

More Suburb summer events



The Residents Association threw its annual garden party to welcome new residents to the Suburb. Here the Trust's Chris Kellerman, RA Events Committee's Anne Crawley, Samantha Ambrose and Simon Abbott, and Membership Chairman Joan Beales prepare to greet guests.



New residents Jonathan Ross his wife Jane Goldman and their daughter Betty Kitten chat with the vicar, Alan Walker.

Samantha Ambrose and her daughter, also a recent arrival, Annabelle.



New to the Suburb, Andrew Morley with Alyn.



Joan Fogel and Anne Leadercramer amongst others taking a break from what, while it is a very genteel one, is still quite a scrum at the HGSHS plant sale.



Looking forward to a summer of home grown tomatoes John Marshall at the HGS Horticultural Society's plant sale.

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Creeping around at midnight

I know a lot of us creep around the garden at night collecting slugs and snails and disposing of them in various ways, but if any of you out there are setting them free in my garden, please don't. I cannot believe the quantity I find every night are all mine. I have never seen so many slugs and snails in my life. The noise of them eating my plants keeps me awake at night; there has to be an answer to this, please help!

Things do really seem to be late this year. With all the rain and dreary weather my herbaceous bed really hasn't come into its own yet and unfortunately the roses balled because of the rain, so I dead-headed, and my poor old garden at the beginning of July looked rather dreary.

My visit to Chelsea this year proved to be a big disappointment. It had nothing to do with the new marquee - none of us likes change but we soon adjust. I noticed a distinct lack of small firms and small gardens for small gardeners (I don't mean height). Everything there was big bucks. Huge corporate gardens are fine for rooftops, hotel forecourts and the like but very little for you or me. It is the first time in 26 years that I came away uninspired and without any little gems to point your way. I did notice that Tom Cat and Lord Bute pelargoniums were very widely used but I have already bent your ears about those plants.

I went to the Isle of Wight for the first time this summer. What a delightful place, quite charming and definitely worth a second trip. Whilst there I visited the Botanic Gardens at Ventnor. Always very interesting but not as beautifully manicured as Wisley, but what was superb was the plant shop. It was stuffed with very unusual plants



and very reasonably priced. Many of the plants I have never heard of (as if that means anything!) but visiting with me was a friend who is a professional gardener. He was quite beside himself at the diversity of plants laid out before us and he suggested a very beautiful foliage plant, telling me it wasn't something commercially grown and as a spot plant in a container

underplanted with something complementary it would be a little gem, so I grabbed it immediately. It is called *Plectranthus argentatus*, silver grey foliage and so I planted it with *Convolvulus moritanicus* which is pale blue; it does look so pretty.

I went to Wisley's 'Gardens open for Charity' evening in June. I try to go every year. It is rather grand to stroll around sipping Pimms and listening to varying musical accompaniments and also there are the plants to purchase, not in the normal shop but from various plant people. I picked up a very elegant plant called *Francoa ramosa* - tall fronds of pale pink flowers and clump forming leaves. It's always nice to have something a little different. As I strolled around the grounds I came to one of the main planted areas, eight large oval beds where the planting is changed with the seasons. This area was planted in the spring with deep blue and shocking pink hyacinths and looked fantastic. Imagine my surprise on this particular evening to discover the whole eight beds stuffed to the gunnels with *Plectranthus argentatus* and there was me thinking that this plant was rare and unusual and all the time it's as common as muck!

In March this year I ordered my hanging basket from Finchley Nurseries, chose the colours I

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