



Please pop a £1 in the charity box where you pick up this magazine

loving local life in 2011

Mwaah

Issue 7

Tee ladies
why golf is good
for you!

GET THE LOOK
Style Me Vintage

**Add value to
your home**
Mwaah shows you how

**Beautiful
treats**
for beautiful skin

Join the debate
are local schools doing
enough for our children?

Calling all curly girls,
heard the one about the

**Brazilian
Blow Dry?**

**Spotlight on
Ware & Hertford**

Visit us online: www.mwaah.co.uk



Mwaah

is brought to you
by WhaAm Ltd

www.whaam.co.uk



Increase your *Kerb Appeal*

Presenting your garden to its potential can increase your property's value by up to a staggering 17%* Mwaah's Garden Goddess, Pat Fox, shows you how it can be done!



*survey from www.kairosfuture.com



Patricia started her design practice, Aralia Garden Design 6 years ago in Hatfield Heath. Her company has been awarded the Silver Floral Award at Chelsea Flower Show 2009 and Principal Award from BALI (British Association Landscape Industries) The Landscape Design Excellence Award 2010 and 2009. www.aralia.org.uk t 01279 730 040 info@aralia.org.uk

There is no doubt that the kerb appeal of your home can be dramatically improved by some TLC to the exterior of your property. Take yourself away from your house and then walk/drive up to it with a fresh and objective eye, what do you really see? Scrutinise everything you can view really carefully and then answer these questions;

- 1 Is everything clean and tidy and in place? Could you do with sweeping away those leaves; jet washing the front step and driveway; removing any kind of rubbish whatsoever...?
- 2 Are your planters potty? These will just be a visual distraction. Buy a matching set of planters, and remember bigger is nearly always better. Large planters will add scale and drama; a small planter can just look wishy-washy.
- 3 Are your planter's plants poorly? Fill with gorgeous new greenery, or ditch them. Fresh new topiary can make an awesome difference and provide a totally different ambience.
- 4 Is your garden glowing? You really don't want to see just a twig or two poking out of the soil, this is the grand entrance to your home. Even a tiny garden should be jam-packed full of primarily lush evergreen plants. If it takes a while to sell your home then your evergreen plants will always provide something of colour in the entrance borders. Fresh top soil or mulched with some rich brown ornamental bark mulch will also make them look much neater and fresher.
- 5 Could your lawn be described as lush? Prospective buyers will grimace at an overgrown, patchy, mossy lawn covered in leaves? They may even think the house is as unloved as your garden! A lawn specialist can offer a quarterly service to come and 'treat' your lawn, and don't forget to mow regularly, and strim those edges for a razor sharp look.
- 6 Are all your trees planted in a neat plant bed? Cut this into a circle or a square, whichever shape suits your garden best, and then back fill with ornamental bark mulch. This provides a much smarter finish than bare patches of lawn under a tree canopy – and plant with seasonal bulbs.
- 7 Are your hedges neat and tidy? These should be trimmed and not graced by dead clippings. A top dressing of fresh soil or bark mulch will once again give an improved finish.
- 8 What ornamentation can you introduce to really enhance it (but that you can take with you when you move)? A new outdoor table and chairs can really update an old patio. The woven rattan look items are great yet are made of plastic so can be left out all year. Or consider giant planters with ornamental trees.
- 9 Is your patio painful? Then get out the jet wash and give it a good clean and repair the broken bits! Take care with decking. Hardwood can be blitzed with no fear but soft wood requires testing first, somewhere discreet, and starting on a lower pressure to begin.
- 10 Is your fence a farce? Superficial shabbiness can be overcome with just one coat of wood stain, such as Cuprinol. Check what has already been applied paint/sealant wise to the fence, as the new product could react or not adhere. If in doubt check with your local stores for advice.
- 11 Are your beds a bore? If yes then some quick wins are to plant en masse in drifts of 3 or 5 or more to provide a real statement. Choose evergreen. Box hedging, for example, will provide a crisp green edge. And remember fragrance. Lavender, Rosemary, Thyme and Jasmine planted close to primary paths will delight potential buyers.



Top before: The before of Great Penny's Barn in 2010 with a patchy flower bed with tiny Buxus hedge struggling to provide impact. Top after: In 2011 the newly planted bed, with trio of Silver Birch, and richly planted border with lush bark mulch and evergreen Hebe edging. With upgraded soft landscaping even a later winter garden can look good. Bottom before: The name plate looks sad and overgrown. Bottom after: A beautiful slate name plate is now complemented with lush green planting with the magnificent Silver Birch providing drama and scale to this striking property. Opposite page before: The gorgeous terrace and deck just looked lost and empty without any real greenery or structure. Opposite page after: Now this beautiful entertaining area is really set off with evergreen edging and topiary and stainless steel oversize planters with white stemmed Silver Birch...

REMOVE