**Agenda**

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Joanna Yates, Rosa Baden-Powell, Helen Green, Maureen Gaythwaite, Jack Sultoon, Janet Leifer, Mike Ree, Louis Zweig, Judy Woollett, Jacky Hurst.

1. **Annual General Meeting for 2014:** Minutes for approval
2. **Annual Report for 2014** presented by the Chairman
3. **Annual Accounts to 31st December 2014** presented by the Treasurer
4. **Election of General Committee for 2015:**

Nominations:

 June Brookes, Jo Cuttell, Tony Ingram, Janine Limberg, Liz Thomson, Christine Williams, Judy Woollett, Elain Wright,

Election of Chairman: Claudine Fear presided over by Catherine Schmitt

1. **No Election of Allotments Committee for 2015: Amalgamated into General Committee 2013 Reinstatement of the Allotments Committee for 2015. Appointment of members from the General Membership**

1. **Notification of Other Appointments:**

Louis Zweig was appointed Apiary manager in 2014
She remains Apiary manager for 2015.

1. **Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2015:**

Many thanks to Michael Case for kindly agreeing to be the Independent Examiner of accounts for 2014.

Michael Case has kindly agreed to be the Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2015

**Any Other Issues which Members wish to discuss – please notify the Chairman in advance.**

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The AGM will be followed by a Raffle and Social, with Refreshments

**Chairman’s Report 2014**

We are here again in the Tennis Club Clubhouse at Brent Way by kind permission of the Tennis Club Committee. All three sites have had a successful 2014, we continue to be self managed. Barnet Council have not yet completed the works that they are under contractual obligation to complete before October 2014 but they have now agreed to carry them out and I received an email from the Federation this week to say that there is a meeting with the Council to decide when works will be started. Non-return valves will be fitted to the water supply at all three sites. And the broken fence posts will be replaced at Gordon Road and repair to the cement by the gate at Gordon Road and tree works should also be carried out. However, we currently do not have a timescale for any of this work. The Council did have an obligation to carry out all agreed work within two years of the beginning of the lease. This time has now elapsed

We continue to reinforce the banks of the Dollis Brook to help prevent further erosion and will monitor the Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam and treat it if required to further weaken these pernicious weeds.

Although we amalgamated the Allotments Committee with the General Committee last year as the majority of the members on the Allotments Committee were also members of the General Committee, we only did this as a temporary measure and now would very much like to reinstate the Allotments Committee this year if at all possible and request that any plot holders who would like to be involved apply to June to join. It would be most useful to have an Allotments Committee that meets regularly and that could deal with Allotment matters. We hope that at least five or six people will volunteer for this and meet about 6 times per year or as often as necessary.

Thanks to all who have been Treasurer this year. We have had two changes of Treasurer; Ann Medina took over in March from Margot Boss and Liz Thomson has now taken over from Ann. Thanks to all of them for undertaking this most important role. We are very happy that Liz has agreed to take on this task again and produce the accounts for audit by Michael Case. We have also gained a Newsletter Editor, Jo Cuttell who has found her feet very quickly and is producing a very enjoyable newsletter for the Society.

There were very few vacant plots this year on any of the three sites. There are currently 17 people on the waiting list for all three sites. There are a few vacant plots that will be taken up by the people on the waiting lists.

Nethercourt Avenue won the best small site in Barnet competition again this year and Brent Way came second but there were no other entrants.

The beekeepers at Gordon Road had a very good year and produced about 370 lbs of honey 10% of which is given to the Society for sale in lieu of rent. We sold the entire quota for the allotments at the NGS Open Garden and raised about £225 for the allotments. However, they had an outbreak of nosema virus which may affect the amount of honey produced this year; Louis and her colleagues will be treating the hives appropriately to try to get rid of the virus from the hives. Louis Zweig continues as Apiary Manager.

We continue to have deliveries of compost and woodchip to Gordon Road and this can be collected from Gordon Road by the plot holders at Nethercourt Avenue and Brent Way.

Tap replacement was carried out after the theft last year by Richard Castella, The Insurance covered the costs after the excess of £50.

It is important to remember that The FHS is not only for the plot holders at our three sites but also for members who do not have plots. We continue to have a concessionary 10% discount off plants at Finchley Nurseries for all FHS members. Four issues of our Newsletter, The Grapevine, were issued and distributed to all of our members in 2014. Copies are available in the Green Room at Gordon Road; the hard copy of these was produced by Winkworth Estate Agents, who continue to support us and all of our events. The website continues to be managed by Judy Woollett. Unfortunately “Your Allotment” magazine has ceased publication. Marcia gave up the struggle to keep it going. The Log Cabin is even more comfortable now that we have had a donation of two more couches from June Brookes.

As part of the raised beds project we continue to have Southover Partnership School and Moss Hall Infant School tending the school beds.

There were no garden visits in 2014. The numbers of people going on visits has diminished to such an extent that we were unable to run any outings. We would like to have suggestions from the membership of where they would like to go so that we can re-instate outings. In the past we have had very successful and enjoyable outings and it would be very nice if we could do this again.

The Plant Sale on May Bank Holiday and the NGS Open Garden on 7th September were both very well attended; there were more than 170 visitors at the NGS Open Garden Some people who came didn’t want to leave. This was the first time that we have opened for the NGS and we made a substantial amount for the Charities and for ourselves. We will open again this year for the NGS this September. The tallest sunflower competition was won by Hitomi Murai, her sunflower attained 151 cm. Judy will be organising a different competition in 2015 for under 16s who will be asked to create “A miniature garden” in a box. This will take place at the NGS Open Day this year. A big vote of thanks to all who helped make both of these events so successful.

This year we had, three social events, open to all FHS members. We had a barbeque in the summer organised by June Brookes; a bonfire party in November, organised by Tony Ingram and a Christmas Social, again organised by June Brookes. Thanks to those who organised these and all who attended helping to make these events a great success.

The wild life plot has been successfully tended by Ray Clarke, who has taken over running it from Ann and Andrew Brown who left for pastures new last year.

Catherine Schmitt has kindly agreed to remain as President of the FHS. She continues to be a stalwart in organisation and giving advice in horticulture in general but perennials, in particular, for the plant sale.

A big thank you to everyone who works so hard to keep the allotment sites in good order and doing all the behind the scenes jobs that go unnoticed until they are not done! This will certainly be even more important in the coming year as we will have the honour of being in the NGS Yellow Book again for 2015. Gordon Road Allotments will be open for the NGS on Sunday 6th September. This will be a very big event in our calendar for 2015. We are currently preparing for the Plant Sale taking place on the May Bank Holiday weekend. We hope to organise two garden visits this year, arrangements for these have yet to be finalised but will be announced as soon as they are available in the Grapevine and on line, on the website.

We say farewell to Mr Daniel Antoniou (always known as Tony) who has had a plot at Gordon Road since 1962. His wife and his doctor have told him that he must give up but we hope that he pops in to see us often so we have offered him life membership of the FHS as a thank you and memento.

The FHS was founded in 1940 to help with Dig for Victory and feeding the nation when every spare inch of land was cultivated to produce food. This year therefore marks the 75th anniversary of the FHS and we hope to have a year-long celebration staring off with the Plant Sale on May Bank Holiday.

Obituaries:

Sadly, Jack Bucknell member of the FHS and plotholder at Brent Way passed away unexpectedly in September: He was a friend to all and supplier of young plants and seed potatoes; he will be sadly missed by all who knew him

Money was spent 2014 on:

* 4 Wheelbarrows for Gordon Road
* 2 mowers for Gordon Road,
* Tarpaulin for Piggery at Gordon Road

Spend required 2015

* Replacement of Greenhouse at Brent Way
* Replacement of Potting Shed at Gordon Road
* Replacement of Tea Hut at Gordon Road
* Replacement of large polytunnel canopy
* Tarmac repair at Gordon Road

Future Expenditure 2015 and beyond

* Replace chestnut paling fencing around perimeter of Gordon Road with high quality fencing similar to the palisade fencing in place.

The Treasurer, Liz Thomson presented the Financial Statement