



THE FINCHLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**The 81st Annual General Meeting
Finchley Lawn Tennis Club, London N3
7.30pm Tuesday 22nd March 2022**



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Points 4 to 6 will not be read at the meeting and are available to view on the FHS website and in the AGM booklet
4. 80th AGM for 2020 minutes for approval
5. Chair's Annual Report for 2021
6. Annual Accounts to 31st December 2021
7. Notification of other appointments:
 - A. President: Catherine Schmitt
 - B. Apiary Manager: Chris Ouseley
 - C. Wildlife Plot Manager: Helen Skelton
 - D. Independent Examiner of Accounts: Jane Healy

8. Election of General Committee for 2022

Nominations for re-election: Elena Cook, Nada-Sylvia Csata, Jo Cuttell, Penny Igoe, Anthony Ingram, Christopher Ouseley, Marcos Scriven, Judy Woollett, Christine Williams, Elain Wright

9. Election of Allotments Committee for 2022

Nominations for re-election: Rosa Baden-Powell, Nada-Sylvia Csata, Philip Cuttell, John Hale, Mark Hanslip, Eric Hess, Felicity Nock

10. Election of the Chairperson: Jo Cuttell presided over by Catherine Schmitt

11. AOB

12. FHS Garden Lecture by Pat Morgan Chair of Barnet Beekeeping Society: From Flower to Jar

13. Raffle and Social with Refreshments

FINCHLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the 80TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON
ZOOM
7.30PM TUESDAY 23RD MARCH 2021

1. Welcome: Chair Jo Cuttell welcomed everyone to our first zoom AGM.

Present: 17 Members. Christopher Ouseley, Catherine Schmitt, Judy Woollett, John Hale, Jo Cuttell, Philip Cuttell, Mark Hanslip, Eric Hess, Marcos Scriven, Elena Cook, Felicity Nock, Tony Ingram, Janny El Moutawakil, Penny Igoe, Elain Wright, Therese Jones, Christine Williams.

2. Apologies for Absence: Myra Farnworth. Sylvia Berente

3. Points 4 to 6 not read at the meeting as they were posted on the website.

4. 80th AGM for 2020 Minutes: Approved.

5. Chair's Annual Report for 2020: Accepted.

6. Annual Accounts to 31st December 2020: Accepted

7. Notification of other appointments.

A. President: Catherine Schmitt to continue, with thanks.

B. Apiary Manager: Christopher Ouseley to continue, with thanks.

C. Wildlife Plot Manager: Helen Skelton to take over from Fiona Kennedy, with thanks.

D. Independent Auditor: Jane Healy to continue, with thanks.

8. Election of General Committee for 2021.

Nomination for re-election: Jo Cuttell, Penny Igoe, Anthony Ingram, Christopher Ouseley, Judy Woollett, Elain Wright, Christine Williams, Sylvia Berente.

Nomination for election: Elena Cook, Marcos Scriven.

Seconded by John Hale.

9. Election of Allotments Committee for 2021.

Nominations for re-election: Rosa-Baden-Powell, Philip Cuttell, John Hale, Mark Hanslip, Eric Hess, Felicity Nock.

Seconded by Christopher Ouseley.

10. Election of the Chairperson: Jo Cuttell presided over by Catherine Schmitt. Proposal agreed and carried.

11. AOB:

- 1.** Compost. John Hale proposed a peat free compost policy. Agreed in principle. Christine will talk to Tuuli about availability from our suppliers.
- 2.** Raised Bed Area. Therese Jones asked about loss of car parking space at raised beds. It will be improved and markers put in. She also wanted to know if anything will be done about wear on the raised bed wood. There is a trial on the lowest bed using plastic on one side and geo textile on the other, to see which will prevent further rot.
- 3.** Bonfires. Philip Cuttell proposed a no bonfire policy: Agreed in principle. John Hale will propose a plan to the allotment committee. Date to be set to prepare members, alternatives such as shredding and skips to be looked at.

Minutes taken by Christine Williams



**FINCHLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
81st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FINCHLEY LAWN TENNIS CLUB
7.30PM TUESDAY 22nd MARCH 2022**

Chair's Report for 2021

Introduction

It is a great pleasure to be able to welcome everyone back to a face to face AGM.

Pat Morgan, Chair of the Barnet Beekeepers Association, will give the second FHS Garden Lecture entitled 'From Flower to Pot'.

We continue to be members of The National Society for Allotments and Leisure Gardens (NSALG) and Barnet Allotment Federation (BAF). We are affiliated members of the RHS and we are affiliated members of the RHS and obtain buildings and public liability insurance from Liberty through the RHS.

We have not raised rentals or service charges for 2022 and the Committee considers the charges for rent and services each year.

I would like to say a personal thank you to all General and Allotment Committee members who have been such a great team this year and on whose support I am totally dependent.

1. Committees

The General Committee met regularly throughout the year. Membership of the committee consisted of The Chair (Jo Cuttell), Treasurer (Chris Ouseley), Membership Secretary (Christine Williams), Allotment Secretaries (Sylvia Berente, Elaine Wright and Penny Igoe), Security Officer (Tony Ingram), Website Manager (Marcos Scriven), Newsletter Editor (Elena Cook) and Judy Woollett.

The Allotments Committee met every other month during 2021 both via Zoom and face to face. Committee members were Rosa Baden-Powell, Philip Cuttell (Chair), John Hale, Mark Hanslip, Eric Hess, Felicity Nock.

Philip Cuttell, Rosa Baden-Powell and Eric Hess run a one to one induction session for new members to the Gordon Road site as do the Allotment Secretaries at Brent Way and Nethercourt Avenue.

2. Completed Projects

a) The Charity Veggie Box Scheme was a huge success again this year. Thanks to Judy Woollett for organising this and to Jason and Rowena for their amazing contributions. Members grew extra food and donated surplus fruit and vegetables so that every week we donated two or three boxes to the scheme. The Scheme gave our donations and those of other Barnet Allotment Sites to the Felix Project which provides food to the homeless and others in need.

b) The Allotment Committee continues to clear the overgrown area by the fence towards the brook with the hope of planting a community orchard or developing a new allotment plot depending on the quality of the soil. This will probably take a year or two to complete.

c) A new fence was erected along Gordon Road. This was the final part of our project to make the Gordon Road site as secure as possible. We were supported by a grant of £5,000 from Barnet Council.

d) The second poly tunnel at Gordon Road had its cover replaced by members of the Allotment Committee in the summer.

3. Future Projects under consideration

- A new roof and structure for the Piggery tea hut and hard standing for the seating area
- Canopy over the barbecue
- Use of the log cabin for art activities subject to H&S requirements
- Demarcation fence for the allotment plots at Nethercourt Avenue. This will require consultation with neighbours
- Tackling the rot in the timbers of the raised beds at Gordon Road
- Management of green waste at Gordon Road
- Electricity supply to the Log Cabin
- New shelving in the Trading Hut

4. Accounts

Thanks to Chris Ouseley for producing the accounts for independent examination. We thank Jane Healy for examining the accounts and she has agreed to examine them again next year.

5. Invoicing

This year the General Committee sent out invoices for rents electronically. This proved to be a successful way to distribute invoices and meant that payments were generally made on time. Our thanks go to Cliff Abelman who managed this project.

6. Membership and Benefits for Members

We had 134 members in 2020 and 103 were plot holders.

We continue to have a concessionary 10% discount off plants at Finchley Nurseries for all FHS members. Suttons seeds give 50% discount on seeds and 15% discount on other items when ordered with the unique FHS code. Through The National Society for Allotments and Leisure Gardens (NSALG) members can buy discounted seeds from Kings.

There are three tickets for two people to visit any RHS garden with 30% off the entrance fee. Any member can borrow these tickets from Jo Cuttell. They can be used for an unlimited number of visits. Please take advantage of them.

7. Allotment Sites

Vacancies and waiting lists

There were very few plots that became vacant this year at any of the three sites. There is a waiting list for all three sites.

Deliveries

Thanks to Eric Hess for organising deliveries of wood chip to Gordon Road. Members from Brent Way and Nethercourt can collect wood chip from this site.

Thanks to Chris Ouseley for organising deliveries of manure and straw to Gordon Road. Members from Brent Way and Nethercourt can book and collect from this site. Brent Way organises its own manure delivery - thanks to Elaine Wright.

8. Security

We had no break-ins this year, although the Gordon Road site fence was severely damaged in September when a car crashed through it. Temporary fencing was erected to protect the site. The fence has now been replaced.

9. GDPR

FHS is compliant with current GDPR regulations which require us to contact our members annually and ensure that the data we hold on everyone is up to date. We do this using our invoices for rent, which ask members to check the details are correct and to inform the Allotment Secretary or the Membership Secretary if they need to be changed.

10. Trading Hut

Despite the pandemic the Trading Hut was open from March to September 2021 and many volunteers kindly served in the shop each Sunday. Tuuli Taylor has taken on the long term running of the Trading Hut for which we are very grateful. Its financial success in 2021 is testament to the value of this asset to the membership.

11. Wildlife Plot

Helen Skelton, Ekta Shah and Edo Kacej have begun work on the wildlife plot to develop its biodiversity and provide habitats for pollinators and protected species. They hope to put in a bug hotel and to turn the ponds into bog gardens and have written a comprehensive plan for this.

12. Bees

We are fortunate to have apiaries on the Gordon Road site, which promote a healthy ecosystem and enable us to sell honey with no food miles.

13. FHS Newsletter, Website and Social Media

The Grapevine continues to be published four times a year. Copies are sent to all members via Mailchimp. Thanks to Winkworth Estate Agents who print a few copies for those members who do not have a computer and who continue to support us and all our events. Elena Cook, the editor, is always looking for contributions to the Grapevine.

Many thanks to Marcos Scriven for managing the website for this year.

Felicity Nock and Judy Woollett manage the Facebook account. Grateful thanks to them.

14. Outings

Owing to the pandemic, social distancing and lockdown we were unable to have any outings in 2021.

15. Events

The FHS was able to hold a couple of social events in the later part of 2021 - the Pumpkin Soup Night and a Christmas lunch. Thanks to Tony Ingram, Rowena Bridge and Young Mi Oh for organising these events, which were hugely well attended - showing how desperate we all were for social contact.

A somewhat reduced Plant Sale still raised over £2,700 for the Society and members were delighted to have the opportunity to buy some vegetables and flowers in a safe, socially distanced way.

16. Our President

Catherine Schmitt has kindly agreed to remain as President of the FHS for the coming year. She has an unprecedented knowledge of plants and horticulture which she is always happy to share.

17. Conclusion

A big thank you to everyone who works so hard to keep all three allotment sites in good order and who do all the behind the scenes jobs that go unnoticed until they are not done! We will continue to promote our Society and hope that we will again be able to publicise our events and activities to the people of Finchley and contribute to the community promoting our ethos of friendliness, care of the environment and community spirit.

Treasurer's report

Summary

2021 was another successful year for the Society, despite COVID restrictions, with over £43,000 in the current and emergency accounts at the year end. This has enabled the Society to keep rents and service charges unchanged for another year. For the first time invoices were sent out to plot holders by email, and the vast majority chose to pay by bank transfer. The main item of expenditure was the replacement of the Gordon Road section of the perimeter fence. Most of the cost was met by the LB Barnet grant of £5,000 which was received in 2020. Serious damage to a section of the Dollis Road fence was caused in September but was repaired in January 2022 and is the subject of an insurance claim. The pandemic has reinforced the demand for allotments and there are waiting lists for all three sites. The trading hut and plant sales massively increased their takings compared with 2020. The Society bought a hand held card reader to make cashless payments possible for both plant and trading hut sales.

Accounts

The accounts which follow are set out over three pages which hopefully make them easier to read. The figures for 2021 are shown with those for 2020 for comparison. The first page shows the total receipts and payments for both years. As mentioned above the Gordon Road fence was the most significant item of expenditure and caused total expenditure to exceed receipts for 2021.

The second page itemises payments in excess of £100. Both water and electricity charges are now subject to regular meter readings.

The third page shows the accumulated funds and reserves held by the Society. The page concludes with the signatures of the Chair and the independent examiner. We are grateful to Jane Healy for continuing to be our independent examiner

Chris Ouseley
Treasurer

Finchley Horticultural Society
 Receipts and payments : year to 31 Decer 2021

RECEIPTS		2021 Notes	2020 Notes
Subscriptions		825	849
Trading hut sales		2140	1283
Plant sale		2757	1365
LB Barnet grant		0	5000 see below
Allotment rents	Gordon rd	5357	5357
	Bees	100	168
	Brent way	393	458
	Nethercourt	863	988
Donations		220	146
Events and socials		0	0
Seeds		185	603
Key deposits		60	225
Bank interest		12	19
Total receipts		12912	16461
PAYMENTS			
		2021	2020
Affiliation fees	NSALG	309	312
	BAF	103	0
Website/computing		0	57
Printing		42	22
Events and socials		120	95
Insurance	RHS	285	285
	Trustees	137	0
SUMUP card reader		119	0
Allotments			
Gordon rd	total	10401	3340
Brent way/n'court	total	425	184
Green bins charge		320	320
Supplies for plant sale/trading hut		1960	1073
Seed orders		215	572
Misc expenses		33	0
Other		30	130
Total payments		14499	5619
Net receipts		-1587	10071

note LB Barnet grant for erection n of fence on Gordon Road

Payments over £100	2021	2020
Allotments		
Gordon rd		
Water	1856 see note	635
Electricity	531	310
Skip site tidy	0	276
Post/trellis	0	320
Perennial raised beds	0	665
Brushcutter	276	0
Padlock repairs /new keys	212	253
Maintenance	290	708
Fence project		
Hedging	0	426
Fence panels	3158	0
Fence erection	3670	0
Skip old fence removal	408	0
Gordon rd total		
	10401	3340
Brent way		
Maintenance	87	65
Nethercourt		
Water	338	109
Maintenance	0	10
Brent way/N'court total		
	425	184

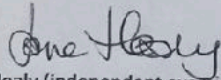
note water and electricity charges reverted to levels close to 2019 after meter readings

Finchley Horticultural Society

Accumulated Funds and Reserves	2021	2020
LB Barnet grant fence Gordon Road	5000	5000
Emergency Fund	10000	10000
Key deposits	1941	1881
Capital works fund	26411	29697
Cash in hand	145	228
Total funds	43497	46806
Cash in bank and at hand	43497	46806

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect
the requirements (in accordance with the rules of the FHS) to keep accounting
records; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records
for presentation to the membership have not been met; or
2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Jane Healy (independent examiner)

Date 24.01.22



Jo Cuttill (Chair)

Date 28.01.22