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# The FHS Grapevine

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Newsletter of the Finchley Horticultural Society

Summer 2015

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## Committee News

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It was decided recently to re-form the Gordon Road Allotment Committee, as since the take-over from Barnet Council the FHS Committee has found itself with many extra duties. The new Allotment Committee consists of Rosa Baden-Powell, Felicity Nock, Maureen Braithwaite, Chris Ouseley, Phil Cuttell and June Brookes as Chairman.

Their job is to take on the general running of the allotments with inspection of plots among its priorities. The FHS Committee deals more with the financial side of the allotments. It is hoped that all plot holders will assist both Committees in their task of looking after the allotments.

This year we again have the honour of hosting a National Garden Scheme event at the allotments at Gordon Road. There are very few allotments that reach the high standard required by the NGS. We will be providing refreshments on the day and also offering produce for sale. Donations of good quality produce and cakes, jams and preserves will be most appreciated. Volunteers please contact Judy Woollett or any member of the Committee.

See inside for details of our annual **Barbeque** 26th July. Please come along and meet your fellow FHS members.

Also inside a request for quotes for making water tank covers.

## Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who helped at the Plant Sale in May for making it such a big success. This event couldn't happen without the support of



m a n y volunteers who give their time and energy, often to the detriment of their own allotments, to grow seeds, pot on small plants, put out

the heavy tables, bake cakes and serve on the day - to name but a few of the jobs required. Overall the FHS made about £3,200 - a tremendous achievement. The money will be go towards general repairs and improvements on the three sites.

## NGS Open Day

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**Sunday 6th September from 1.30 to 5.30**

**Admission £3.50, children are free**

**Gordon Road Allotments, Finchley N3**

**Garden Tours**

**Honey**

**Vegetables**

**Perennials**

**Refreshments**

**Children's competition**

## FHS Children's Competition

Children under the age of 16 are invited to create a miniature garden. This could be in a seed box, tray or any sort of container roughly 30x40cms (12x16inches) but please note it should have holes in the bottom. Children could make an instant garden at home on the day using old sticks, flowers and moss or a longer term real little garden using plants that are living and growing. Objects such as stones, twigs, gravel, toy plastic figures and animals could also be used. Be creative! Bring your completed mini garden for judging to the National Garden

Scheme Open Day on the 6th September. For further information contact [judywoollett@hotmail.com](mailto:judywoollett@hotmail.com)



## Can you help?

### Water Tank Covers

As we have more children on the allotment and particularly with our NGS open day in September, the Committee have decided that we need to cover all the water tanks with mesh in order to minimise any accidents. We are therefore looking for someone to quote for this job which will hopefully be

undertaken in the next few weeks. For information please contact: [judywoollett@hotmail.com](mailto:judywoollett@hotmail.com)

## BARBEQUE

SUNDAY 26th JULY  
ON THE PIGGERY  
FROM 1.30 p.m.

Tickets from June  
£5 FHS member £7 guests (children under 7 free)

DONATIONS OF SALAD OR SWEETS WELCOMED

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Barbeque 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Number of FHS Members at £5 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests at £7 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children under 7 free \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut off and give to June with payment

## August Gardening

### What to do in August

#### 10 top jobs from the RHS

1. Prune Wisteria
2. Don't delay summer pruning restricted fruits



3. Deadhead flowering plants regularly
4. Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater
5. Collect seed from favourite plants
6. Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as soon as they become ready
7. Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries
8. Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
9. Keep ponds and water features topped up
10. Feed the soil with green manures

### 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](mailto:chrysw@hotmail.co.uk). This saves us time and money.

## September Gardening

### What to do in September from the RHS Fruit

Continue planting new strawberry beds. Order cold stored strawberry runners for delivery in winter. Order new fruit trees, canes and bushes.

Cut back old canes of blackberries and hybrid berries after fruiting and tie in new canes.

Prune blackcurrants. Harvest fruit such as apples and pears, quince and meddlars. Look for fallen fruit under the tree to indicate which apples are ready.

#### Vegetables

Watch tomatoes for blossom end rot and other ripening problems. This can be caused by irregular watering.

Continue to sow vegetables for overwintering, to mature next spring.

Be sure to clear debris when lifting potatoes.



Spring cabbages that were sown last month are probably ready for planting out. Cover with netting to deter pigeons.

Celery can be earthed-up for the final time this month, leaving a tuft of foliage sticking out of the trench in order to blanch the stems.



This issue of the Grapevine has been generously sponsored by  
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## The Finchley Horticultural Society

43 Oakdene Park, Finchley, N3 1EU

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

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

### President

Catherine Schmitt

### Chairman and FHS Enquiries

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Member of the  
Barnet Federation of Allotment  
and Horticultural Societies

## Events Diary

### May - September 2015

NGS Open Gardens -  
outer North/North West  
London Group  
see NGS website for details



### 26th July 2015

BBQ at Gordon Road Allotments  
from 1.30pm  
FHS members £5.00, guests £7.00 and  
children under 7 free

### 30th July - 2nd August 2015

RHS Garden Hyde Hall Flower  
Show



### 6th September 2015

National Garden Scheme Open Day  
Gordon Road Allotments  
1.30 to 5.30 entrance £3.50

includes the FHS children's miniature  
garden competition

### 8th - 13th September 2015

RHS Garden Wisley Flower  
Show - opened this year by  
Mary Berry, RHS Ambassador  
A six-day floral extravaganza



On 12th and 13th September  
**'My best garden Dahlia'** competition. On  
either day bring along a single stem with  
single or  
multiple  
flowers of  
any type  
of dahlia  
that you  
have  
grown to  
the Dahlia  
Marquee  
by noon.



To book tickets, visit [rhs.org.uk/shows](http://rhs.org.uk/shows)  
or call 0844 338 7539

Next newsletter - October 2015