

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Finchley Horticultural Society



Autumn 2017

Committee News

All members of FHS were invited to "Have Your Say" at an open meeting on Sunday 24th September at Gordon Road Allotments.

Issues raised this time concerned: **Wheelbarrows** at Gordon Road - they do keep breaking. Agreed to buy 10 new ones and members can buy their own through the Society. **Black Compost** the agreement to reserve compost for Nethercourt Ave allotmenters seems to have worked and will be repeated for some deliveries each year so they have time to organise transport for themselves. **Mowers** at Gordon Road - these break down often and cost £400 to repair in the last year and more in other years. Contractor mowing was considered to be too expensive. **Woodchip** at Gordon Road - it's hard getting good quality woodchip. Eric knows which arborists are best. The meeting agreed the next 'Have Your Say' should be in mid April.

Bonfire Party

Sunday 5th November

4pm Gordon Road Allotments

Try Tony's famous pumpkin soup!

No fireworks at this event

All FHS members and their children are welcome

RSVP to June Brookes,
Allotment Secretary

Grand Opening of the Disabled Access to the Piggery Tea Hut



The Deputy Mayoress, Mrs Val Duschinsky, formally opened the new accessible path to the Piggery tea hut on Sunday 1st October by cutting the ribbon at the entrance. This was only made possible thanks to the £10,000 awarded from the 'Tesco Bags of Help' scheme, a sum hard earned by the Media Team. Particular thanks go to Felicity Nock, Liz Thomson, Philip Cuttell, Chris Ouseley and Evolving Landscapes for making this amazing project happen, enabling people to come together. The Recorder Ensemble played a selection of music to entertain the gathering.



'The Challenge' Volunteers

We were invited by Barnet Council's Volunteer Scheme 'The Challenge' to have a group of young people to help for a day at Gordon Road. We eagerly took up this offer of help.



It was a very hot day in August but despite this they cheerfully cleared the wildlife area and weeded the raised beds. They also raised over £200 for us which we will use to improve these areas. Thank you 'The Challenge'.

Discounts on Suttons' Seeds

Suttons' Seeds catalogues will be arriving shortly. Catherine Schmitt will leave copies in the Green Room at Gordon Road and at Nethercourt Avenue. As last year, FHS members earn a discount of 50% on seeds and 15% on all other items. You pay a carriage charge of £1.99 for packets of seeds and £4.99 for heavier items, such as garden equipment.

Your order will be delivered direct to your address and if you include your email or mobile phone number you will be notified of delivery if your package weighs more than 2kg. You can order by post, phone or online, www.suttons.co.uk, quoting our unique offer code. Ask Catherine for the unique FHS code. Wishing you good gardening in 2018. Catherine Schmitt 020 8346 4359 catherineschmitt20@gmail.com

Well done everyone Our NGS Day was a great success



Finchley Horticultural Society at Gordon Road again opened its gates to the public under the National Garden Scheme which, this year, is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

We raised an amazing **£800** for the various charities supported by the NGS such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie. We welcomed over 100 visitors, despite the poor weather, who came to celebrate our wonderful allotments, and to buy the produce kindly donated by you, the plot holders. They enjoyed home-made teas in our new accessible piggery tea hut thanks to Elain and her team.

Everyone seemed very enthusiastic about our site and loved the talk on the bees, given by Chris Ouseley. He was busy all afternoon. The visitors spent over £80 on raffle tickets.

In view of this success we have decided to run it again next year on Bank Holiday Monday which is **Monday 27th August 2018**.

In 2017 the NGS plans to raise a record £3 million for its charities and we have made a fantastic contribution towards that goal.



Theobalds Farm Visit by Valery Marsh



In mid September several members of the FHS took the opportunity to visit this garden in Crews Hill created on a two acre site during the last twenty years by owner Alison Green who trained as a horticulturalist and garden designer at nearby Capel Manor.

The house, built in 1650, is very attractive and is fronted on one side by a parterre and on the other side by a knot garden. A gravel garden full of frothy perennials such as blue salvias and japanese anemones and a little courthouse garden also hug the house. Large pots, containing inner lighter pots to enable interchangeable planting, were a feature of the courthouse garden. These were the first gardens that Alison created.



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.

Although we were free to wander at will, Alison took us on a special grand tour of the garden, stopping off at a natural swimming pool, which had to be dug out of course, and a wildlife pond which had been a rubbish dump for more than one hundred years. The spoil from the swimming pond was used to create other features in the garden and very noticeably the Spiral Mound, an unusual feature in the central grassy area where you will find a very good example of the Mediterranean Cork Oak *Quercus suber*. Following on we came to a series of beautifully designed garden rooms including a neat and productive fruit and vegetable garden and a fountain garden alive with the yellow, orange and bronze of autumn.

At the end of our tour tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes awaited. Alison will soon plant 4000 tulip bulbs so a spring visit promises to be spectacular.



Christmas Social Sunday 17th December

11.00am until 1.00pm

The Piggery Tea Hut
Gordon Road Allotments

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine
All FHS members and their
children welcome

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

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

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Member of the
Barnet Federation of Allotment
and Horticultural Societies



Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural
Society

Next Grapevine January 2018

Events Diary

Trading Hut at Gordon Road is now closed until Spring

Monday 16 October 2017 8.00pm

Barnet Allotment Federation Prize Giving - a social event which includes a harvest buffet and seed swap. Bring along a small contribution and any spare, interesting seeds.

The Pavilion, Rathbone Allotments, Ryalls Court, Oakleigh Road North, N20 0RY

24 - 26 October 2017

RHS London Autumn Garden Show

Tuesday 5pm - 9pm £5

Wednesday and Thursday 10pm - 5pm
members £5 and public £5 in advance or £9 on the day
Lindley Hall, London SW1P 2QW
Lawrence Hall, London SW1P 2QD



31 October 2017

National Garden Scheme Annual Lecture

The Glory of the Garden: 90 years of the
National Garden Scheme

Speakers:- Mary Berry NGS President, Lord
Ashbrook of Arley Hall, Cheshire and Stephen
Lacey, newspaper columnist

Royal Geographical Society 1 Kensington
Gore, London SW7 2AR www.ngs.org.uk

Sunday 5th November 2017

Bonfire Night Social free

Gordon Road Allotments 4.30pm

Refreshments available - see the
advert

FHS members and their children welcome



Sunday 17th December 2017

Christmas Social free

Gordon Road Allotments

11.00 - 1.00pm

Refreshments available - see the advert
FHS members and their children welcome



12 -14 February 2018

RHS London Early Spring Plant Fair

Monday 5pm - 9pm £5

Tuesday 11am - 8pm members £5,
public £8 and £9 on the day

Wednesday 11am - 6pm members £5,
public £8 and £9 on the day



To book tickets to RHS shows, visit

rhs.org.uk/shows or call 0844 338 7539

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