

The Grapevine



Newsletter of the Finchley Horticultural Society

Spring 2018

Thank you Volunteers

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Plant Sales this year a great success, against all the obstacles thrown at us by the weather and the mice. This is in no small part due to the many people, too many to mention by name, who helped in so many ways. We hope that everyone who attended and encouraged friends and family to visit enjoyed it. We had many favourable comments from some first time visitors who were astonished by the beauty of our site, not to mention the quality and diversity of our plants. We were also lucky with the weather and were fortunate enough to be able to display the allotments in the best possible conditions.

After expenses we hope to clear about £4,000. This is a great sum of money to have earned but very hard won. It requires many hours, days and months of work by volunteers who dedicate a lot of their time and energy for the benefit of the Society. This money goes to the maintenance of the equipment and the upkeep of all three sites.

We will be asking for volunteers to help grow and look after the plants for next year's Plant Sale in May and this year's National Garden Scheme day on Monday 27th August; this work takes place throughout the year. You may have expertise to offer or may wish to learn some new skills, so, if you can spare some time to help in this very rewarding activity, we would be very happy to welcome you to the team of growers. (Please note: As long as you are an FHS member you don't need to be a plot holder to join the team). Claudine Fear, FHS Chairman



BARBEQUE
SUNDAY 29th JULY 2018 1.30pm
IN THE PIGGERY

£5 FHS member and £7 guests
children under 7 free

Donations of a salad or a sweet are welcome
Soft drinks provided

Bring your own alcohol

Please give cash or cheque to June Brookes
Gordon Road Allotment Secretary.

Open Day National Garden Scheme
Bank Holiday Monday
27th August 2018 1.30pm - 5.00pm
Gordon Road Allotments
Entry £3.50, children free,
in aid of NGS charities



Sit and enjoy a homemade
tea in 'The Piggery'

FHS News

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25th May 2018.

We want to assure members that we take your privacy seriously. So please note:

When you apply for membership, we collect details of your name, age category (standard or senior), postal and email addresses. You may also provide us with other personal details from time to time, such as your telephone numbers.

We use your personal data only for the purposes of running the Society, administering your membership and keeping you informed about the allotments (both your own and the allotments generally). We need to use such data for the purpose of performing the Society's allotment contract with you and also for our legitimate interest in keeping you up to date about allotment events and activities.

We do not share your data with anyone outside the Society. We will only retain your personal information for the duration of your membership. You have various rights under the GDPR in relation to your personal data, including certain rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction and objection. Please contact us if you would like further details of your rights. If you are unhappy with our use of your data, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), whose website provides full information on your rights at <https://ico.org.uk/>. We apologise in advance for the formality of this note, but we do need to bring this information to your attention.

If you have any queries, please let us know.

Fencing along Dollis Road

We have received a grant from Barnet Council to replace the fencing along Dollis Road. However, because we want to raise the height of the fence to 2.4 metres from the current 2 metres we have to apply for planning permission from the Council. We believe the extra height will improve the safety of the site. The FHS Committee applied for the planning permission in early spring, but a complete change of the staff who were dealing with our application means that the project has been put on hold. We are hoping that the matter will be resolved soon and that we can go ahead with the new fencing in the autumn.

Dogs Owners

Please do not let your dog urinate on the plants in the allotments. We want to eat what we grow.

Have Your Say 22nd April 2018 what you said and some answers

Lesley Ludlow got the meeting started by identifying some daffodils brought along by our members. An interesting and most informative beginning.

The problem of the **hump** at the entrance to Gordon Road was raised at an earlier meeting. It made accessing the site for wheelchair and disability buggy users difficult and unfortunately there was an accident at the entrance. The hump has now been removed making access much easier for people to reach the raised beds on the site.

Herbicides were discussed at the this meeting on 22nd April. Bee keepers are concerned about the use of Glyphosate or Round Up as it is better known. The bees can die if it gets into their water supply. The meeting agreed the following safety measures and this was subsequently ratified by the FHS Committee:

1. Stop stocking systemic herbicides in the shop
2. Spot them on with a brush, do not spray
3. If you must spray, do it on a calm day
4. Do not use near water butts.

The Piggery Garden has no gardener now that Jackie has left. Various allotmentees have offered to help and we are also fortunate that Anya, a local FHS member, has offered to help keep the garden looking lovely for us.

The Wildlife Plot Pond is leaky and Lesley wants it to become a bog garden. She would like help in digging a slightly larger pond - all offers of labour gratefully received.

Quotes are being sought for linking the **Log Cabin to the electricity supply**.

The Communal Buildings need another coat of preservative. Offers of help to John Hale via the Committee email please.

Erosion of the stream bank at the bottom of the Gordon Road site is a cause for concern. Felicity has met with Samantha Holmes from the Environment Agency. Coir matting may allow marginal plants to get established; willow and alder saplings would help.

**Next 'Have Your Say' Meeting
22nd July 2018 11am -12pm
Gordon Road Site**

Judy Woollett shares a fabulous day at Hidcote Manor Gardens and Kiftsgate Court Gardens

On a beautiful June day 33 FHS members and friends gathered for a trip to the Cotswolds to visit the beautiful gardens of **Hidcote** and **Kiftsgate**.

Hidcote Manor Gardens is an Arts and Crafts garden and was created by the American horticulturist Major Lawrence Johnston. Many of the plants found growing in the garden were collected from his many plant hunting trips to faraway places.



The month of June is the perfect time to visit these gardens as the wonderful aroma of roses and other sweet smelling plants meets you at every turn. Narrow paths meander round separate gardens and we saw so many different plants in a series of areas – each one different from the next.

From there we visited **Kiftsgate Court Gardens** which is the creation of three generations of women gardeners. **Heather Muir**, who created the garden in the 1920s, was helped and inspired by her lifelong friend from **Hidcote Manor**, **Lawrence Johnston**. Although smaller than **Hidcote**, these



gardens are built on a steep bank and were again a delight for all the senses. Craning our necks to look at the trees above we were able to see the famous white Kiftsgate Rose rambling around the branches.

It was a remarkable sight and resembled a cascading waterfall amongst the trees. Walking to the lower garden we saw the magnificent 'swimming pool' lawn with views to the distant hills of Malvern and to the glorious Vale of Evesham. Exhausted now, we climbed back to the house for a well earned cup of tea in their tea room. Of course, no one could resist buying some of the lovely plants for sale before we left.



The Kiftsgate Rose

Finchley Horticultural Society Coach Trip to RHS Wisley Flower Show

8th September 2018

**Free entry
pay only for the cost of the coach
See June Brookes for details**

PLASTIC POTS - a plea from the President

We understand the concern about re-using plastic items, including plant pots and we are grateful for donations. However, hygiene is as important for plants as for people, so the pots must be clean before we can re-use them. Please donate clean pots so that the volunteers do not have to spend time washing them rather than growing the outstanding plants we produce to sell.

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.

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

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The Finchley Horticultural Society

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www.finchleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

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www.facebook.com/FinchleyHS

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

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Catherine Schmitt

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**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



Next Grapevine October 2018

Events Diary

22nd July 2018

Have Your Say

Log Cabin, Gordon Road Allotments
11am

All FHS members welcome



2nd - 8th July 2018

RHS Hampton Court Palace

Flower Show

Daily 10.00am - 7.30pm (5.30pm Sunday)



10th - 12th July 2018

RHS Plant and Art Fair

RHS Lindley Hall, SW1P 2QW and
RHS Lawrence Hall, SW1P 2QD

RHS members £5, £8 in advance, £9 on the day

Tuesday: 10th July 5pm - 9pm

Wednesday: 11th July 11am - 8pm

Thursday: 12th July 11am - 6pm



1st - 5th August 2018

RHS Garden Hyde Hall Flower Show,

Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8ET

Daily 10am - 5pm



19th August 2018

BAF Horticultural Show

See website for details:

<http://www.barnetallotments.org.uk>

Rathbone Allotments, Ryalls Road,
Oakleigh Road South, N20 0RY

Federation allotment holders and their families may
enter produce in any of the 150 different classes



27th August 2018

Bank Holiday Monday

NGS Open Day

1.30pm - 5pm



4th - 9th September 2018

RHS Wisley Flower Show

Woking GU23 6QB

Tuesday to Saturday: 9am - 6pm

Sunday: 9am - 5pm

Free entry to RHS members - borrow our
membership ticket from FHS



8th September 2018

FHS coach trip to Wisley

Free entry but you'll pay a
contribution to the cost of the coach



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

**Members of the RHS get discounts on entry to
the shows**