method of defence. Tall plants grown around low-lying food crops can shield them from pests. Any member of the onion family (garlic or even chives) has been shown to repel aphids and carrot flies. Secretions from the roots of Mexican Marigolds appear to reduce the spread of ground elder and bindweed while also deterring some slugs. Decoy plants can be used, the idea being that you allow slugs and snails to gorge themselves on a tasty alternative, such as nasturtiums or mustard, to protect your precious salad crop.

All that remains is the creation of a comfy, warm spot, where you can relax, unwind and experience the hum, colour and vitality of the natural space you've crafted. ■

Tim Webb is the RSPB's Communications Officer for London. tim.webb@rspb.org.uk

bring more wildlife to your garden

From feeders to high energy foods and nest boxes to water baths, look no further for all your wildlife products



To Receive Your Free Handbook of Garden Wildlife Catalogue

Call Freephone **0800 731 2820** and quote **C1394** or visit www.birdfood.co.uk/GC
Free Delivery over £50 Next day delivery to most of UK.

WATCHBOX

Summer's long, hazy days linger but bird life in the garden moves on with new arrivals, departures and bad-feather days all part and parcel of the lives of our beaked friends.



JULY

NEGE BLAKE (ISTOCKPHOTOS.COM)

July is the tail end of the blackbird, house sparrow and robin breeding season. Competition for food and water gets intense so any help you can provide will be welcome. If you're clipping hedges, check for live nests and give them a wide berth. Remember that leaving grass un-mown around shrubs and hedges creates moist mini-climates where plants, insects and birds can thrive. July usually brings a rash of false sightings of hummingbirds. 99% of the time it is actually a hummingbird hawkmoth that has crossed the Channel from southern Europe. They feed on buddleia and red valerian; enjoy the encounter.



AUGUST

ANDY HAY (ISTOCKPHOTOS.COM)

Gardens get very quiet in August as far as birds are concerned. Tits, robins and blackbirds go into hiding while they shed their old feathers and grow fresh ones. This leaves them rather vulnerable to predators, such as sparrowhawks, so they stop singing and hide in dense trees and shrubs. It's the finch breeding season and you can help them maintain energy levels by putting out nyjer seeds or seed mixes in feeders. Don't be surprised to see birds like house sparrows sunbathing or having a dust bath. They lie-down and expose their feathers to the sun; it helps keep them in good condition.



SEPTEMBER

CHRIS GOMERSALL (ISTOCKPHOTOS.COM)

September heralds the departure of summer visitors, so look-up to enjoy an aerial exodus of swifts, martins and swallows. They'll have been gorging themselves on insects, seeds and berries to prepare for the long flight back to Africa or the Mediterranean. The moulting season has ended too, marked by the return of birdsong as robins and others start to loudly defend their territories. Leaving seed heads provides food for birds so resist temptation to be too tidy. Ladybirds and lacewings will be looking for soft stems in which to overwinter and leaving dead stems now could help you control aphids come the spring.

urban roof gardens

We are London's only multi-disciplinary team of architects, engineers, designers, landscapers and builders to focus exclusively on urban roof gardens and green roofs.

It makes sense. These green spaces in the sky, encompassing roof gardens, roof terraces and green roofs, bring a host of advantages: economic, environmental and social.

These include:

- Insulating and protecting roof coverings
- Improving air quality
- Helping counteract climate change
- Reducing the urban heat island effect
- Creating new spaces for living, working, entertaining
- Providing microclimates for wildlife
- Adding value to a property



Please contact us on 0800 652 8848 or email info@urbanroofgardens.com

NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL



ISSUE ONE IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR ONLY £2.50 INCLUSIVE OF P&P

**FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS (4 ISSUES FOR ONLY £9.00)
EMAIL: SUBS@GARDENCONFIDENTIAL.CO.UK OR
CALL OUR SUBSCRIPTION HOT LINE
0845 456 4176**

PAYMENT BY DEBIT/CREDIT CARD OR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL POTAGER THE LETTUCE

SUMMER IS FINALLY here and whether it be a light lunch, barbecue or formal dinner *al fresco* – a tasty salad is the perfect accompaniment. However only the freshest leaves produce the tastiest salads. But as we all know there's not always time to run to the shops every day and there's nothing worse than a limp lettuce leaf.

And yet lettuces are one of the simplest grow-your-owns. They allow for daily cropping throughout the summer season and take up as little or as much space as you have available.

What to do

Lettuce hate to be disturbed, so find the right spot in your garden. It needs to be an area with some light shade – lettuce need protection from the midday sun. They also need moisture so dig in some good organic matter, like your garden compost or well-rotted manure, well before planting. Keep it organic – as I have it on good authority that lettuce squeak when grown with chemical fertilisers!

Sow thinly, cover with a light layer of compost and water well. If you repeat this every few weeks you will guarantee yourself a full summer's supply of fresh lettuce leaves.

Our Advice

In the heat of the summer sow in the afternoon or early evening and lightly water the area first. Lettuce like to keep cool!

And at your peril beware slugs and snails. A natural way to combat the little terrors is to hoe regularly to keep the weeds down and remove any debris as it is these areas that harbour slugs and snails. Nematodes can also be used and they do not harm people or wildlife.

What to grow

There are four distinct groups: Butterhead, Crisphead, Cos, and Loose-Headed.

However for my taste I tend to choose from the latter two categories. I like my salads to look colourful and combine crunch with flavour, and with this in mind I go for the following:

Cos (Romaine)

Although slower to mature they always provide the crunch and flavour. They are easy to grow. Sow from March to August and harvest from July through to September. Try 'Ballon' green Cos, 'Freckles' red Cos, or 'Little Gem', which is excellent to grow and has an added advantage that it can be container-grown.

Loose Headed

There are several in this range and they have the advantage of regenerating within days of being picked. Always pick the heart and crop regularly to prevent them from bolting. Sow from April to June and harvest from July to September. Try 'Mascara', 'Royal Oak Leaf' or 'Lollo Rosso' (which also work well in container pots).



CRUNCHY GREEN SALAD

Preparation Time: 5 minutes

Cooking Time: 1 minute

Serves: 4

Suitable for vegetarians

Avocado, toasted seeds and pine nuts add interest to this classic salad, which is perfect to accompany grilled fish or meats or for barbecues and simple summer suppers.

Ingredients

3 tbsp pinenuts

3 tbsp sunflower seeds

4 tbsp pumpkin seeds

1 avocado pear, skinned and stoned

200g crispy salad leaves

FOR THE DRESSING

2 tbsp olive oil

1 tbsp balsamic vinegar

Pinch of sugar

Method

Heat 1 tsp of the oil from the dressing in a small pan, add the nuts and seeds and cook over a gentle heat for about a minute or until toasted and golden. Remove from the heat and drain on kitchen paper. Thinly slice the avocado and place in a large salad bowl with the leaves and toasted nuts and seeds. Whisk all the remaining dressing ingredients together with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Drizzle over the salad and serve straight away.

For more great recipe ideas with salad leaves visit
www.bringonthesalads.com



BUTTERHEAD



CRISPHEAD



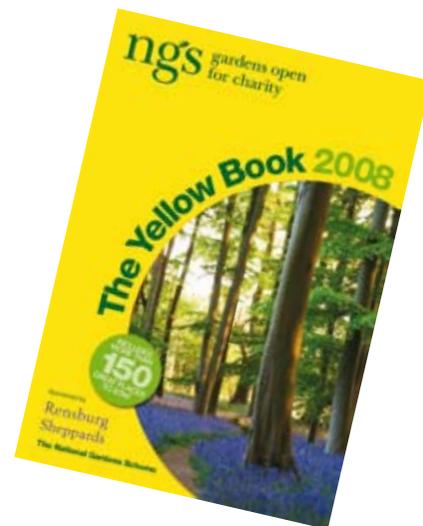
COS



LOOSE HEADED

Every year around 3,600 beautiful gardens to visit are listed in the NGS Yellow Book – most are private and only open for a day although there are a few which offer wider access to the public.

These pages have proven such a success that *Garden Confidential* in conjunction with the NGS list again a selection of the gardens open in our north London area over **July, August and September**. Enjoy – we certainly did last time.



N2 66 Abbots Gardens, East Finchley

Designed for tranquillity and all-year interest, this 3-year old South-facing garden 20m x 10m uses plant form, colour, texture and a strong underlying asymmetrical geometry, to create a calming yet dramatic environment with grasses, herbaceous perennials, ornamental shrubs and trees, water features and discreet vegetable plot. Circular north-facing front garden.

Sunday 7 September (2:00–5:30).



2 Stanley Road, East Finchley

Recently transformed front and rear garden of Edwardian semi, with formal 'heron-proof' pond, central circle, and viewing platform. Densely planted to create eight distinct areas, incorporating colourful vegetable plot, alpine bed, ferns and tree fern, bamboos and perennials. Boundaries softened with varied climbers for scent and foliage. Designed to be completely wheelchair-friendly without aesthetic compromise in hard landscape or planting. A garden for year-round enjoyment.

Sunday 7 September (2:00–5:30). Visitors also welcome by appointment.



The Bungalow, 15 Elm Gardens

Mediterranean cottage-style front garden crammed with tender exotics: aloes, beschorneria, manettia, melaleucas and a 12' high tetrapanax. Side garden an array of ferns under a canopy of climbing trachelospermum and mandevilla. Leafy rear garden. Thalia dealbata which flowered in 2005 takes centre stage in a small pond, also home for two terrapins.

Sunday 20 July (2:00–6:00).



N10 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road

Unique artists' garden renowned for colourful architectural features created on-site, includes Baroque temple, pagodas, turquoise raku-tiled mirrored oriental enclosure concealing plant nursery. American Gothic garden shed alongside compost heap enclosure with medieval pretensions. Maureen Lipman's favourite garden – humour and trompe-l'oeil combine with wildlife-friendly carp ponds, waterfalls, lawns, abundant borders and imaginative container planting to create an inspirational restoring experience. Open ceramics studio. Featured on ITV News to publicise the 80th birthday of the NGS with Charlie Dimmock.

Sunday 27 July (2:00–7:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment.



6 Methuen Park, Muswell Hill

Contemporary family garden designed by Chelsea medal winner. Hardwood decking extends the living space. Across the formal pond the beach grows into a path. An arch doubles as a swing. Flowing curves and unique planting create an enchanting peaceful space. Tree house provides hours of entertainment. Sonic installation designed by Yulia Badian with soundtrack by Andres Bosshart.

Sunday 14 September (1:00–6:30). Visitors also welcome by appointment.



N11 Golf Course Allotments, Winton Avenue

Large, long-established allotment with over 200 plots maintained by culturally diverse community growing a wide variety of flowers, fruit and vegetables – some working towards organic cultivation. Picturesque corners and charming sheds. Exhibits and sale of produce and bric-a-brac.

Sunday 31 August (1:00–4:00).



N16 13 Queen Elizabeth's Walk

Plantperson's 30m x 7m garden for all seasons with emphasis on foliage, textures and unusual plants from China, Australia and Mexico in both sunny and shady areas. Interest for children without encroaching on the plants or design, and with fairly minimal maintenance. Overhead rainwater irrigation system. Drought tolerant plants, succulents, bromeliads, leonotis. Quirky front garden leaf sculpture fence.

Sunday 31 August (2:30–6:00).



NW1 70 Gloucester Crescent, Camden Town

An unexpected oasis 1 min from Camden Lock, 1840s end-of-terrace house (not open) once lived in by Mrs Charles Dickens. Challenging spaces and shade constraints countered by rich and versatile planting, small trees and large shrubs creating spaces for layers of smaller plants and tender perennials. All-year interest with a climax of colour in August. Pretty front garden next door.

Sundays 10 August; 14 September (2:00–5:30).

Visitors also welcome by appointment.



The Holme, Inner Circle, Regent's Park

Four acre garden filled with interesting and unusual plants. Sweeping lakeside lawns intersected by islands of herbaceous beds. Extensive rock garden with waterfall, stream and pool. Formal flower garden with unusual annual and half hardy plants, sunken lawn, fountain pool and arbour. Teas available in nearby rose garden.

Saturday & Sunday 26–27 July (2:30–5:30).



NW2 72 Tanfield Avenue

Garden designed to be a 'mini botanical garden', packed with many exotic plants from China, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, central America, Middle East, Mediterranean, South Africa and Britain. Plants carefully chosen to survive, with a bit of care, in the British climate and complemented by rocks, pond, waterfall and bog garden. Exhibition of unique pottery suitable for garden use.

Sunday 21 September (11:00–4:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment for groups of any size under 20 people.



208 Walm Lane, The Garden Flat

Large South-facing oasis of green with big sky. Meandering lawn with island beds, fishpond with fountain, curved and deeply planted borders of perennials and flowering shrubs. Shaded mini woodland area of tall trees underplanted with rhododendrons, ferns and hostas with winding path from oriental-inspired summerhouse to secluded circular seating area.

Wednesday 13 August (5:00–9:00) £3.50 with music and wine.



NW3 180 Adelaide Road, Swiss Cottage

Small 25' x 30' South-facing walled garden with profuse and colourful climbers and shrubs. Numerous densely-planted containers on gravel with roses, herbaceous perennials, annuals and box. Front garden with lawn and shrubs.

Sundays 20 July & 3 August (3:00–5:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment.



17 Belsize Lane, Hampstead

Newly-created garden (autumn 2006) rapidly establishing, with backdrop of mature trees. Irregularly shaped plot gradually reveals design of different moods and all-year colour and texture. Pergolas with many climbers; small pond; unusual plants; container planting. Curved beds for dry, shady, woodland planting. Sculptural installations and work of contemporary artists, including stunning ceramic pots.

Sunday 7 September (2:00–6:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment all year, coaches permitted.



NW8 27 Blenheim Road

Stylish front garden with profusion of topiary and fragrant seasonally changed flowers. Winner of many awards. Back garden is a series of garden 'rooms' defined by beds crammed with climbers, perennials, cottage garden annuals and occasional fruit and vegetables. Small, deep pond (protected by pots) with unusually friendly frogs. Winner *Marylebone in Bloom*.

Sunday 27 July (3:00–5:30). Evening Opening £4, children free; Pimm's, Thursday 24 July (6:30–8:30).  

116 Hamilton Terrace

Lush front garden full of dramatic foliage with a water feature and tree ferns. Large back garden of different levels with York stone paving, many large terracotta pots and containers, water feature and lawn. Wide variety of perennials and flowering shrubs, many unusual, and subtropical plants, succulents, acers, ferns, hebes, climbers, roses, fuchsias and prizewinning hostas. Packed with colour and rich foliage of varied texture. Prizewinner Hampstead Horticultural Society; featured in *GGG*.

Evening Opening £4, children free, wine, Sunday 20 July (5:00–9:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment.   

NW10 170 Doyle Gardens, Kensal Rise/Willesden

Professional plantsman's private fantasy garden with an impossibly tropical theme: musa, trachycarpus, yucca, puya, plumbago, grasses. Garden 95% organic and including many native and introduced wild flowers to help create a natural effect and promote wildlife. Frog and newt pond, log piles and over 350 plant species, living with slugs and snails. Featured on BBC2 Open Gardens.

Sunday 3 August (2:00–7:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment.   

NW11 157 Hampstead Way, Hampstead Gdn Suburb

Charming, 100' split-level South West-facing cottage garden containing a wealth of colourful and informally planted hardy perennials and succulents, against a backdrop of interesting shrubs. Designed for all-year interest.

Sunday 20 July (2:00–5:30). Also open 86 Willifield Way. 

AL8 35 Digswell Road, Welwyn Garden City

Large mature trees and hedges surround town garden of approximately 1/3 acre. Wide Oudolf-inspired naturalistic herbaceous borders with perennial and ornamental grasses surround the lawn. Beyond, grass paths link island beds and contemporary style planting gradually gives way to the exotic, leading finally to small jungle garden with unusual less hardy plants. Featured on BBC Open Gardens.

Sunday 20 July (2:00–5:30). Visitors also welcome by appointment June to September.   

AL9 West Garden at Hatfield House

Dating from C17, the garden at Hatfield House has evolved into a gardeners' paradise. Enjoy the peaceful west garden's scented garden and fountains. View the famous knot garden adjoining the Tudor Old Palace. Delightful formal gardens planted for year round colour and interest. Featured in & on TV, national & regional press.

Easter to end September. For NGS: Friday 18 July (11:00–5:30).  

HP2 9 Tansfield Drive, Hemel Hempstead

A truly interesting small town garden. 50' x 25' garden has been imaginatively laid out and creatively planted. Wide variety of grass, ferns, clematis. Fuchsia and ornamental trees feature in densely planted flower beds which include shade and gravel planting, mini orchard and water features.

Saturday 26 July & Sunday 3 August (11:00–5:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment, May to September only, £3 per person.  

HP4 Patchwork, 22 Hall Park Gate, Berkhamsted

1/4 acre garden with lots of year-round colour, interest and perfume; a riot of colour on opening days. Sloping site with background of colourful trees, rockeries, two small ponds, patios, shrubs and trees, spring bulbs, herbaceous border, roses, bedding, fuchsias, sweet peas, dahlias, patio pots and tubs galore and hanging baskets.

Sunday 7 September (2:00–5:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment; March to October.   

SG4 The Priory, Little Wymondley

C16 priory (not open) surrounded by newly planted two-acre garden within the confines of the moat, part of which remains filled. Four acres of parkland with many interesting new trees. Teas in magnificent tythe barn overlooking moat and bog garden. Formal kitchen garden. Colourful borders filled with half hardy annuals and herbaceous plants.

Sunday 27 July (11:00–5:00).  

SG6 44 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth Gdn City

Town garden in the Letchworth Garden City conservation area that successfully combines a family garden with a plantswoman's garden. Out of the ordinary, unusual herbaceous plants and shrubs. Rare pelargoniums in pots. Attractive front garden designed for year-round interest.

Evening Opening with wine on Friday 15 August (6:00–9:00); Sunday 17 August (1:00–5:00). 

SG11 Kennel Farm, Albury End, Little Hadham, Ware

Tranquil two-acre garden surrounding Tudor farmhouse (not open). Mixed borders of shrubs and herbaceous. Eight-acre mature park, woodland and nut grove. Bowtop gypsy caravan.

Sunday 20 July (2:00–5:30).  

WD3 Stresa, 126 The Drive, Rickmansworth

Approximately 1/2 acre plantsman's garden. The front garden is a sunny part-gravel area of alpines, Mediterranean plants, borderline-hardiness plants, dogwoods and collection of grasses. Small woodland area leads to rear garden which features continually evolving borders of perennials and shrubs including hostas, heucheras, euphorbias, rhododendrons and other shade-loving plants. Astilbes and phlox highlight the summer display; conservatory features sub-tropical plants.

Sunday 27 July (2:00–6:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment June – mid-September, groups of 10–25. Coffee & teas available by prior arrangement.   

WD5 The Abbot's House, 10 High St, Abbots Langley

1 1/4 acre garden with interesting trees, shrubs, mixed borders, sunken garden, pond, wild flower meadow, conservatory. Exotic garden. A garden of 'rooms' with different styles and moods. Many half-hardy plants. Plants propagated from the garden.

Sunday 24 August (2:00–5:00). Visitors also welcome by appointment.   

WD7 45 Oakridge Avenue, Radlett

Tranquil country garden, crammed full of late summer colour. Wide range of choice planting. Small pond, vegetable patch and soft fruit. Unusual plants for sale.

Sunday 7 September (2:00–6:00).  

The Walled Garden, Radlett Lane, Shenley

Two acre, 16th century walled garden. Uniquely designed ornamental garden with terracing on three levels, and amphitheatre. Mature planting, ancient fruit trees, interesting features. Fine views over adjacent countryside. Three working Victorian greenhouses with plants for sale.

For opening details, please telephone or see NGS website. For NGS: Evening Opening Friday 12 Sept (6:00–8:30). **NEW**  

SYMBOLS EXPLAINED

- NEW** Garden opening this year for the first time or reopening after a long break or under new ownership.
- ◆ Denotes a garden that is open to the public on a regular basis. Gardens which carry this symbol contribute to the NGS either by opening on a specific day or days and/or by giving a guaranteed contribution to the Scheme.
-  Wheelchair access to at least the main features of the garden. Often disabled parking is available close by, or in the owner's driveway.
-  No dogs except guide dogs. Where dogs are allowed they must be on leads.
-  Plants usually for sale, often propagated by the garden owners. If proceeds go elsewhere, this is shown at the garden opening.
- NCCPG** Garden that holds a NCCPG National Plant Collection.
-  Gardens that offer accommodation. For a detailed listing see The Yellow Book.
-  Refreshments are available, normally at a charge. Wine is often available at Evening Openings. If proceeds go elsewhere, this is shown at the garden opening.
-  Gardens showing this symbol welcome visitors by prior arrangement.



Garden for you

Total landscaping and gardening service

garden design, tree works, decking, fencing, driveways, paving, log cabins, sheds, ponds, water features, painting, pressure cleaning

very reasonable charges, service 7 days a week

don't hesitate to call us

078 9410 4704
020 8569 8356

www.gardenforyou.eu



- SUPERB SHOW-SITE DISPLAYING OVER 100 BUILDINGS
- HOME OFFICES, SUMMERHOUSES, SHEDS & GREENHOUSES
- MANUFACTURED TO YOUR EXACT REQUIREMENTS



- SITE PREPARATION, DELIVERY & INSTALLATION
- DIFFICULT ACCESS/THROUGH HOUSE - NO PROBLEM
- MAIN COMPTON AGENT - NEW GARAGES ON DISPLAY NOW
- OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK INCLUDING BANK HOLIDAYS
- NO OBLIGATION HOME VISIT AND QUOTE SERVICE

F R E E P H O N E
0800 19 77 917

Cattlegate Road, Crews Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 9DS



sales@threecountiesuk.com

www.threecountiesuk.com

C & K garden

Garden designer & maintenance

07954376346
ck.garden@hotmail.com
West Hampstead



regal 
the company that delivers

Garden Confidential is distributed by
REGAL DISTRIBUTION
and designed by Regal's design wing
SBD

Distribution areas were targeted using
Regal's bespoke 'Tactician' programme.
Please contact us for details.

FREEPHONE: 0800 083 9920
sales@regal-uk.com | regal-uk.com

*No Frills, No
Glamour, Just...*

Great Gardens



Jill's Design & Maintenance

- Clearance
- Planting
- Pruning
- Turfing ... etc.

Friendly Advice & Original Ideas!
All jobs considered.

Tel: 020 8450 4776 Mobile: 07754 062 763

YOUR LETTERS

CONGRATULATIONS!

What a wonderful surprise – a big, glossy gardening magazine full of really interesting articles by some of the best garden writers in the business just for us, the gardeners of north London. Congratulations on a wonderful first issue; I look forward to your next edition. Clay and snails apart, north London is a great place to garden. *Garden Confidential* is a very welcome addition to our gardening community.

Anne Crawley, via e-mail

So pleased you enjoyed it. But just for the record clay soil makes for wonderful roses. **MW**

BLOOMING MARVELOUS!

Congratulations on a blooming marvellous first edition of *Garden Confidential*! Packed with information and ideas, it was a welcome breath of fresh air in this chilly spring and your National Gardens Scheme listings pointed me in the direction of many delightful gardens of which I was previously completely unaware.

Keep up the good work because everything in *Garden Confidential* is lovely!

Adrian Brodtkin, via e-mail

The NGS page has proved very popular and we have another great selection of gardens from them for this issue. **MW**

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

What a truly inspirational magazine you have created! The photography is beautiful and the articles are both interesting and informative.

You asked readers to share some of their gardening pleasures over the season. Mine have been not over one season but over the last three years. During this time I have undertaken a complete overhaul of both my front and back gardens, single-handed, but with lots of encouragement from neighbours and passers-by!

I have built two brick garden walls at the front boundary of my garden (not perfect but good enough!). I have also dug up concrete paths and slabs, replacing the areas with turf to create a set of grass terraces to match my adjoining neighbour's garden. After lots of digging with the addition of compost from my long established compost heap, my heavy clay soil is much improved and easier to plant.

Last summer I took great pleasure in buying new shrubs to fill my rejuvenated borders, and then planting bulbs in the autumn. After years of greenery and overrun borders I look forward to flowers and fresh young foliage. The purple and lime green foliage of *Cotinus* bushes set off the fruiting raspberry plants last year, and over the winter I have enjoyed the gradual

unfolding of the purple and white Hellebores before the Narcissi and Tulips emerged. I await the explosion of colour as Roses, Agapanthus, Alliums, Penstemons, Delphiniums and Japanese Anemones come into flower.

Frequent visits to the nurseries at Crews Hill have been a regular feature of my weekend activities. More recently my neighbour and I have taken up your suggestion of growing potatoes in compost bags (p61 of Issue 1) and are eagerly awaiting our first crop of Pink Fir Apples. Tomato, Pepper and Sweetcorn seedlings are developing well in my mini greenhouse placed against a south facing fence. It will be good to give some of these plants to neighbours in exchange for the cuttings they have given me to fill an odd gap here and there in the borders.

It is a joy to see birds and squirrels coming to the garden each day. Blue tits seem to find lots to peck at on my aging apple trees, while blackbirds, robins and the occasional jay can be seen at different times of the year. My winter flowering Honeysuckle *Lonicera fragrantissima* is a delight through the year but especially during the winter months. Its delicate flowers and powerful fragrance brighten the long winter days, providing nectar for bees and then, in May, blackbirds feast upon its succulent red heart-shaped berries.

I am contemplating building a patio this summer, so your article on page 16 will be most useful! A really good feature of your magazine is that it highlights local suppliers, and local gardens to visit. I went to the Capel Manor Spring Gardening show last month and thoroughly enjoyed the day, returning home with more plants and ideas.

Please continue to promote the importance of green spaces. In the road where I live so many front gardens have been replaced with driveways over recent years. With a double frontage of grassed terraces and narrow flower borders my neighbour and I have one of very few front gardens which have not been paved over. A lawn really can be low maintenance if tended weekly! It is much more interesting too as a garden changes with the seasons... something a driveway does not!

With longer days and warm summer evenings ahead, I look forward to sitting in the garden with a glass of wine and the next issue of your magazine!

Caroline Kucuk, via e-mail

Thank you so much for sharing your garden with us and we are delighted that our articles have been helpful. Do let us (and our readers) know how your Pink Fir potatoes developed. **MW**

Caroline wins a pair of secateurs tested and reviewed last issue.

A FRUITLESS TASK

In 2002 when I retired from Enfield College, my colleagues gave me an apricot bush. Unfortunately, not being very green-fingered, for the first year I kept the bush in a pot on my patio as I did not realise that it would need much more space than that.

When I returned to the nursery where the bush came from I was told that it needed to be planted in a wider area and also that in the spring it should be protected by fleece against the frost. We chose a spot close to the bungalow to re-plant it and the sun shines there from about mid-day until dusk. We keep it well watered but have noted from gardening books that it does not need to be pruned. It is a very pretty bush but every year I live in hope that we will see some lovely apricots which are my favourite fruit.

I am enclosing prints of our much loved apricot bush. The leaves are not as shown in the prints but a vivid green and look very healthy.

MIE Woolf (Mrs), Winchmore Hill

Fruit trees, particularly apricots, take a long time to bear fruit and I'm sure yours eventually will. They also need regular feeding. In the meantime enjoy it for its gorgeous blossom. **MW**

NO DIRECTION HOME

Thank you for sending your new magazine, received today. As I can't afford to buy gardening magazines, it is especially appreciated. Could you please include public transport directions when mentioning gardens to visit? Capel Manor, for example. (Being partially sighted, I have no car.)

Talking with neighbours about your magazine, I find they are especially interested in irrigation (pipes and taps all over the garden) and lighting (on mains electricity). I should like to know how to protect my cooking apples from the depredations of the many pigeons kept by a neighbour – plus magpies and crows, crowding out the small birds.

Good luck in the new venture.

Dulcie M Ashdown, Whetstone

You will notice that this issue's Timely Visits page indeed has public transport directions (where public transport is available) – thank you for pointing that out to the team here! Your neighbours will be delighted that we cover garden lighting in this issue, and irrigation solutions will be investigated in the very near future. **MW**

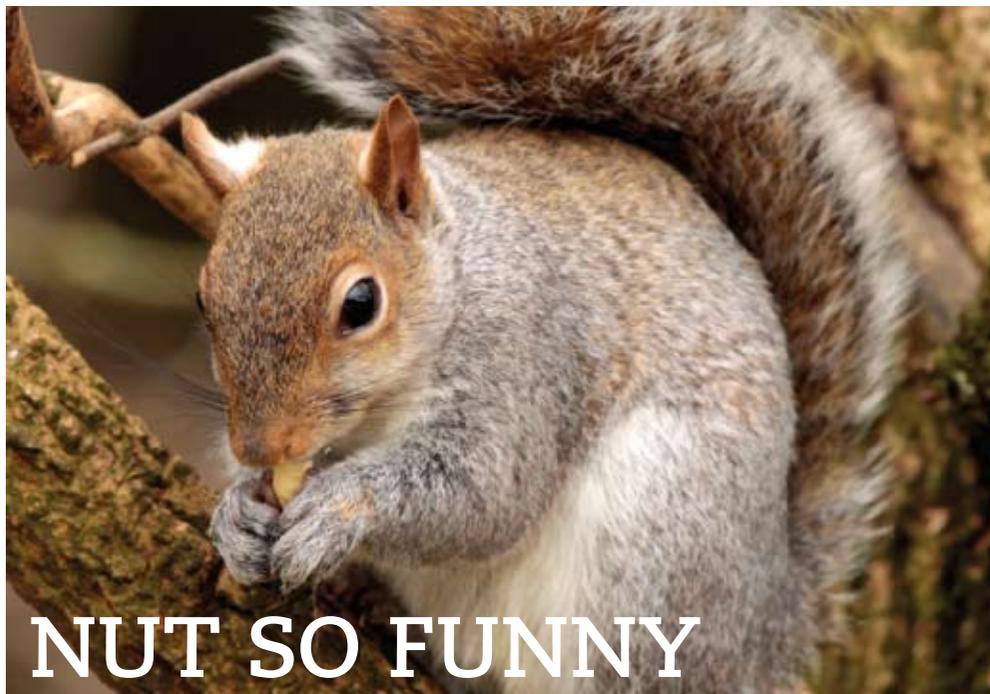
Addendum: Last issue's Confidential Promotion by Antony Henn and *gardensforlife* included two images (top right, page 47) that should not have been included in this piece. The photos are the property of Mr Amir Schlezinger of mylandscapes.co.uk. Mr Henn has apologised to Mr Schlezinger for the error.

YOUR LETTERS

Thank you to all our readers – we have had the most wonderful response to the letters page. In the end we decided to award the Nut So Funny letter the first prize as it did get everyone talking! Everybody at *Garden Confidential* had a vociferous comment to make! We hope our reply has been helpful. This issue, to keep you all on your toes, we thought you might like to send us pictures: see our Confidential Competition on page 32 for details.

Write to us at letters@gardenconfidential.co.uk

We reserve the right to edit correspondence.



NUT SO FUNNY

I have just received my first copy of *Garden Confidential* and am most impressed by its glossy cover and professionalism.

You say that readers can contact you for advice so here goes.

My garden is overrun with squirrels resulting from the fact that my ex-next door neighbour delighted in putting out lots of nuts, food etc., during the year and they have obviously developed some sort of homing device. We have always had a few squirrels, foxes etc. – part of the so called pleasure found in living in Mill Hill London NW7 – but never so many.

Obviously I can't kill them or put down poison but is there anything you can suggest please? I am desperate. I have looked on the Internet and there are sonic signal boxes that can be installed in the garden. However, I can't find anybody who has purchased one or more of these things and am very dubious about their success rate. I am happy to buy them if they are actually a worthwhile purchase.

A large part of my summer enjoyment is sitting in, and working in, the garden and I feel that this year it may not be as beautiful a rest cure as in previous years. If you can help me please I would be in your debt forever.

◀ *Andrea Sinclair, Mill Hill*

In truth the only effective way to get rid of squirrels is with a trap. When the squirrel is caught you are legally obliged to kill it. As simple preventatives don't put out bird feeders. Plant bulbs like alliums in your beds and plant daffodils and tulips under turf. However we did consult with Stuart Chester from **Primrose London (0870 499 0220)** who said: "Ultrasonic repellers are a very popular mechanism of humane pest control. They work by emitting very loud noises at frequencies too high for humans to hear, but easily audible to many animals (such as rodents, cat and dogs). For the squirrel, it would be like a siren going off in the garden – frightening and annoying. The devices are very successful when used on cats, however, squirrels are a more difficult proposition. As the devices are humane – without causing harm to the animals – their effectiveness depends on what other options are available to the squirrels. With cats, it's quite easy for them to move to another garden, but if squirrels have buried food in your garden, they may well be willing to put up with the discomfort of the loud noise in order to get something to eat – they won't starve. It's certainly worth trying, but one needs to be aware of the potential limitations." **MW**

We are pleased to announce that Andrea Sinclair wins *Garden Confidential's* main prize of a Mountfield mower from Chipperfield Garden Machinery. Well done Andrea!



STUMPED!

We have lived in our present home for over 30 years. When we arrived the apple tree at the bottom of the garden provided a wonderful natural play feature for our two young children. They climbed it, swung from its branches and collected the apples in the autumn. Now our grandchildren play in the same tree and every other year it provides us with a bumper harvest of Granny Smith's. I must have made hundreds of pies and crumbles over the years.

The tree has provided a home to numerous families of blue tits in the nesting box as well as food for many other garden birds.

Its *pièce de résistance* is the magnificent display of pink blossom every spring – can there be anything more beautiful?

Sadly the tree is now beginning to show its age and, like us, we know it can't live for ever so we have planted three more trees in our garden. Before we have to move on and leave our garden we feel that our successors will have younger trees to enjoy when they move into our home.

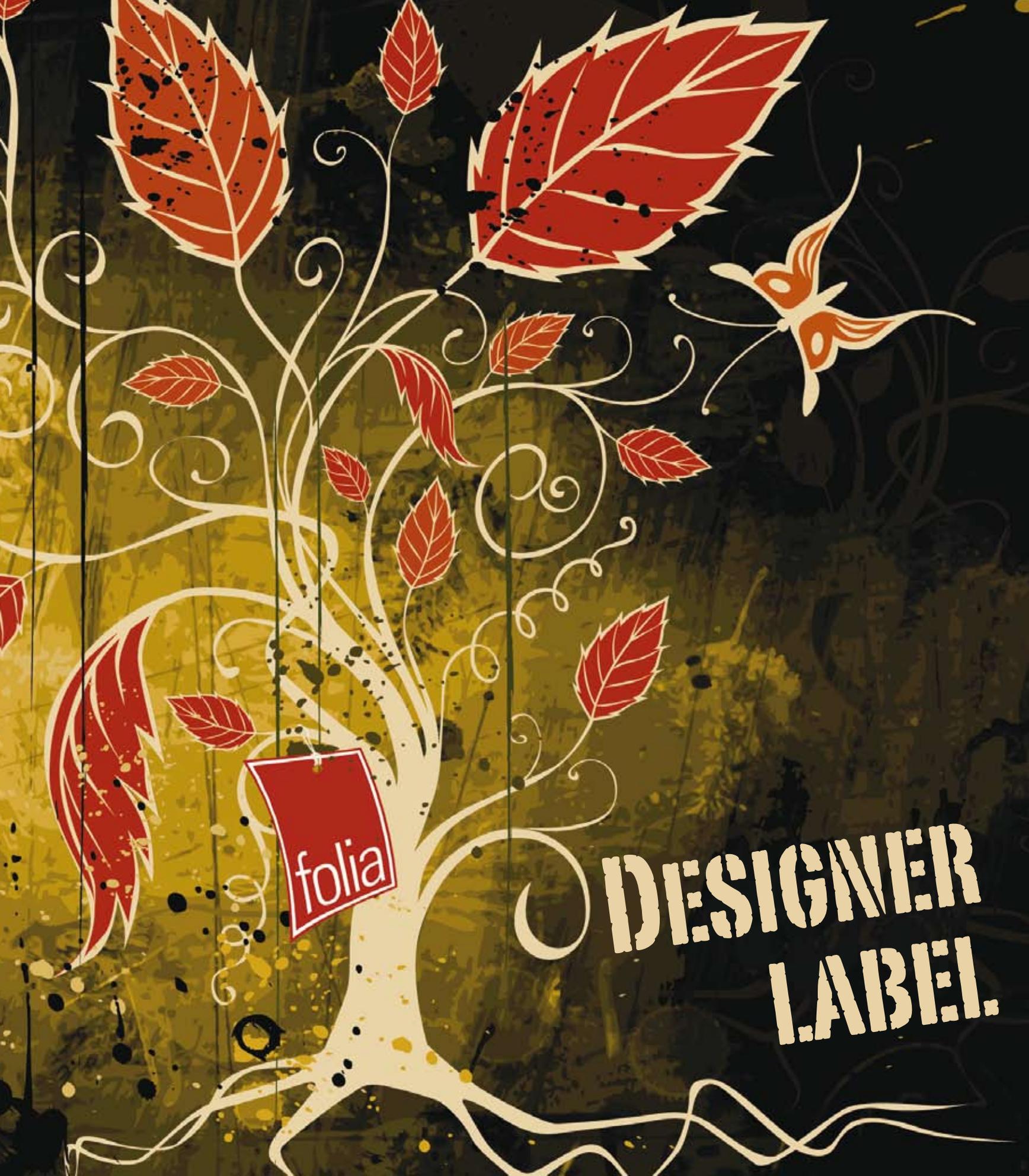
So think about it; if we all planted just one tree before moving on we would be playing a small but significant part in, not only helping to combat global warming, but also providing the future generation with a natural heritage.

Deirdre Nicholls, Enfield



Even when a tree dies it can be beautiful to use as a natural obelisk to grow roses or clematis through. It also provides a haven for many important insects, like beetles, in the garden. So whereas we agree one should keep planting new trees don't just chuck the old stump in the compost. **MW**

Deirdre wins a pair of secateurs tested and reviewed last issue.



folia

DESIGNER LABEL.

Quality plants from
a great company

Folia (Europe) Ltd: Well End Road, Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 5NZ
T: +44(0)20-8953 5827 F: +44(0)20-8953 5836
E: info@folia-europe.com W: www.folia-europe.com



*"The best time
to plant a tree is
20 years ago..."*



*...the second
best time
is now"*

- anonymous

- Selection of over 7000 trees set on 15 acres
- Specimen trees from 12ft to 45 ft, mature shrubs, instant mature hedging and screening
- Supply only through to complete installation and aftercare service
- Friendly, knowledgeable staff to assist you
- Nursery visits welcome
- Nationwide delivery
- E-mail, fax or telephone quotes
- Full advisory and planting services
- Design services
- Establishment guarantees

*"One of the best
customer experiences
we've ever had."*
Mr. and Mrs. Dowling,
London.

*"As usual fantastic service!
That's why we keep
coming back time after
time. We wouldn't go
anywhere else.
Great people."*
Mr. and Mrs. Barfoot,
Codicot.

*"most efficient, willing,
courteous and well prepared
planting team on site I have
worked with in 20 years
as a landscape architect"*
Hilary Harris
(Landscape Architect)



majestic

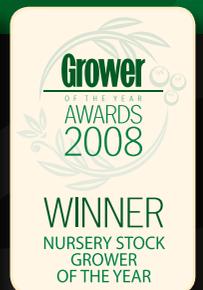
t r e e s

01582 843881

www.majestictrees.co.uk



Easily accessible nursery site
off the A5, 1/4 mile from the
M1 at Junction 9



Majestic Trees is open
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm
and Saturday 10am - 5pm*
*4pm close Saturdays November to March