

# The FHS Grapevine

Newsletter of the Finchley Horticultural Society

Autumn 2015

## Committee News

### Bonfire Party

Sunday 8th November at 4.30  
Gordon Road Allotments. Come  
and try Tony's famous pumpkin  
soup! No fireworks at this event.  
All FHS members welcome.  
Please let June Brookes know if  
you are coming so that we know  
numbers for catering.

### Christmas Social

Sunday 13th  
December

11.00am until 1.00pm  
Gordon Road Allotments  
Mince pies and mulled wine.  
All FHS members welcome



### Trading Hut

The trading hut will close for the  
winter on 11th October and will  
reopen again in the spring.  
Purchases can still be made in the  
winter by special request to June.

### New Tea Hut

Kind neighbours in Gordon Road  
have offered FHS a large, free  
garden shed! The shed will replace  
the current tea hut on the piggery  
which is falling down and much too  
small for the events that we hold.  
This will be a fantastic  
improvement in our facilities. Philip  
Cuttell will shortly be emailing  
members to set up a working party  
to assemble the shed on site.

## Well done everyone!

Thank you to everyone who made the National  
Garden Scheme day on Sunday 6th September  
such a success. It really was a team effort and  
so enjoyable. Even the weather came up trumps.



We made just over £1400, half of which has  
gone to the NGS charities and the other half to  
FHS. Also a big thank you to Judy Woollett who  
brought everything together. We won the  
**Ted Green Cup** for this event and also the cup  
for the best large allotment in Barnet.  
Nethercourt Avenue Site won a cup for second  
prize in the small allotment category. The  
presentation is on 19th October - see Events for  
details.

### Seed Catalogues now available

Suttons' Seed catalogues and Kings Seeds  
catalogues are available in the green room on  
Gordon Road Site. See inside for details.



## New Greenhouse for Brent Way

Brent Way Allotmenters were upset earlier this year to discover that their trusty old greenhouse had blown over in the wind and was completely out of shape. Efforts were made to revive it but it was beyond repair. The General Committee agreed to replace it much to the delight of Elain Wright, secretary of the Brent Way Allotments.



*The new greenhouse at Brent Way Allotments*

They spent a good deal of time researching greenhouses and chose a slightly bigger and hopefully stronger model with toughened glass. It has taken a while to assemble but Colin Wright and several helpers have done a magnificent job. They prepared a solid base and then slowly but surely put together the metal structure before putting in the glass.

“We can’t wait to use it and look forward to heat-loving crops next year.” exclaimed Elain.

## Children’s Competition

Are you interested in running the Children’s Competition for the NGS Open Day next year? We need a parent who could encourage children and families to take part and develop this aspect of our Open Day. We are keen to involve more children in the joys of allotments. Please contact Judy Woollett on 020 8346 5107 who will be able to explain what has happened so far and what might be interesting for the future.

## RHS warns of box tree caterpillars

The RHS is warning of a relatively new insect to Britain. Box tree caterpillars are the larvae of a moth that feeds only on **box** (buxus) plants. It is native to East Asia and it became established in Europe in 2007. By the end of 2014 the moth had become established in parts of London and the surrounding counties; in many cases the caterpillars had caused severe defoliation indicating that the moth is likely to become a serious problem. Similar looking caterpillars which are found on brassica are usually from large white cabbage butterflies.

### Symptoms

Gardeners are likely to become aware of box tree caterpillars when they find webbing and caterpillars on box plants.

- The pale yellow, flattish eggs are laid sheet-like, overlapping each other on the underside of box leaves
- Newly hatched caterpillars are greenish-yellow, with black heads. Older caterpillars reach up to 4cms in length and have a greenish-yellow body with thick black and thin white stripes along the length of the body
- The pupae are concealed in a cocoon of white webbing spun among leaves and twigs
- The caterpillars eat box leaves and produce webbing over their feeding area. Plants may show patches of dieback which may be especially apparent on trimmed plants. This is not to be confused with dieback caused by the disease known as box blight

**The RHS wants gardeners finding this moth in their garden to let them know by sending images to [advisory\\_entomology@rhs.org.uk](mailto:advisory_entomology@rhs.org.uk)**



## Discount on Suttons' Seeds Catherine Schmitt wants your orders

Suttons' Seed Catalogues have arrived and I have left copies in the Green Room at Gordon Road and at Nethercourt Avenue. As last year FHS members will earn a discount of 50% on seeds and 15% on all other items. You will pay a carriage charge of £1.99 for packets of seeds or £4.99 if your order includes heavier items such as garden equipment. Your order will be delivered direct to your address and if you include your email address or mobile phone number you will be notified of delivery if your package weighs more than 2 kg.

There are two ways of ordering. You can send me your order on the form provided **NO LATER THAN 30 NOVEMBER** in which case you will pay no money at the time of ordering and I will let you know what you owe in January when I receive the invoices. The seeds should arrive in December. Alternatively you can order by post, phone or online ([www.suttons.co.uk](http://www.suttons.co.uk)) quoting our unique offer code. Ask me for it. But in this case you must pay at the time of ordering.

Wishing you good gardening in 2016  
Catherine Schmitt 020 8346 4359  
[catherine@schmitt1.demon.co.uk](mailto:catherine@schmitt1.demon.co.uk)



*photo sent in by Lesley Ludlow*

## New Fencing for Gordon Road Allotments

The FHS and Gordon Road Committees have decided to improve the chestnut paling fencing which runs at the Dollis Brook end of the allotment site. There have been an increasing number of break-ins and thefts at the Gordon Road site and the chestnut paling is clearly a weak spot where people can enter easily as it is hidden from the road.



We will need a working party in October and November to clear the area next to the fence so that the new fencing can be put in without delay. Please talk to June or Philip or any of the Allotment Committee.



Gordon the allotment cat is a softie and cannot be relied upon to repel intruders. He is a favourite amongst plot holders and is fed by

many of them. He feels quite at home with us.

## 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](mailto:chrysw@hotmail.co.uk). This saves us time and money.

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

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T:020 8349 3388 [www.winkworth.co.uk](http://www.winkworth.co.uk)

## The Finchley Horticultural Society

43 Oakdene Park, Finchley, N3 1EU

[www.finchleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

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

### President

Catherine Schmitt

### Chairman and FHS Enquiries

Claudine Fear: 020 8346 0353  
[cmrubie@gmail.com](mailto:cmrubie@gmail.com)

### Allotments Secretaries

Gordon Road: June Brookes  
0208 349 2253  
[jayemjaybee@btinternet.com](mailto:jayemjaybee@btinternet.com)  
Nethercourt Avenue: Janine Limberg  
07535 720691  
[janine.limberg@gmail.com](mailto:janine.limberg@gmail.com)  
Brent Way: Elain Wright  
0208 346 9975  
[colain43@hotmail.com](mailto:colain43@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

Liz Thomson  
[l.thomson324@gmail.com](mailto:l.thomson324@gmail.com)

### Membership

Christine Williams: 0798 493 5668  
[chrysw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrysw@hotmail.co.uk)

### Trading Hut

June Brookes: 0208 349 2253  
[jayemjaybee@btinternet.com](mailto:jayemjaybee@btinternet.com)

### Website & NGS Liaison

Judy Woollett: 020 8346 5107

### Allotments Security & Break-ins

Tony Ingram 0208 349 1265  
or 0796 727 4739  
[tonygram@aqp.co.uk](mailto:tonygram@aqp.co.uk)

### Newsletter Editor

Jo Cuttell 020 8922 0241  
[jocuttell@me.com](mailto:jocuttell@me.com)

Member of the  
Barnet Federation of Allotment  
and Horticultural Societies

## Events Diary

**19th October 2015 8.00pm**

Allotment Competition Prize-giving, Harvest  
Buffet and Seed Swap  
Barnet Allotment Federation  
Rathbone Pavillion, Ryallis Court,  
Oakleigh Road North, N20 0RY

**23 - 24 October 2015**

RHS London Shades of Autumn  
Show



**8 November 2015**

Bonfire Night Social  
4.30 at Gordon Road Allotments  
refreshments available

**November 2015**

RHS London Secret Garden  
Sundays - A Frost Fair -  
details later on the RHS website



**Sunday 13 December 2015**

Christmas Social  
11.00 - 1.00 Gordon Road Allotments  
**To book tickets to RHS shows, visit [rhs.org.uk/shows](http://rhs.org.uk/shows) or call 0844 338 7539**

### The Bothy, Stephen's House

**11th October 2015**

**15th November 2015**

**13th December 2015**

Open Sundays at Stephen's House, East End  
Road, Finchley, N3

The walled garden of The Bothy is open and  
free to visitors from 12.00-17.00 as well as  
most Friday mornings. Plants and cuttings will  
be on sale.

### **Gardening Days at The Bothy**

**Sun 20th Sep 11:00 - 16:00**

**Sun 18th Oct 11:00 - 16:00**

**Sun 15th Nov 11:00 - 16:00**

Help maintain Stephen's House and Gardens  
with a couple hours of gardening. Choose a  
session, either 11.00-13.00 or 14.00-16.00,  
or do both if you're really keen! The group  
meets in the stable yard outside the café and  
all tools are provided. Gardening days are  
usually on the third Sunday of the month but  
please always check Stephen's House website  
for confirmation.

**Next newsletter - January 2016**