

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Finchley Horticultural Society



Winter 2020

Community Meeting

Sunday 26th April

11am

Log Cabin

Gordon Road Allotments

All FHS members welcome

Meet other plot holders and Finchley gardeners for a chat and refreshments. Our aim is to share advice, support and to get to know each other better.

Do you have green fingers?

We need a few gardeners to help with preparations for the Plant Sale to be held on 16th and 17th May this year. The volunteer's job is to fill the plant pots with compost, sow seeds, transplant seedlings and keep the plants watered. A spare hour every week or two is all that is required. If you think you might be able to help come along to the meeting, led as usual by Christine, on *26th January* at 11am in the Green Room at Gordon Road. Or you can let her know you're interested by emailing finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

Happy New Year

2020 has begun and I hope we are all looking forward to the next growing season. Planting is certainly the most rewarding gardening activity, so whatever the other chores you have to do, getting a plant or seeds in the ground makes the dull and difficult jobs all worthwhile. With this in mind we are starting to think about the Plant Sale for this year and we'll soon be planting seeds in our newly refurbished poly tunnel. Please volunteer your help if you are able.

Last year saw the erection of the new fence along Dollis Road - a huge logistical achievement. My particular thanks go to Tony Ingram and Felicity Nock who between them organised the erection of the new fence along Dollis Road. Philip Cuttell and Felicity Nock won the grant from the Council for the work, Tony gained planning permission from the council, which required an inordinate amount of paperwork and Felicity liaised with Paul who erected the fence.

We are looking for someone or a small team to take over the management of the Trading Hut. The trading hut is a great asset to both allotmentees and local gardeners selling garden essentials at reasonable prices at such a convenient location. Let June know if you are interested.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

On Saturday 27th June there will be a coach trip to the world renowned garden of Sissinghurst in Kent followed by a visit to Merriments Gardens, a beautiful 4 acre RHS partner garden in East Sussex where visitors can visit their plant centre for unusual perennials, alpines, shrubs and trees.

Further details will be posted on the website soon.
<http://www.finchleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk/>
or contact judywoollett@hotmail.com

All FHS members are invited to our Annual General Meeting including the FHS Garden Lecture on bees and beekeeping

Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 7.30

**Finchley Tennis Club, Brent Way, entrance between 45 and 47
wine and cheese and a raffle**

Please come and join us

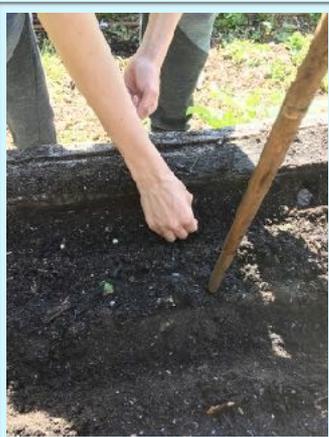
The FHS at Gordon Road supports three different schools from our local community

I want to celebrate the fact that the FHS enables three local schools, Moss Hall Nursery School, The Southover Partnership and Kisharon School, to use some of our raised beds to develop their outdoor curriculum. Learning outside is an important part of the curriculum and helps to develop students' social skills and self confidence as well as improving their understanding of the natural world.

The older students visit the allotments once a week for most of the school year and are guided by members of staff from the school. The nursery children come several times in the summer months accompanied by parents and staff and led by the indefatigable Jane Ouseley.

My thanks go to Eric Hess and Jenny Abelman who give their time to help and support the students. Please welcome these students when you meet them on our site.

Frank from Southover School has written of his experiences at Gordon Road and included some photographs.



The Southover Partnership

The Southover Partnership School is a Special Educational Needs School providing education for students with autism, social, emotional, behavioural and learning difficulties or those at risk of exclusion. We are a multi-faceted educational organisation whose goal is to provide relentless care and give all children a future through education. At The Southover Partnership we are passionate about children's teaching and learning and are renowned experts in the area of SEND. We have been working on two of the raised beds at the Gordon Road site for the past 6 years.

Frank y11 on the Allotment

This term Frank began work on the allotment as part of a Vocational Studies BTEC. He was tasked with clearing the space in order to propagate plants from seed, and hosted BBQs along the way. At Hutton Grove, he has successfully grown chilli and potato plants. Here is his writing on the process.

'The school allotments were filled with weeds so we took all of them out, and made sure to take out the long, white bindweeds. Me, Josh and Freddie did more weeding to make the soil healthy and make room to plant seeds. After clearing up the weeds me and Josh made a pea supporter with bamboo sticks. The peas will need support to climb up the sticks.

After we were all done with the weeding we watered the soil because the seed packet told us to. Me and Josh made small trenches to sprinkle the seeds in a line, and we made three rows. Here we are planting peas and separating them by three inches. After planting the seeds we flattened it down ready to be watered.

I use my finger as a dibber, planting two to three sweetcorn kernels in each hole, which were a couple of centimetres deep. We watered the soil in each row for the seeds to grow. It has to be watered every day when the weather is hot. After a couple of weeks, peas, carrots and beetroot seeds started to sprout. We water them regularly to support their growth.'

Neighbours Want to Improve Their Open Space

A group of West Finchley neighbours want to improve community access to Finchley Way Open Space and they're looking for people to join them in the "Friends of Finchley Way Open Space". Anyone interested in getting involved should email contact details to fofwos@gmail.com and someone will get back to you. The Group needs people to help with ideas on how the space might be used, clear-ups, litter picking and general maintenance, fund raising, organising events and possibly taking on more of a leadership role in the organisation. Barnet Green Spaces team will provide support and source and manage contractors.



Finchley Way Open Space is a hidden gem.

Finchley Way Open Space is a hidden gem bordered by Finchley Way, postcode N3 1AH, Hamilton Way, The Drive and Penstemon Close in West Finchley. Just a few minutes' walk from West Finchley underground station and hidden behind well-established trees, few people seem to know about the area and fewer still that it is owned by Barnet Council and open to the public. Part of the site is a grassed area, surrounded by trees. The remainder is an old copse and derelict allotments both of which are overgrown and inaccessible.

The site appears in records in the fifteenth century when it was known as Waren's Gift. More recently it was the site of Brent Lodge, built in 1810 and owned by Mr Hamilton from 1865 until 1902. In 1907 Brent Lodge was sold as an estate of 26 acres with a substantial mansion 'in the Italian style'. Before WWI it was the site of an early 20th century experiment in co-operative housekeeping pioneered by Alice Melville, a Finchley resident and supporter of the garden cities movement but war intervened and only one block of flats, Cedar Court (now Grade II listed) and some of the houses were built.

In 1922 Brent Lodge was sold to Augustus Cooper. He died in 1939 leaving the house and grounds (which did not include the houses or Cedar Court) to Finchley Borough Council subject to a life interest that allowed one of his sisters to live in the house until her death. She died in 1960. His Will gave the Council discretion to pull the house down but it required the area *'to be retained always as an open space for the use and enjoyment always of the public'*.



Plant Sale: House Plants

We plan to have a small selection of house plants for sale in May. If you have any that are surplus to your requirements, please donate them to us but NOT LATER THAN 19th April. We will be on hand to receive them at Gordon Road Allotments on Sunday mornings.

Christine and Catherine
President of Finchley Horticultural Society

The Finchley Horticultural Society

34 Elm Park Road, Finchley N3 1EB

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

Acting Chairman and FHS Enquiries

Jo Cuttell 020 8922 0241

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 8922 0241

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

Affiliated to the
Royal Horticultural Society



Member of the Barnet Federation of Allotment and Horticultural Societies

Events Diary

The trading hut opens again in March

17th March 2020

FHS AGM

Finchley Tennis Club, Brent Way

7.30pm

FHS Garden Lecture on bees and beekeeping
Cheese, wine and a raffle



2nd March 2020

Barnet Allotment Federation AGM

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

8pm Paola Arrigo of 'Seeds of Italy' will give the talk.



7th - 8th April 2020

RHS London Spring Launch and Orchid Show

RHS Lindley Hall, SW1P 2QW and

RHS Lawrence Hall, SW1P 2QD

Tuesday: 10th April 10am - 5pm

Wednesday: 11th April 10am - 5pm

RHS members free, Public from £5.75



26th April 2020

Community Meeting

Gordon Road Allotments

11am

Come and meet other plot holders and gardeners. We aim to share advice and support.



16th and 17th May 2020

FHS Plant Sale

Times to be confirmed

Refreshments available



27th June 2020

FHS Summer Visit to Sissinghurst and Merriment Gardens



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

Next Grapevine March 2020

Winkworth

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

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

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