

The FHS Grapevine

Newsletter of the Finchley Horticultural Society

Summer 2014

News

NGS Open Day Sunday 7th September

We have the honour this year of hosting an NGS event at the allotments at Gordon Road. The NGS raise a great deal of money every year for charity. The money taken at the gate and for the raffle will all go towards charities supported by the [NGS](#) (including the Macmillan Cancer Support and Help the Hospices amongst others). This event will be in place of the usual Autumn Fete.

There are very few allotments that reach the high standard required by the NGS. It is necessary for any garden selected to have at least 40 minutes of interest. We are most fortunate to have a great many features that are considered to be outstanding. Some of these include the wildlife plot, bee hives and communal parts such as the Piggery which have all been maintained to a high standard this year, thanks to the help of volunteers. We also have the raised beds as added interest. We will be offering produce for sale as we usually do at our Autumn Fete so any donations of surplus, good quality produce will be welcome on the day. We will be providing refreshments too and donations of cakes, jams and preserves will also be most appreciated.

This is the most important event held so far at Gordon Road and we need as much support as possible. Please encourage your family and friends to attend, and make this a great day out for everyone. We thank Judy Woollett for organising this event.

NGS Open Day
Sunday 7th September
From 1.30pm to 5.30pm
at
Gordon Road Allotments
Finchley N3
Perennials
Vegetables
Honey
Garden Tours
and
Refreshments

News

4th Annual Sunflower Competition

The presentation of prizes for the 4th Annual Sunflower Competition will be presented at the NGS Open Day at Gordon Road. Official entries will be eligible for prizes to be awarded for the tallest and largest sunflower.



This event has been organised by Judy Woollett

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

**FOR THOSE WHO ENTERED IN MAY AT
THE PLANT SALE AT GORDON ROAD**

**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR
TALLEST AND LARGEST SUNFLOWERS**

**AT THE
NGS OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER**

Announcements

Newsletter Editor

Vacant – volunteer urgently needed!
Contact Claudine if interested

Compost

The next recycled compost delivery at Gordon Road is still to be arranged.

Outings and Events

The outing to Beth Chatto's Garden and to Hyde Hall did not take place due to lack of interest. We have not attempted to organise any other outings this year as we have not had enough support from the members. If FHS members are interested in visiting or organising visits to any gardens could they please contact June Brookes to let her know.



Thenford House Arboretum and Gardens

As a Society we have gradually had less and less interest in events we have tried to organise. This reached an all time low when only 11 people turned up to the AGM meeting at Brent Way Tennis Club. The venue had been very generously offered to us free of charge by the Tennis Club, as Brent Way allotments are members of the FHS.

When I first joined the Society over 20 years ago there were regular monthly meetings with a speaker, well attended outings and an annual show. I am sure I was just as busy then as I am now but somehow I seem not to be able to fit as much in. Is this true for all of us?

We have not fathomed out why there seems to be less interest than there used to be. We do need fresh ideas and people to make things happen. We can't keep relying on the old guard. If no one is interested in the Society it will cease to exist. It is always the same people organising the Plant Sale, BBQ, Guy Fawkes and Christmas Social. The Newsletter also doesn't write itself!

I beg you to do at least one small thing every year to help. This is a serious request. If this doesn't happen it will not be too long before the whole thing disappears from under your feet. I am not, of course, speaking to the people who, day in and day out, do help to maintain the site, or who help organise events.

We want everyone to feel part of the Society and take part in the organisation. I am sure there are lots of you who would like to do something but maybe feel a bit reticent to come forward. Please don't feel shy - we really would welcome your help. A short article for the Newsletter or a photo to fill the columns would be welcome.

We are tremendously honoured this year by being selected by the NGS to open for charity. So not all is bad. Please do come to all the social events; these are great opportunities to meet fellow members and their families.



Thenford House Arboretum and Gardens – The Rill

This is a way you can make a mark in your community. Next year will be the 75th Anniversary of the FHS - let it not be the last.

Claudine Fear

Chairman, Newsletter, Plant Sale, Etc.

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 saves us time and money.

August Gardening

What to do in August

10 top jobs from RHS

1. Prune *Wisteria*
2. Don't delay summer pruning restricted fruits



3. Deadhead flowering plants regularly
4. Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater



5. Collect seed from favourite plants
6. Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready
7. Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspber-



ries

8. Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
9. Keep ponds and water features topped up
10. Feed the soil with green manures

September Gardening

What to do in September from RHS

Fruit

Continue planting new strawberry beds. Order cold stored strawberry runners for delivery in winter. Order new fruit trees, canes and bushes.

Finish tying in shoots on wall-trained fan trees.

Cut back old canes of blackberries and hybrid berries after fruiting and tie in the new canes.

Prune blackcurrants.

Spur prune kiwifruits after harvest.

Protect grapes from wasps.

Harvest fruit such as apples and pears, quince and medlars. Look for fruit falling under the tree (windfalls) to indicate which apples are ready, but also assess taste and texture to determine whether they are ready for harvesting.

Continue to provide support for heavily-laden fruit trees and bush branches.

Vegetables

Watch tomatoes for blossom end rot, and other ripening problems.

Irregular watering can lead to problems with blossom end rot in tomatoes, splitting of root vegetables and flower abortion in runner beans. Keep up with watering winter squash and pumpkins - this will prevent their growth from being checked.

Be sure to clear debris created when lifting potatoes, and take care not to damage the tubers.

Continue to sow vegetables for overwintering, to mature next spring, including: turnip, spinach, winter lettuce, Oriental vegetables.

Plant overwintering onion sets.

Spring cabbages that were sown last month are probably ready for planting out. Cover them with horticultural fleece or netting to stop the pigeons shredding them.

Sow green manures such as crimson clover and Italian ryegrass to act as a soil improver and to cover bare areas. When dug in, they conserve nutrients and improve soil texture.

When asparagus foliage turns brown, it is time to cut it down. Take care of the spines, and give the plants a good mulch afterwards.

Celery can be earthed-up for the final time this month, leaving just a tuft of foliage sticking out of the trench or collar in order to blanch the stems.

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

Chairman, Newsletter & FHS Enquiries

Claudine Fear: 0208 346 0353

crubie@waitrose.com

Allotments Secretaries

Gordon Road: June Brookes

0208 349 2253

jayemjaybee@btinternet.com

Nethercourt Avenue: Janine Limberg

07535 720691

janine.limberg@gmail.com

Brent Way: Elaine Wright

0208 346 9975

colain43@hotmail.com

Acting Treasurer

Ann Medina

annmedina@talktalk.co.uk

Membership

Christine Williams: 0798 493 5668

chrysw@hotmail.co.uk

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

tonyngram@aqp.co.uk

Next Newsletter

Autumn Issue – October 2014

Member of the
Barnet Federation of
Allotment and
Horticultural Societies



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

Events Diary

RHS Secret Garden Sunday

RHS Horticultural Halls

Westminster, London

Sunday 3 August

Information: Stephanie Shepherd RHS Press Of-

fice, 020 7821 3042 stephanieshepherd@rhs.org.uk

[www.rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-London-Flower-](http://www.rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-London-Flower-Shows/rhs-secret-garden-sundays)

[Shows/rhs-secret-garden-sundays](http://www.rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-London-Flower-Shows/rhs-secret-garden-sundays)



Lawrence Street Allotments Open Day

Mill Hill NW 7

Sunday 17 August

12 noon to 4pm

lawrencestreetallotments@yahoo.co.uk

Kew Horticultural Society

Summer Show

Saturday 30 August

Kew Green

<http://kewhorticulturalsociety.org/show.html>

RHS Wisley

RHS Wisley Flower Show

August 2 to 7

RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey

[http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/Articles/](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/Articles/Wisley-Flower-Show)

[Wisley-Flower-Show](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/Articles/Wisley-Flower-Show)



My Best Garden Dahlia Competition

[http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/Articles/Wisley-](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/Articles/Wisley-Flower-Show#bestdahliacomp)

[Flower-Show#bestdahliacomp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/Articles/Wisley-Flower-Show#bestdahliacomp)

Wisley Flower Show - RHS Gardens Wisley

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September

Bring along a single stem (with single or multiple flowers)
of any type of dahlia that you have grown, to the Dahlia
Marquee by noon, places announced at 3pm. First, second
and third prizes will be awarded each day.

NGS Allotment Open Day

Gordon Road Allotments N3

Sunday 7 September

1.30pm to 5.30pm

Golf Course Allotments

Winton Avenue, N11 2AR

Sunday 7 September

2.00pm to 5.30pm

RHS Lindley Library, London

Evening Talk: British Gardens in Time

Tuesday 16 September

[http://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/](http://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/ViewEvent?EFID=11160&ESRC=CRM)

[ViewEvent?EFID=11160&ESRC=CRM](http://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/ViewEvent?EFID=11160&ESRC=CRM)



RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Essex

Course: Lawn Care Question Time

Wednesday 17 September

[http://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/](http://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/ViewEvent?EFID=10779&ESRC=CRM)

[ViewEvent?EFID=10779&ESRC=CRM](http://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/ViewEvent?EFID=10779&ESRC=CRM)

