

garden inspirations

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ANY OLD IRON

The smoothly worn wooden handle of an old garden tool is a thing of beauty that many people find irresistible. Rachel Brand is one such person – and has several rooms in her Kensington home stacked high with them to prove it.

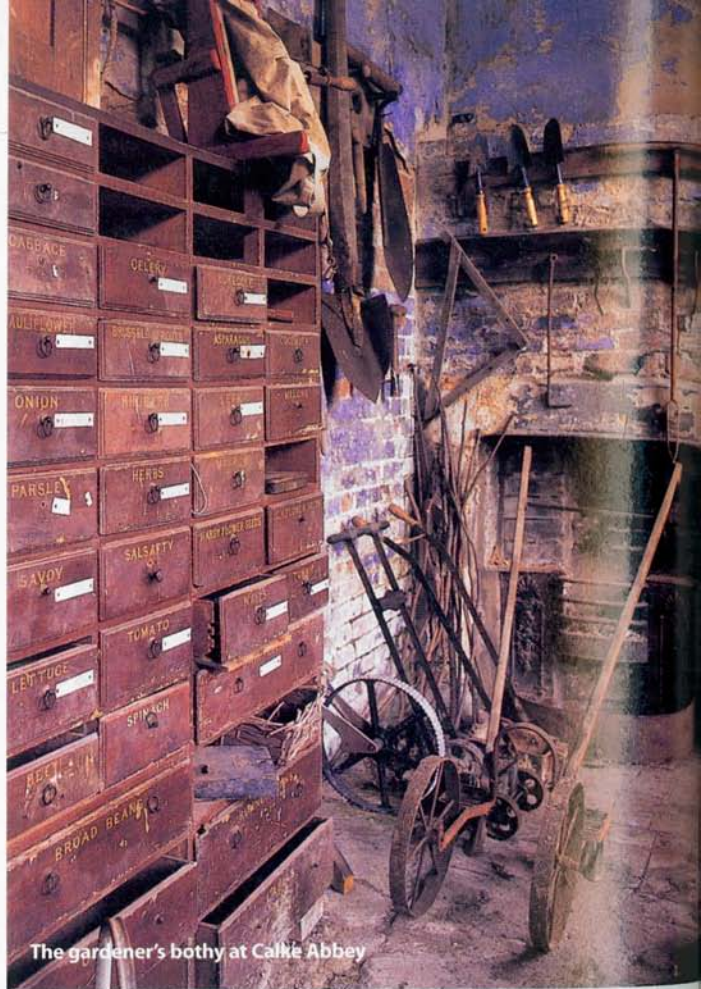
Rachel started out 40 years ago as an antique dealer in Bermondsey. Now, aged nearly 90, she is still collecting and sees no end in sight. Shown here is just one of her many pairs of well-worn shears. To view Rachel's collection call 020-7727 1151 to make an appointment.

• This year, a number of National Trust properties are holding garden tools exhibitions to provide a glimpse into what life must have been like as a gardener at a 'big house' years ago. There are displays at Clumber Park in Derbyshire, Beningbrough Hall in Yorkshire, Trerice in Cornwall and Calke



Abbey in Derbyshire. You can just smell the years of hard work!

• If you have any tools you no longer use, why not donate them to a good cause? Notcutts garden centres have put out a call for non-powered tools, so they can be sent to developing countries. Take anything you would like to donate to your nearest Notcutts – and you will be given a voucher for 20 per cent off any new tools.



The gardener's bothy at Calke Abbey