



Ready to explore: Caroline and David Broome's garden in Church Lane, N2

Watch wildlife in your own watering hole

By Piers Reilly

Have you ever fancied yourself the next big wildlife presenter, a bit of competition for Sir David Attenborough? Well, why not try your hand at it, from the comfort of your own home no less. Certainly saves you the cost of a flight and safari.

Last month we suggested creating a wildflower meadow, this month I'm proposing a watering hole. Before you all run out to rent excavators to turn your back garden into a big pond and kidnap a hippo from a zoo, I mean this on a slightly smaller scale.



Landing pad: Encourage insects into your garden with a simple drinking dish.

All life requires water; for us this is simple to obtain, for wildlife, the situation is more complex, especially in the summer when many natural water sources cease to exist and their choices shrink to a handful. Here's where humans come in.

Build it and they'll come

Take a shallow bowl, fill it with water, and place it somewhere outside, preferably on a window ledge or a table. If possible place a twig inside as a place for bees to land. Now sit back and watch as your garden becomes a sanctuary that you can narrate over to your heart's content.

Ok, it's a little more complicated than that. For a few days not much is likely to happen, animals are suspicious as a general rule. If it helps, then

think of it as a bird feeder. In the beginning you'll have only a few visitors, then word gets out and you end up with a whole flock coming by every day. This is a similar situation, just change the water every few days and you'll have your own little troupe of animals wandering by for a drink.

Have the kids write down a log of all the creatures that come along for a drink and you've got a lovely summer project that will keep them engaged and occupied for weeks. Take the exceptional example at the Long Lane Pasture, where animals of all kinds gravitate towards their pond, or the stream running through Coldfall Wood, where birds and insects of all types thrive off this precious resource.

Garden gates to be thrown open this summer

By David Melsome

Some of our area's most beautiful private gardens are being opened for visitors to enjoy once again this summer, all of them raising vital funds for worthwhile causes.

First, Rachel Lindsay and Jeremy Pratt are opening their peaceful garden at 24 Twyford Avenue, N2 9NJ, on Sunday 11 July from 2pm to 6pm. Teas and plants will be on sale with all proceeds going to the National Garden Scheme charities.

Then, Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde open their very special garden at 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DE, on Sunday 25 July from 2pm to 6.30pm. Admission is £4 (children free) in aid of the National Garden Scheme charities.

Susan and Earl's garden has a temple, a pagoda and a studio, and has featured in many TV programmes over the years. You may have seen it recently as an interview setting for *Saved by a Stranger* presenter Anita Rani to talk to Darryl Telles about his upbringing in East Finchley, as featured in *The Archer* last month.

Finally, after a two-year gap, David and Caroline Broome are re-opening their award-winning



Wow factor: Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde's garden in Muswell Hill.

garden at 79 Church Lane, N2 0TH, where you can expect to be wowed by the profusion of Caroline's colourful planting throughout, interspersed with David's quirky ornamentals.

You can sit and enjoy homemade cakes on the tropical patio, in the shade of the apple tree, in the beach hut or in the sunroom,

as well as take part in a raffle and buy propagated plants and shed art. Entrance is £4 (children free) and the garden is open from 2pm - 6pm on Sunday 1 August in aid of Combat Stress and on Sunday 8 August in aid of the RSCPA Finchley, Golders Green, Hendon & District branch.



Bring and buy: Jane's pavement sale in full swing.

Plants replace cake in pavement sale

Unable to host her usual Cake Break indoor coffee morning in aid of MS Society for the second year because of the Covid pandemic, Jane Marsh thought of a different way to raise funds for this worthy cause.

The result was Plants and Pages, a very successful plant and book sale on Saturday 22 May, in the street outside her

house in the county roads. An amazing £560 was raised via sales and donations from friends and neighbours who turned out

to give their support on the day. Jane thanks everyone involved in helping to make the sale such a success.

Multiple Sclerosis is an auto-immune condition affecting an estimated 107,000 people in the UK. There is no cure, but advances in its treatment and management are being made all the time and fundraising plays an important part in facilitating this progress. To find out more about MS and/or make a donation, visit www.mssociety.org.uk

East Finchley Baptist Church

We meet each Sunday for worship at 10.30 am. If you would like to join us please go to our website for further details. All welcome.

For more information please contact the Church Office
Email: office@eastfinchleybc.org.uk
www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk