

# The Grapevine



Newsletter of the Finchley Horticultural Society

Autumn 2019

## Community News

Thanks to Judy Woollett for organising the visit to Pashley Manor and Great Dixter. More inside...

The erection of new fence along Dollis Road at the Gordon Road site is now finished. We will apply for a grant to replace the fence along Gordon Road.

There are waiting lists for plots on all three sites.

The uneven paving slabs at the raised beds will be relaid in October.

Nethercourt plot holders have concerns about security and are looking at fencing to stop trespassers.

The garage door has been repaired thanks to money from our insurance. It will now be used to store Trading Hut stock as well as the lawnmowers.

Thanks to John Scotchford for repairing the green room wall so quickly.

## autumn on the allotments

Claudine Fear resigned last month as Chairman of the FHS. She has been in the role for 6 years and would like more time to devote to her other interests. The Committee are very sorry to see her go as she has been a stalwart of the Society and has supported it through some major changes. In 2013 our Allotments became self managing. We lease them from Barnet Council and Claudine has played a vital role in enabling that transition, taking on the challenge of self management and ensuring that our Society is well managed, properly conducted and is fulfilling the legal requirements. She has helped to make the Plant Sale the huge social and financial success that it is now. Claudine will still be on the Committee and will continue to work on her plot at Gordon Road. We thank her for her dedication and kindly guiding hand.

Our mini plant sale in September was successful in raising almost £200.



## Bonfire Party

Sunday 3rd November  
4pm-6pm

Gordon Road Allotments

Try Tony's famous pumpkin soup

No fireworks at this event

All FHS members and their families are welcome

RSVP to June Brookes  
Allotment Secretary

## VISIT TO PASHLEY MANOR GARDENS AND GREAT DIXTER

There was a wonderful turnout of members, family and friends, all garden enthusiasts, for our visit to Pashley Manor and Great Dixter on midsummers day; and what a beautiful sunny day it was.

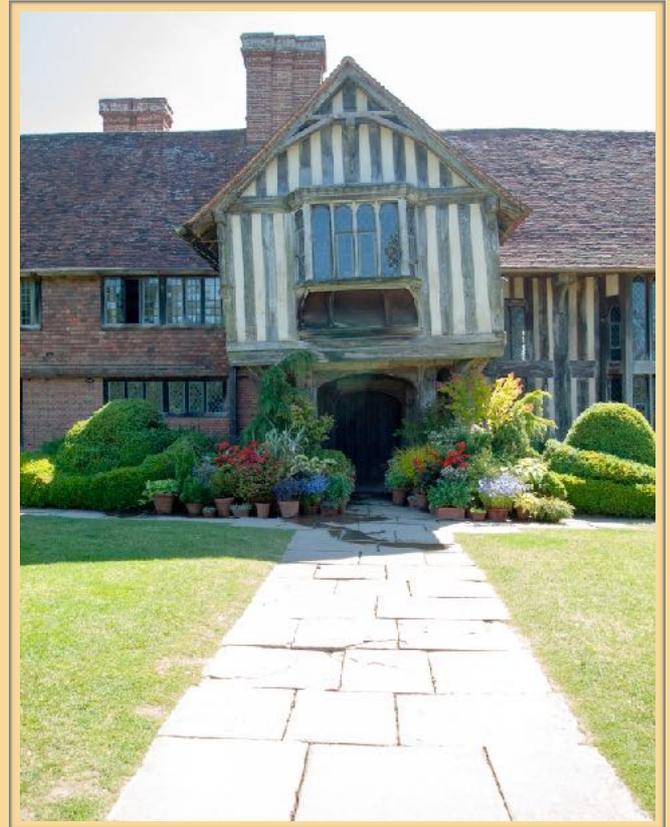
We visited two quite different gardens. Pashley Manor is family owned and maintained with the Grade 1 listed house as a backdrop.



The gardens are immaculate – not a weed to be seen and consists of sweeping herbaceous borders, a ha ha, box hedges, an espaliered rose walk, a historic walled garden and a delightful vegetable garden. The garden is a haven for wildlife and we saw many butterflies and small birds. During our visit we admired the pieces of sculptures providing focal points while others are tantalising glimpsed amidst the trees and flowers.



Next we travelled on to Christopher Lloyd's garden for lunch and an afternoon soaking up the wonderful colours of Great Dixter.



One of Christopher Lloyd's passions was to get year-round pleasure from his garden by keeping the show going over as a long a period as possible, one highlight being immediately taken over by the next. He referred to it as succession planting. His garden consists of mixed borders – mainly perennials but with annuals dotted in between and including trees, shrubs, climbers and ornamental grasses.

Some of the planting included Lychnis with its brilliant scarlet flowers, Canterbury Bells, many poppies, osteospermums and penstemons.



Needless to say few of us could resist buying plants from their nursery – nearly all raised from garden stock.

## Community Seed Swap - Michael Knight

Would any members be interested in joining a community seed swapping website that Michael Knight has recently launched?

The website is [www.seedswap.org.uk](http://www.seedswap.org.uk) and its purpose is to facilitate the swapping and exchange of heritage/open pollinated seeds (not hybrids). Its aim is to promote the practice of seed saving in Great Britain in much the same way as 'face to face' seed swaps do but doing it online instead.

The website is, and will continue to be, completely free to use.

This is how it works:

- First you need to sign up and register with the site.
- Next, list the seeds that you've saved so that everyone else can see what you have available to swap.
- Now decide what seeds you're interested in by searching or browsing through our plant database.
- When you find something, check whether anyone is offering some seeds to swap; and if so, make an offer.
- When you both agree on what you want to swap then simply post your seeds and wait for yours to arrive.

Allotmenters and gardeners may remember from James Robbin's talk at the AGM that he stressed the importance of crop diversity for biodiversity. One way we can support greater diversity is to grow more varieties, different varieties and older varieties.

## Discounts on Suttons' Seeds

Suttons' Seeds catalogues have arrived. Catherine Schmitt has left copies in the Green Room at Gordon Road and at Nethercourt Avenue. As in previous years, FHS members 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 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](http://www.suttons.co.uk), quoting our unique offer code. Ask Catherine for the unique FHS code. Wishing you good gardening in 2020. Catherine Schmitt 020 8346 4359 [catherineschmitt20@gmail.com](mailto:catherineschmitt20@gmail.com)

## Community Meeting 21st July 2019

Community Meetings are for all FHS members, whether they are plot holders or not. It's a chance to get together for a chat and share information, and it's also an opportunity to raise and sort out any possible problems. The next meeting will be in the Spring of next year.

During the meeting we talked about:

- Gordon Road came second in the Barnet Allotment Federation site competition (medium sized site category)
- Brent Way came first and Nethercourt Avenue third in the Competition for small sites
- Fixing the garage door as soon as possible
- Installing the new fence
- Recovering the poly tunnel - volunteers requested and now job done!
- The fire area - dry stuff only, No green plant material. No bonfires on individual plots please
- Induction for new members so that they know the 'dos and don'ts'. Allotment Committee members will do this at Gordon Road. The other two sites are smaller and this job is done by the allotment secretaries

## King's Seed Catalogues

Email June Brookes for a catalogue - final orders by October 31st.



**Christmas Social**  
**Sunday 15th December**  
**11am until 1pm**



**The Piggery Tea Hut**  
**Gordon Road Allotments**

**Mince Pies, Mulled Wine and**  
**Soft Drinks**

**ALL FHS members**  
**and their families**  
**welcome**



# The Finchley Horticultural Society

34 Elm Park Road, Finchley, N3 1EB

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

[twitter.com/finchleyhort](https://twitter.com/finchleyhort)

[www.facebook.com/FinchleyHS](https://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

Position Vacant currently

## Allotments Secretaries

**Gordon Road:** June Brookes 020 8349 2253

### Nethercourt Avenue:

Penny Igoe 07871 846496

**Brent Way:** Elain Wright 020 8346 9975

## Treasurer

Chris Ouseley: 020 8346 1205

## Membership

Christine Williams: 07984 935668

## Trading Hut

June Brookes: 020 8349 2253

## Allotments Security & Break-ins

Tony Ingram 020 8349 1265

or 07967 274739

## Communications Team

**Website** Judy Woollett: 020 8346 5107

**Newsletter Editor** Jo Cuttell 020 89220241

**Twitter** Lesley Ludlow

To contact any committee member by email please use this address and mark it for the attention of the person you want to contact:  
[finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

Member of the Barnet Federation of Allotment and Horticultural Societies

Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society



## Newsletter

If you received a paper copy of this newsletter and are now able to receive it by e-mail, please inform Christine Williams,

[finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

## Events Diary

### Sunday 20th October 2019

The Watergardens - NGS Garden with Autumn Colour

Kingston-upon-Thames, Greater London

Japanese landscaped garden originally part of Coombe Wood Nursery, planted by the Veitch family in the 1860s. Approx 9 acres with ponds, streams and waterfalls. Many rare trees which, in spring and autumn, provide stunning colour. For the tree lover this is a must see garden. Gardens attractive to wildlife.



### Monday 21st October 2019

Barnet Allotment Federation Prize

Giving for the plot and site competitions

Rathbone Allotments, Ryalls Court, N20 0RY 8pm

It will be a social event and we ask that you bring along a buffet item for sharing. Tea and coffee will be provided but if you want an alcoholic drink, please bring one with you.



### Sunday 3rd November 2019

Bonfire Night Social Free

Gordon Road Allotments

4pm until 6pm

Refreshments available

No fireworks at this event

All FHS members and their families welcome



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11am until 1pm

Refreshments available

FHS members and their families welcome



### 7th and 8th April 2020

RHS Spring Launch and Orchid Show

London Horticultural Halls

SW1P 2QW

**Next Grapevine - January 2020**

**Winkworth**

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

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