



It could be a jungle out there!

By Ruth Anders

Wolves in the back garden? Not exactly, but Archer readers will know of the growing awareness of the importance of nature in maintaining our mental health and wellbeing, particularly significant in urban environments.

East Finchley resident and architect Sian Moxon, a passionate campaigner, demonstrated to me recently some effective ways of making gardens more wildlife friendly to benefit us and the creatures who

of MxN Architecture, won a 2016 competition to "Imagine London as a National Park City". She has since set up the website www.rewildmystreet.org, which is full of valuable rewilding tips. The site is

pond, different sized water baths for bees and larger creatures, bird feeders, bug hotels and a shed with a green roof. And that's without mentioning all the flowers, shrubs and trees she has specifically planted and nurtured with wildlife in mind.

All or some of these features can be replicated by anyone with a garden, balcony or even a window box, and Sian's website contains details of DIY activities and products we can all buy.

Added value

"Everyone is entitled to contact with nature," says Sian. "We can improve our quality of life and urban environment by doing more for biodiversity. People don't understand the value their gardens can have."

At a time of gloomy warnings about climate change, I came away inspired to do more to help make something similar of my own garden and am now on the trail of fox 'teethers'. However small your outside space, you too can make a difference. For monthly tips and loads of ideas sign up to Sian's website www.rewildmystreet.org



Nature in the city: An image from Sian's rewilding website.

share our city spaces. While some East Finchley homeowners are busy concreting their front gardens to accommodate more cars, Sian, like many others, is keen to counteract the trend.

She and her husband Jon,

funded by the Cass School of Art, Architecture and Design, where Sian is a senior lecturer.

Rich with ideas

Her tiny front and back gardens boast a mini meadow, nesting boxes, water butt, a

Highest point in the history of East Finchley... ever!

By Mike Coles

Construction work continues on the new 13-storey tower block in Prospect Ring, N2, and our investigations lead us to declare that the crane doing the heavy lifting work is setting a record for being the tallest single structure ever in East Finchley.

Nick Gardner, site manager for Hill Construction, told us that his team are using a luffing crane, whose highest point when its jib is at rest overnight and at weekends is 276ft, or 84m, above ground level.

We're saying that's an East Finchley record, until someone tells us otherwise. The closest contender we can think of is the spire of the former Congre-



Tall story: The Prospect Ring crane. Photo Mike Coles.

gational Church, which until 1965 stood on the High Road site now occupied by Budgens and Iceland, and which reached 130ft.

The Prospect Ring crane, supplied by Spanish company JASO, has an arm that can be raised, lowered and rotated to move objects around in a relatively confined space. It was chosen in preference to the more traditional hammerhead crane with a movable dolly on a horizontal arm, because that would have been restricted by the two existing tower blocks and would have overhung the adjacent Tube line.



Timber: The large tree that came down in the recent winds in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Mike Coles

Close call for pavilion in crash landing

A large hornbeam tree crashed to the ground in Cherry Tree Wood on the morning of Thursday 9 January. Despite conditions not being particularly windy, the tree had uprooted itself and lay with its crown blocking the pathway, resting on the railings surrounding the long-derelict park pavilion. Fortunately no one was injured but, with a bit of good luck and the wind in our favour, it could have demolished the pavilion and saved Barnet Council the trouble!

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