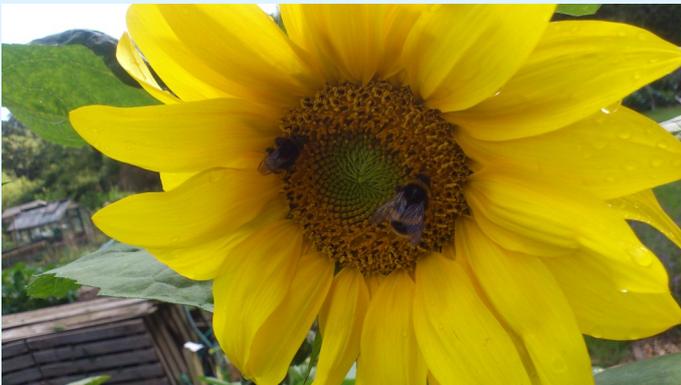


News

Britain in Bloom 2014

This year marks the golden anniversary of [Britain in Bloom](#). The RHS are encouraging everyone to grow “golden pollinator plants” and the FHS has signed up to receive seeds from the RHS and we will be staging a seed sowing event on Sunday 20th April at Gordon Road Allotments. In addition to seed sowing demonstrations from experienced plants-people, we will be having a refreshments stall. The occasion will be open to everyone and we hope that lots of you will come along and join in. Please write this date in your diary and keep your eyes open for further announcements giving details of the event nearer the time.



Two bees on a giant sunflower

News

Wet Weather - How to Cope

You are all aware of how wet it has been lately. This is the second year that all records have been broken, as far as the rainfall is concerned. The Eastern regions of England tend to be dryer than the West; however, we have still had more than the average rainfall for this time of year. It is not advisable to dig or walk on your land in these conditions as this can be most detrimental to soil structure which becomes compacted and drainage gets worse. Some allotments sites have actually banned people from working their allotments whilst the weather is so wet. We haven't gone to this extreme on our sites but it is advisable to be aware of the possible adverse effects this could have on your plot and to take appropriate precautions.

Once soil becomes waterlogged, the air spaces become filled with water and this then creates ideal conditions for diseases such as phytophthora and other fungal attacks. For example, box is prone to box blight on poorly-drained sites. Also roots are starved of oxygen and may die. Our advice is, therefore, not to walk on wet soil as this aggravates compaction.

It is recommended that water-logged potted plants are removed from the pot; take off any damaged parts of roots, remove any dead or dying shoots and replant in fresh, free-draining compost. Put crocks in the bottom of pots and place them on feet to aid drainage.

Lawns that are affected should be spiked with a fork or a motorised spiker, lime-free sand added, to improve drainage, and a mulch applied over the area. Feed the lawn during the growing season to encourage new root growth. Water regularly in dry spells as plants are more prone to drought stress after prolonged periods of water-logging.

Clay soil, needs plenty of organic matter and horticultural grit before planting to improve soil structure and drainage. Free-draining soils need organic matter to bulk up the soil and add nutrients, which are washed away in heavy rains. One answer is to build raised beds and fill with well-drained topsoil. Other ways to deal with excess water are to install a drainage system or soak-away or, in very bad cases, to install a drainage pipe system to drain water away.

Annual General

Meeting

Finchley

Horticultural Society

Tuesday March 18th at 8pm

Finchley Lawn Tennis Club

Brent Way

Finchley N3

(reached from the path

between 45 & 47 Brent Way)

Coming Soon

NGS Open Allotment

On Sunday 7th Sept 2014 we will be opening for the National Garden Scheme (NGS). This will



need a lot of forward planning and our site will need to look at its very best. We need everyone to think of ways to make their plot as beautiful as possible for this event. We are going to make the communal parts as tidy and colourful as possible and we will need lots of help to do this.

A very large number of visitors will be coming from far and wide. The NGS supports a variety of charities, including Parkinson's UK. The price of entrance and raffle will go to raise money for one of the NGS charities. We will also be able to raise some funds for the FHS from refreshments, plants and produce sales. It is a real feather in our cap to have been accepted as one of the Open Allotments in the Yellow Book.

Vacancies

FHS Committee Members Required

Volunteers please contact Claudine Fear

Trading Hut

Two volunteers urgently required to share the running of the trading hut.

Contact June Brookes if interested.

Newsletter Editor

Volunteer urgently needed!

Contact Claudine if interested.

New Members

A big welcome to new members: Mr Hiro Takayangi, Kam Fung Wan, Meiling Delmonte.

Announcements

Trading Hut Opening

Sunday 2nd March 10.30am to 12.30pm

Compost

The next recycled compost delivery at Gordon Road will be on Thursday 27th February

News

Self-Management Leases

The self-management leases have now been signed for all three allotment sites belonging to the FHS, Gordon Road, Nethercourt Avenue and Brent Way. This means that we run the allotments independently from Barnet Council. We are still bound by the conditions of the leasehold which runs for 38 years from October 2013. We will need to maintain the sites in good order or risk being in breach of the terms of the lease. In this event the Council could reclaim the land which would then probably just be sold off for building on and the allotments would be lost forever. This would be a disaster so we have no choice but to keep these sites in good order. This year we have the added incentive to have the best site in Barnet as we will be open to the



public on at least three occasions.

Plant Sale—Sun 25th and Mon 26th May

More dates for your diaries. We are already sowing seeds for the plant sale, which we hope will be at least as good as last year. An enormous amount of preparation goes into this and, as usual, only a few people feel that they are able to help out. We really need more volunteers to prepare for this and other events. This doesn't need to be only plot holders at Gordon Road, any member of the FHS can volunteer and feel more involved with the Society. Please speak to June Brookes if you can offer any help; she has a list of jobs that need to be carried out and is in need of volunteers to do them.

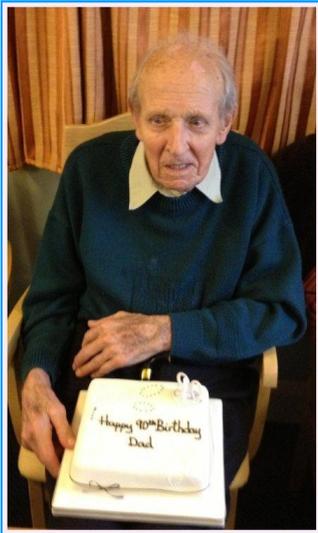
Newsletter

If you received a paper copy of this newsletter and are now able to receive it by e-mail, please inform Christine Williams, chrysw@hotmail.co.uk. This will save us time and money.

Obituaries

Ron Elkington

15th March 1923—25th December 2013



Ron Elkington, sadly passed away on Christmas day 2013. He and Sylvia, who passed away last year on 29th December 2012, had been stalwart members of the FHS. Both had been Committee members and had organised the Trading Hut at Gordon Road for many years. Ron and Sylvia tended their allotment

at Gordon Road for more than 30 years until, in 2011, they finally gave up and were awarded life membership of the FHS. Ron was born into a large Kentish Town family on 15th March 1923. On leaving school, aged 14, he went to work with his father in the printing trade. In 1942 Ron joined the army, serving in Europe, North Africa and travelling to India and Egypt. In December 1944 Ron was captured by the Germans and was sent to Stalag Luft V11A. He was demobbed in March 1947 and soon after this he met Sylvia and they married in 1949. They moved to Elm Park Road in 1958 after which their sons Adam and Paul were born. In 1994 Sylvia was diagnosed with cancer. Ron would visit her daily in hospital and was a most dedicated carer during her slow recovery. Ron and Sylvia celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in August 2012. When Sylvia passed away, Ron became a permanent resident in Apthorp Lodge. Ron was very sociable and, over the last year, made many new friends at Apthorp with old friends and family visiting him often. Ron celebrated his 90th birthday with a party in March. Ron always had a joke to tell, a friendly word and a twinkle in his eye. Ron passed away on Christmas day surrounded by his family. He is survived by his sons, Paul and Adam, and daughter-in-law Caroline. He will be remembered with love and affection by all who knew him.

William (Bill) Woollett

10th May 1945 - 30th December 2013

It is with great sadness that we must report the death of Bill Woollett on 30th December 2013 following complications after heart surgery. Bill shared an allotment, at Gordon Road, with his wife, Judy, and was particularly keen on growing soft fruits, especially blackcurrants, raspberries and strawberries. Bill had a varied career span-



ning operation research and marketing and before he retired he was a Senior Trust Officer with the children's charity, Action for Children. Bill was warm-hearted and sincere and he will be sadly missed by his family and everyone on the allotment who knew him.



This issue of The Grapevine has been generously sponsored by Winkworth Estate Agents.

T: 0208 349 3388
www.winkworth.co.uk

Winkworth

The Finchley Horticultural Society

43 Oakdene Park, Finchley, N3 1EU

For all Finchley gardeners and for plot holders at
Gordon Road, Nethercourt Avenue and Brent Way

President

Catherine Schmidt

Acting Chairman, Newsletter & FHS Enquiries

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Margot Boss

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Trading Hut

June Brookes jayemjaybee@btinternet.com

Website, NGS Liaison & Sunflower Competition

Judy Woollett 0208 346 5107

judywoollett@hotmail.com

website: www.finchleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Allotments Security & Break-Ins

Tony Ingram 0208 349 1265

or 0796 727 4739

tonygram@aqp.co.uk

Next Newsletter

Spring Issue – April 2014

Member of the
Barnet Federation of
Allotment and
Horticultural Societies



**Remember FHS Members can get a 10% discount
off seeds and plants at Finchley Nurseries Garden
Centre**

Events

Alexandra Palace

The Edible Garden Show 2014

<http://www.theediblegardenshow.co.uk/show-guide/the-show>

Fri 28 March - Sun 30 March 2014

Fri, Sat 9.30 - 16.30; Sun 9.30 - 16.00

Ticket Hotline - 0844 338 8001

Kew Gardens

Kew Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB,

adults £14.50, concessions £12.50, children 16 and under
FREE

Behind the scenes tour of the Tropical Nurseries

Go behind the scenes for a fascinating look at Kew's tropical nurseries and gain an insight into Kew's conservation work.

Sat only: Sat 15 February - Sat 08 March 2014

Times: 1.30pm, 2pm and 2.30pm Location: meet outside the White Peaks shop. Price: £5 per person.

Advance Booking: recommended: call 0208 332 5604 or email tours@kew.org

Talk: How to grow successful vegetables

Talk by Terry Walton: Author of 'The Allotment Almanac' and BBC Radio 2 regular, with tips on how to grow a wide range of vegetables from seed to table.

Tue 25 February 2014, 7pm - 8.

Venue: Jodrell Lecture Theatre Tickets: £5 (£4 Friends of Kew)

Talk: Plants for People - Stories from around the World

Talk by Edward Parker with images and stories from his foreign trips illustrating how plants underpin the lives of everyone on the planet.

Wed 26 March 2014, 7pm - 8.15pm

Venue: Jodrell Lecture Theatre Tickets: £5 (£4 Friends of Kew)

The International Garden Photographer of the Year

(IGPOTY) exhibition showcases winners and runners-up from this prestigious annual competition.

Sat 15 February - Sun 30 March 2014

Free with tickets to the Gardens.

RHS Horticultural Halls, London

RHS London Plant & Design Show

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-London-Flower-Shows/London-Plant-and-Design-Show>

Fri 21 - Sat 22 February 2014

Members Free/Public (Advance) £5.00 (on the day) £8.00

