

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Finchley Horticultural Society
Summer 2017



Committee News

All members of FHS were invited to "Have Your Say" at an open meeting on Sunday 7th May at Gordon Road Allotments. This informal meeting was suggested by John Kirby at the AGM and it was well attended particularly by members of Gordon Road and Nethercourt Allotments. See inside for more information about what was discussed and the outcomes that have been agreed so far.

Next meeting 17th September at Gordon Road. Please come along.

The Committee has agreed to find a way to allocate a portion of the next black compost delivery for the members of Nethercourt and Brent Way Allotments who are unable to have deliveries to their own sites because of restricted access. We hope everyone will co-operate until we find a system that works for us all. As we know the compost disappears very quickly and we recommend ten barrows per plot holder.

Open Day

National Garden Scheme

**Sunday 10th September
1.30pm until 5.30pm**

**Entry £3.50, children free
in aid of NGS charities**

**Gordon Road Allotments,
Finchley N3
See inside for more details**

'Better than Chelsea!'

was the comment made to the Chair of the FHS, Claudine Fear, on the first Sunday of our annual plant sale by an appreciative gardener.

The two sales produced an amazing £4,000 for the benefit of the FHS. Thanks to all those who helped and to those who came along to spend their money.

Cucamelons by Lesley Ludlow

Finchley Horticultural Society growers are so on trend. I first spotted cucamelons at the RHS Chelsea show, via the television coverage I hasten to add. They are also much loved by James Wong who describes them as 'doll's house-sized 'watermelons that taste of pure cucumber with a tinge of lime'. Sounded good to me, so when I saw them at the Plant Sale I snapped one up. The plant looks so delicate but it can climb to 8 feet and its tiny tendrils spiral tightly on to any support. The fruit has colouring like a watermelon but it only needs to grow to the size of a grape before it is ready to harvest, which should be around the end of July and then until the first frosts. But what to do with them? They can be used just like a cucumber, dressed with olive oil and seasoning for a crunchy snack or added to your favourite sun downer drink. I can just see it adding some sparkle to an elderflower fizz! If you are growing them go to James Wong's website for a pickled cucamelon with mint and dill recipe <http://homegrown-revolution.co.uk/savoury-fruit/growing-cucamelons>



Have Your Say - What you said and some answers

Scaffolding netting is becoming increasingly popular - could the shop stock it to sell by the metre? Members responded positively, preferring black or green. The Trading Hut Team will look into supplying this.

Food at the Barbecue - is it diverse enough to accommodate all palates? Members responded that the food provided was appropriate and plentiful. No action needed.

Volunteering - are opportunities for volunteering for the Plant Sale, for sowing and potting on in preparation for the Plant Sale, cleaning rotas, mowing and for the notification of the current meeting sufficiently well publicised? The Allotment Committee now provides a one to one induction meeting for all new members, which helps to explain members' duties and responsibilities. Christine holds a Plant Sale helpers meeting every February where she explains what needs to be done. The Committee tries to coordinate notifications through email, noticeboards, Facebook, the website and the Grapevine and we are looking to be as efficient as possible. Check your emails frequently.

Gordon Road bonfire has too much wet stuff on it and doesn't burn easily. Also a lot of household rubbish is dumped there. The Allotment Committee is looking at a drying area for wood but requests that ploholders only put dry wood on the bonfire pile. We can only provide this amenity if we all cooperate.

The hump at the Gordon Road main gate entrance is a hazard especially for disabled ploholders and we have had an accident. The Committee intends to have the hump removed and is getting quotes for this.

Nethercourt Avenue ploholders reported that they feel like a 'poor relation' as they face obstacles and delays with improvement works and equipment renewed and have difficulty getting black council compost. The meeting agreed that Nethercourt Avenue should be able to use the black compost which cannot be delivered to their site as the access is too small. Various solutions were put forward and it was agreed that a portion of the compost would be set aside for Nethercourt, who would look into the best way of getting it to their site.

FHS has been awarded a grant from Barnet Council for the Dollis Road boundary fence to be replaced with a higher security fence. The first step is to apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness to replace the fence along a public highway. We are not sure how long this will take.

Woodchip - Eric reported that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get woodchip delivered. He is still trying to find an arborist who will deliver.

Issues which were specific to particular ploholders have not been included here, but comprehensive minutes are available in the Green Room at Gordon Road.

The meeting agreed that the next meeting should take place after the summer and the NGS Open Day and the proposed date is 17th September.

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Sunday 10th September

1.30 – 5.30



Gordon Road is opening its gates again to the public under the National Garden Scheme which, this year, is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

As well as celebrating our wonderful allotments, it is our chance to raise money for the various charities supported by the NGS such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie. We will charge £3.50 per adult for entry and children are free. Last year this meant we gave £700 to the NGS and entertained well over a hundred visitors. In 2017 the NGS plans to raise a record £3 million for its charities.

We will again be selling produce kindly donated by you, the plot holders, as well as serving home-made teas in our new accessible piggery tea hut.

Volunteers are needed to help make the plots as tidy as possible in the run-up to the open day including weeding communal areas. We will also be looking for people to make cakes, help serve teas, sell produce etc.

So lets make it a record year for Gordon Road.

Any offers of help please contact Judy Woollett at judywoollett@hotmail.com or 0208 346 5107.

BARBEQUE SUNDAY 30th JULY ON THE PIGGERY from 1.30 p.m.

£5 FHS member
£7 guests (children under 7 free)

DONATIONS OF SALAD OR SWEETS
WELCOMED

soft drinks provided
bring your own alcohol

I/We would like to attend the barbecue.

Name _____

Number of FHS members _____

Number of guests _____

Any dietary requests _____

Cheque (made out to Finchley Horticultural Society) for
£_____. Please give cash or cheque with this
form to June Brookes, Allotment Secretary.

Share your photos



Please send in photographs of your fruit and vegetables that are special for you for whatever reason: rainbow carrots, unusual crops, monster veg or colourful beetroot. In the next edition I'd like to present a page of photos of the amazing fruit and vegetables that we all grow. Send them to finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com for the attention of the editor, Jo Cuttell.

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.

Theobalds Farm Visit

Following organic principles since its inception, Garden Designer Alison Green, has created a new garden putting into practice her design ideas and wild gardening beliefs. Her garden, Theobalds Farmhouse, Crews Hill in Enfield is open to the public and we have arranged for a number of FHS Members to visit on Wednesday afternoon, 13th September 2017.



Alison has created a series of gardens on two acres of virgin land, divided the sloping south-facing garden into two different levels using yew hedging to create distinct garden rooms, each with its own dominant colour and style.

Work started in the winter of the Millennium with the gardens closest to the house, when she developed The Courtyard, Pergola and Ornamental Gardens. The garden developed over the next decade "room-by-room" working from the outside in so that she was able to steadily reduce the green space from cricket pitch size to the calm oasis it is today.



This visit is on a car sharing basis so if you are a car owner and prepared to take passengers please let us know. The tour will start at 2.00pm and entry to the garden to include tea is £10.00 payable on entry.

Please let Judy Woollett know if you would like to attend. Phone her on 0208 346 5107 or email judywoollett@hotmail.com. Please note numbers are limited.

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

Winkworth

T:020 8349 3388 www.winkworth.co.uk

The Finchley Horticultural Society

43 Oakdene Park, Finchley, N3 1EU

www.finchleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

twitter.com/finchleyhort

www.facebook.com/FinchleyHS

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

Allotments Secretaries

Gordon Road: June Brookes
020 8349 2253

Nethercourt Avenue: Janine Limberg
07535 720691

Brent Way: Elain Wright
020 8346 9975

Treasurer

Liz Thomson: 020 8346 6124

Membership

Christine Williams: 07984 935668

Trading Hut

June Brookes: 020 8349 2253

Website & NGS Liaison

Judy Woollett: 020 8346 5107

Allotments Security & Break-ins

Tony Ingram 020 8349 1265
or 0796 727 4739

Newsletter Editor

Jo Cuttall 020 8922 0241

**To contact any committee member by email
please use this address:**

finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

Member of the
Barnet Federation of Allotment
and Horticultural Societies

Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural
Society



Events Diary

May - September 2017

NGS Open Gardens - outer North/North West
London Group
see NGS website for details

30th July 2017

FHS BBQ at Gordon Road
Allotments from 1.30pm
FHS members £5.00, guests £7.00 and
children under 7 free. All welcome



3 - 6 August 2017

RHS Garden Hyde Hall
Flower Show
Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8ET
Seek inspiration from the garden in full
summer bloom



19 August 2017

BAF Horticultural Show
Rathbone Allotments, Ryalls Road,
Oakleigh Road South, N20 0RY

5 - 10 September 2017

RHS Garden Wisley Flower
Show 9.00am until 6.00pm
(5.00pm on the final day)
A spectacular late summer show - six days of
floral wonders and includes the
National Dahlia Society Annual Show
'My Best Garden Dahlia Competition'
on 9th and 10th September



**To book tickets to RHS shows, visit
rhs.org.uk/shows or call 0844 338 7539**

10th September 2017

NGS Open Day

1.30pm - 5.30pm

entry £3.50 and children go free
in aid of NGS charities



13th September 2017

Theobalds Farm Visit

£10 includes tea

Visit starts at 2.00pm. Car sharing



Finchley Nurseries Garden Centre offers a 10%
discount on plants to all Finchley Horticultural
Society members.

Next Grapevine October 2017