



Barnet Gardening Club

Welcome to the latest newsletter from and for the Barnet Homes Gardening Club



Garden vouchers

It's voucher time, and by now you should have received your appointment for your annual assessment. Please ensure you have your receipts from last year.

Finest Flower

Can you believe how quick this year is progressing? It is almost time for the annual Finest Flower Competition. More info on page 2

The Garden Club Constitution

The Garden Club is on it's way to becoming a constituted group and the draft constitution is finally ready and it is important that all members have an input. More info on page 3

Garden Club Meeting Update

Thank you to all of you who attended the last Garden Club meeting on 15 March at Drummond House. For all of you who couldn't make it - you missed out on some great fresh pastry and Tonys really informative workshop on how to take cuttings, but here are the highlights of the meeting:

Away days

It is happening! You are invited to join us for a fun day out to Forty Hall, Forty Hill Enfield EN2 9HA. It was agreed that Saturday would be the best day for an outing and Forty Hall is first on the list. Forty Hall has agreed to provide a guided tour through the farm, vineyard and grounds on Saturday 14 May 2016. The costs for the guided tour will be funded by Barnet Homes, but you will need to make your own travel arrangements. Please fill in and return the attached form to confirm your attendance. The exact time will be confirmed to all who have expressed interest by returning the enclosed form.



Finest Flower Competition



The majority of members voted for the Finest Flowers competition to be at the end of June this year. Therefore it will be taking place on the **24 June 2016** so make sure you mark it on your calendar and submit your forms by **1 June 2016**.



Your Garden Club Blog & atHome magazine article ideas

Thank you to all of you who sent ideas of what you would like to read about on the Garden Club blog and the atHome magazine. Your ideas included: Safe habitats for hedgehogs, growing fruit and vegetables; garden ponds and gardening in pots. As many of you are experts in one or more of these areas, we would be really grateful if you could use the attached form to let us know, which of these garden topics you can provide some tips and information on.



Françoise of Drummond House made a fantastic start in our Winter issue, telling us how to prepare our garden for the winter. Tony of St Johns Close explains in the current issue, how you correctly take cuttings to grow evergreens in your garden, so make sure you check it out.

On a sad note

As you might have heard by now, our beloved garden club leader Ela Klein of Wimbush passed away on the . Ela loved to garden which had won numerous awards. She had been battling cancer for years and once said “Gardening helps me to stay positive and strong through my illness and most importantly the garden is a great place for the residents of Wimbush to come together and enjoy themselves.”

Ela's family sends a big thank you to the Barnet Homes Garden Club and all members who collected a total of £30 on Ela's behalf at the last meeting. The money has been given to her family to be donated to North London Hospice (Finchley).



Constitution

We are making progress with the constitution of the garden club. As you know, having a constitution will enable the garden club to seek external (additional) funding and pursue a wide range of projects. You can find the draft constitution enclosed. Take a quick gander and let us know have your feedback using the enclosed form.



It is also time to think of the structure of the constituted garden club and which role you would like to play in making it a strong and sustainable body. We will need at least four of you to take on committee roles of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.



Please bear in mind, that these members would need to be happy to communicate via e-mail, as this is how Barnet Homes and most funders and partners stay in touch with our resident groups.

If you are interested in taking on of the
You can read about what each of the roles do in the enclosed document.



Help for Mapledown School

in Cricklewood which is Barnet's only secondary school for people with severe learning disabilities is struggling to keep their on top of their garden beds. They are desperately seeking help from hobby gardeners who would like to volunteer. If you are interested in helping out, please contact David Aarons (Deputy Head) on: deputy@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk; Tel 02084578732



From the Garden Club Blog:

Free Coffee for your plants

You most probably also know that coffee grouts are good for your plants. But did you know that Waitrose is now giving away the grouts of their free coffees so you can feed your plants for free?



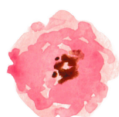
All you need to do is visit one of the participating branches (Whetstone High Rd & Mill Hill Broadway), take a plastic bag and help yourself some compost out of the silver bin which is (usually) situated at the back of the store.

Mix the grouts into your soil where they act as a mulching agent, providing your plants with important nutritional benefits. Many gardeners also like to add them to their compost bin as it helps accelerates the decomposition process.

Check out the Garden Club Blog on the Barnet Homes website for more tips like this and info on:

Lawn mowing, taking cuttings, gardening on a shoestring and more.

<https://barnethomesgardeningclub.wordpress.com/>



**Next Garden Club Meeting: 18 May 10am, Gadsbury Close,
Goldsmith Avenue, London, NW9 7EZ**



Return Form

Please return to:

Julia Leszczak, Resident Involvement Team, Barnet Homes
FREEPOST LON18794 N20 0BR

Name of Garden Club:

We would be able to help with info on:

Gardening in pots

Beekeeping

Hedgehog Habitats

Garden Ponds

Nature Reserves

Indoor Gardening

Birdwatching

Growing Fruit & Veg

My questions, thoughts, feedback with regards to the the constitution are as follows (feel free to use the back of the form if you run out of space):

We would like to take part in the away day to Forty Hall on the 14 May

Yes

number of attendees:

no thanks

I would like to express (non-binding) interest in becoming a

Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

Vice Chair