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Glory of summer gardens

Hundreds of visitors got a peek behind the fence when three gardens threw open their gates as part of the National Garden Scheme.



Jane in her garden. Photo by John Lawrence

The neighbouring cottage gardens of Jane Meir and Janet Maitland in Trinity Road make clever use of small plots, with scores of shrubs and plants beautifully positioned and nurtured.

Visitors to Jane's garden were charmed by the way three tinpails full of blooms disguised a small unsightly window, while in Janet's birdbath next door a fearless robin washed his wings in front of everyone.

Meanwhile visitors to the Long Lane garden of John Maitland, brother to Janet, enjoyed shady nooks, pathways and a pond, and could spend time spotting the dozens of animal statues hidden in the vegetation.

Forthcoming open garden dates: Sunday 5 July (2-6pm): The Bungalow, 15 Elm Gardens, N2; Sunday 26 July (2-7pm): 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10; Sunday 23 August (2-5.30pm): 7A New Oak Road, N2.

Like my new gardening shoes?

By Richard King



Tippy K gets back to nature. Photo by Rebecca Miller.

Three, two, one... jump!

By Roger Bailey
Six men and a young woman took to the skies to raise funds for Barnet-based charity Cherry Lodge Cancer Care. The seven took part in a tandem skydive at RAF Weston on Sunday 31 May, jumping from two-and-a-half miles up, freefalling at 120mph until that heartstopping moment when the parachute opened and slowly coming back down to earth.

One of the skydivers, Craig Lesser, met with his family after his jump and said: "That was great. I wish I could do it again." Friends, family and work colleagues sponsored the skydivers around £10,000.

They were lucky to have fantastic weather and blue skies. The original date for this event was two weeks earlier but, due to gusting winds and rain, it had to be postponed.

Cherry Lodge Cancer Care is a centre in Union Street, Barnet, providing care, support and information to people diagnosed with cancer.

Cherry Lodge makes no charge for its services, which are available to anyone who needs them. There is no catchment area and the only requirement is that the patient is able to access the centre using their own resources.

For more information on the services provided, visit www.cherrylodgescancer.org.uk or telephone 020 8441 7000.

Last autumn, I received an email from a fashion designer asking whether she could use our East Finchley allotments for a fashion photo shoot.

Tamara Kosta was putting together her Tippy K summer footwear brochure and, after using abstract, 'arty' backgrounds for the previous edition, she wanted to give a more naturalistic flavour to the new one. She and her team duly turned up to look around and were mightily impressed by the possibilities for shots.

On the morning of the shoot itself, I left her little group to set up their first shot and was delighted on my return to find an elegant young lady reclining amongst Mick Curran's red cabbages with her feet in the air.

It took some while to get the shot right. The model didn't seem to mind spending half an hour on her stomach with only a sleeping bag between herself and the worms.

Then on to Dawn's trellis, Paul's flower pot, an anonymous pumpkin and several other close-up locations. The shoot took all day but the results were pretty good. The photos ended up in a 'lookbook' sent to potential suppliers and customers. You can see the whole thing by clicking on lookbook at www.tippyk.co.uk

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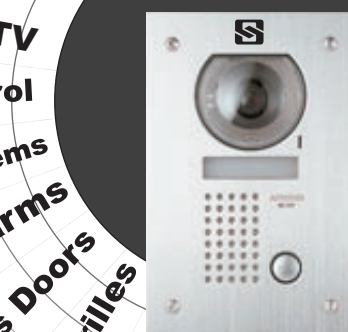
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