

6 Plantation Rise, Lower Salvington BN13 2AH

Overview

Owners: Trixie and Nigel Hall

Type: Extended bungalow

Age: 1960

Bed: 4

Walls: Brick

Area: 160 m2

Residents: 2 Adults

Key Features

Rainwater harvesting

Rain garden

Grey water recycling

Smart meter with 'Hive' controller

Introduction and approach

Trixie and Nigel have a deep love for gardening and water conservation, so much so they have won a Daily Mail National Gardens Of The Year award and every year they keep adding to what can only be described as a piece of gardening wonderment.

They have devised a **rainwater harvesting** system that connects the guttering from the front to the back of the house, which goes around and under the garden until it finally reaches the pond. There are also various different water butts positioned around the garden perimeter acting as storage tanks, overflow and easy access water as required. When one of the storage tanks becomes full, a tennis ball acts as a float to divert the water to the next tank.

As part of their **rain water garden** there is also a circular water recycling system that operates around the pond that must be seen. For **grey water recycling**, they very simply keep a bucket in the shower and collect all the water which helps save approximately £25 a quarter.



They also had a **Smart Meter** installed as part of their boiler replacement from British Gas and is helping them understand their energy use.

So much to see and learn about here.... Don't miss this one! Refreshments will be available and any monies collected will go to the National Gardens Society.

Energy efficiency measures

Rainwater harvesting

The harvested rain-water is used to keep the pond topped up, but there are also various different water butts positioned around the garden perimeter that act as storage tanks and easy access water for the garden as required.

One of the water pumps has been turned into a little wooden hut with its own bespoke chimney added on top to aid its attraction.

Rain garden

Cleverly, as part of their back garden rain garden, there is also a circular water recycling system that operates around the pond. The water arrives from the main garden water system, goes through a filter, flows into the pond and then through a pump to be put back into the water system to keep the flow of pond water fresh, clean and recycled.

Grey water recycling

For the grey water recycling, the bucket in the shower collects remains there all the time and the water is poured into the water butts. They also have a half flush toilet to reduce the water usage during normal toilet flushing.

Smart meter with 'Hive' controller

Their Smart Meter was installed a year ago. The display unit sits in the kitchen and shows the energy use as it happens. It is able to show how much energy has been used and what the estimated cost will be as well. The other advantage to the Smart Meter is that it means they never have to give a meter reading again as it is captured remotely. This meter helps them better understand how they use their energy in the day and evening and as the seasons change when the lighting and heating becomes more frequently used.

Cavity wall insulation

The cavity wall insulation was added some 10 years ago when insulation was still new to most people. It met with the required industry regulations and was formed of block insulation. It can't be seen unfortunately but has definitely made a difference to the overall ambient feel within the house.

Double glazing

Double glazing exists throughout the house and was recently upgraded

Low energy appliances

All their appliances have a high energy efficiency rating

Low energy lighting

All of their lighting has been changed to LED lighting which has saved on carbon and money, and lasts a lot longer than current energy efficiency lightbulbs and has been worth the investment.

There is also LED around the garden helping to light the various attractions in the garden and enable movement during the evening.

Loft insulation

They have loft insulation that was added when they had a loft extension 6 years ago. They also have sun blinds on the outside of their Velux windows to keep the windows from heating up.

Other sustainable measures/ lifestyle decisions

Their garden is being continually improved and requires a lot of maintenance, but not only does it include the amazing garden and pond, with all of the water conservation as described, but it also has lots of little hidden walkways and added attractions that keep any visitors captivated and entertained for quite some time. It is Nigel's passion

Lessons learned

Trying new things keeps it interesting and as such when they extended their bungalow into the roof 6 years ago, it has given them many new interesting activities as they experiment with new gadgets and gizmos.





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