



# Climate crisis rebellion is coming our way

By Daphne Chamberlain

What are your views on the fast-growing Extinction Rebellion and what does the name even mean? Supporters believe that intense climate changes, caused or accelerated by atmosphere pollution, will soon cause our extinction. They are rebelling against commercial and political inaction to prevent this.

Groups from Haringey, Barnet, Islington, Camden and Enfield are bringing their rebellion to North London on the weekend of 7-8 September. Spokespeople emphasise that the purpose is to bring home the importance of climate action or inaction to the general community.

They say: "If people are curious or doubtful, we encourage them to come and listen to speakers and to ask questions." There is an all-day programme of events, discussion groups and family fun in Downhills Park, Haringey, and Wood Green shopping centre, climaxing in a parade along Green Lanes at 5.30pm on Sunday.

## Barnet Rebels

Barnet Rebels are staging a catwalk outside Wood Green Library at 1-2pm on Saturday 7 September, wearing clothes they've made themselves. They have spare outfits for people who want to join in, and free pre-loved children's clothing to give away. The lead singer from local band Miss Havisham's Digital Clock is wearing "one dress for life",

and other band members may join in.

Barnet group members will talk about how destructive the fashion industry is to the planet, pointing out that Stockholm has just cancelled its Fashion Week. There are workshops in Downhills Park about recycling, buying second-hand, sharing, renting and making clothes.

## Demands tent

The general public can write a 'demand' to their Council, to pin up in a tent at the event. Barnet have already collected a few. A member told us, "One recurrent demand is to re-instate our brown food waste bins."

There will be large placards thanking Haringey, Camden, Islington and Enfield for declaring a climate emergency. Barnet's placard will be blank, as the Council refused a petition to do this on 30 July.

## Highgate Wood

There will be an Extinction Rebellion stall at the Highgate Wood Heritage Day on Sunday 1 September from 11am to 4pm, with a strong East Finchley presence expected.



Green teas: Visitors relax in the Broomes' garden in Church Lane. Photo Mike Coles

# Inside one of London's best back gardens

By Ruth Anders

Arriving at Caroline and David Broome's house in Church Lane, N2, you realise that you're somewhere special. A galvanised iron bucket is suspended apparently from nowhere above a densely planted raised bed with a metal bird in a pond half hidden in the middle. A green wall and more planted buckets adorn the house front.

Supported by David's creative flair for sculpting, collecting and recycling, Caroline has built her horticultural knowledge from zero to a point where the London Gardens Society has awarded the pair the prize for Best Small Back Garden for three years running.

## Front garden competing

Their passion and skill are clear and their front garden demonstrates the perfect combination of plantsmanship, seasonal interest and spaces for both car and dustbins. Entered this year in the LGS's annual Small Front Garden competition, the results will be known in October.

But nothing can prepare you for the breathtaking back garden; 75 feet long, it comprises a series of 'garden rooms' packed with horticultural wonders.

Jim Buttress, Royal Horticultural Society judge, TV personality and Chair of the LGS, who visited on the garden's open Sunday in August, told me: "Ruth, you will not be disappointed" and I was not.



Co-creators: David and Caroline Broome.

## Back garden delighting

We move through the sun-room into a large caged area dedicated to the five cats and dominated by huge canna lilies and tropical planting. Outside we brush past the bird feeders and find a waterfall with a curv-

ing rill leading to seats and a table.

Spectacular roses and salvias guide us to a shady bed of brunnera and speckle-leaved pulmonaria, an apple tree, a graceful silver birch and a large variegated willow.

Caroline is an official tester for seed and plant suppliers Thompson & Morgan, and skirting a set of container-grown courgette plants we arrive at a charming summerhouse consisting entirely of recycled items and materials.

The final treat is a roof garden accessible from an iron stairway. The variety and abundance of planting defy belief and David's quirky statues and features, many clearly made with children in mind, surprise and delight.

# Visit an open garden

Ruth and Stephen Kersley are opening their garden at 66 Abbots Gardens, N2 0JH, from 2pm to 6pm on Saturday 14 September to help raise money for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research.

In 2016, their friend Vera Pollins was diagnosed with the condition, which is the subject of intense research in an effort to find a cure, and the couple say their open garden event is in the spirit of 'every little helps'.

Their home is eight minutes' walk from the rear exit of East Finchley tube station, and is close to the 143 bus stop on East End Road. There is easy parking with no restrictions on the weekend.

# Out for a duck

Does anyone know what has happened to the pair of mallard ducks that used to live on Prospect Ring, N2? Have they been scared off by the construction work on the new block of flats there or have they found a pond or water nearby to make a new home?

If you know, please contact us at the-archer@lineone.net or write to us at the address printed on page 2.



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