

Gordon Road, Nethercourt Avenue and Brent Way
Allotment Sites
Finchley, London N3



Handbook for Plot Holders

Finchley Horticultural Society
2013



Introduction

Welcome to our allotments. This Handbook has been produced to provide all plotholders at Gordon Road, Nethercourt Avenue and Brent Way with their conditions of tenancy and other essential information. General advice and regulations apply to all sites, but the site specific information relates only to Gordon Road except where otherwise stated.

The sites are run on a communal basis, so please remember to be considerate and ensure that your plot, your activity on it, and its surrounding paths do not pose a hazard or inconvenience to others.

The Finchley Horticultural Society

A regular Newsletter, The Grapevine, includes information on forthcoming events and activities. At least one garden visit is organised each summer. The Society is affiliated to:

The Royal Horticultural Society
and is a member of

The Barnet Federation of Allotments and Horticultural Societies
The Federation of Middlesex Horticultural and Allotment Societies
The National Allotments Society

Information and magazines from the above are available at the Gordon Road Trading Hut, in the Green Room or on request.

Management

The General Committee of the FHS has overall responsibility for the allotments and authorises any expenditure. An Allotment Committee deals with the detailed running of Gordon Road. Members are elected to these Committees at the FHS Annual General Meeting held each spring.

Contents

Terms and Conditions of Allotment Tenancy	3
Allotment Site Maps	10
Site Information	19
Site Facilities	21
Contact Information	24

Terms and Conditions of Allotment Tenancy

The following clauses are the Society's terms and conditions for rental of allotments. They are subject to amendment by the Finchley Horticultural Society at any time.

For clarity, the following terms are used:

- 'The Society' means Finchley Horticultural Society.
- An 'allotment' means any allotment plot or raised bed rented from the Society.
- 'The tenant' means the named current holder(s) of an allotment.
- 'The Council' means the London Borough of Barnet.
- 'The Committee' means the General Committee of the Society. The Gordon Road Allotment Committee is specifically named where it applies.
- 'The site' means one of the following allotment sites managed by the Society located at:
 - Gordon Road, Finchley, London N3 1EL
 - Nethercourt Avenue, Finchley, London N3 1PS
 - Brent Way, Finchley, London N3 1AR
- The use of the masculine includes the feminine and vice versa; the singular includes the plural and vice versa.
- Where an allotment is let to two or more tenants the terms and conditions in this document apply to each of them.
- 'Officers of the Society' means The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Allotments Secretary.

Basis of Tenancy

1. Allotments are let to tenants solely as allotment gardens as provided for in the provisions of the Allotments Acts 1908 to 1950 as to allotment garden tenancies, and the provisions of those Acts apply accordingly. Allotments are to be wholly or mainly cultivated by the tenant for the production of vegetables, fruit crops and flowers, for consumption by the occupier and his/her family. Tenants may use their allotments only for their own cultivation and may not carry on, or permit to be carried on, any trade or business involving the allotment.

Society Membership

2. Tenants are required to be members of the Society for the whole of their period of tenancy. Society Membership is also open to non-plotholders (eg plotholders' partners, family, friends and other gardeners in Finchley). The Committee reserves the right to refuse membership. An annual membership fee is payable (currently £8, over 60s £5). All Society members are entitled to vote in elections at the Annual General Meeting.

Plot Rental

3. Annual allotment rents and service charges are due on 1st January. Rental is valid until 31st December. Any tenant who is 40 days in arrears with rent payment and service charges automatically forfeits the allotment tenancy on the 41st day subject to one month's notice.
4. Before taking possession, every tenant shall pay the required rent and other charges in advance - on the days and at the time and place appointed by the Society - to the Secretary or other person authorised by the Society to receive it, whether legally demanded or not.
5. The Council and the Society, their accredited representatives and persons acting on their behalf or with their permission shall be entitled at any time to enter and inspect any allotments, and carry out works or repairs required or authorised by the Society or by the Council.
6. Tenants must not do nor allow anything (in relation to the tenant's allotment) which is inconsistent with, or in breach of, the provisions of the lease (which the Society shall make available for inspection by the tenant on demand).
7. If any notice is served by the Society in respect of any breach of the terms of this agreement, the tenant shall immediately comply with such a notice and carry out any work required by the notice.
8. Tenants must not:
 - a. Transfer, assign, sublet, part with possession of, or otherwise deal with the allotment or any part of it or with any interest in it;
 - b. Grant or purport to grant any right, interest, licence or easement in or over or under the allotment.
 - c. Do in connection with the allotment any act or thing which may be, or become, illegal or a nuisance to the Council, to the Society, to other tenants or to the owners or occupiers of other property in the neighbourhood.
 - d. Encroach or trespass, or allow others to trespass, upon another tenant's allotment or encroach onto any path, road or communal space.
 - e. Cause, or allow to be caused, any damage to or theft of any property, including crops, belonging to other persons or the Society.

9. Tenants must:

- a. Indemnify and keep indemnified the Society, its officers and servants from and against all costs, claims, demands, proceedings, expenses and payments whatsoever that may be made or instituted against them or any of them in relation to the use of the allotment by the Tenant or the Tenant's employees, visitors or contractors either directly or indirectly, and which would not have arisen but for the granting of this tenancy. (What this means is that if you do something or fail to do something you should have done which causes a cost to the Society you, the tenant, will have to pay the cost).
 - b. Inform the Society of any attempt by the owners or occupiers of other property in the neighbourhood to encroach on or acquire any right or easement over the allotment, including any unauthorised access to the site.
 - c. Co-operate as far as reasonably possible with the Society and its officers in ensuring the efficient, effective and harmonious running of the site.
 - d. Help run the Society and/or the sites as required by the Society.
 - e. Inform the Society immediately of any change in their address or other contact details.
10. The Society is not responsible except as required by law for any loss, theft, damage or injury to any persons or property on the allotment site, and all persons who enter the site do so at their own risk.
 11. Tenants shall observe and perform any special condition which the Society considers necessary to preserve the allotment from deterioration, and of which notice shall be given to the tenant in accordance with these terms and conditions.

Care and Maintenance of the Allotment

12. Tenants are personally responsible for the upkeep of their allotment - whether solely or with the assistance (paid for or otherwise) of their partner, family member(s) and/or others. Cultivation is defined as the physical working of the ground for the production of crops, defined as vegetables, flowers, fruit bushes, fruit trees and herbs.
 - a. Tenants must keep their allotments in a good state of cultivation to the satisfaction of the Society.
 - b. Their plot must be kept reasonably free from weeds and rubbish. An area that is cleared of weeds yet remains uncropped or unplanted during any one year will be considered to be non-cultivated.
 - c. **Tenants must dispose of their own green waste either on their allotment (by composting material in a bin or heap) or by taking such waste home with them for disposal in their own green wheelie bin. Gordon Road tenants must not place any garden refuse or plant waste anywhere other than on their own plot and never in the grey wheelie bins.** A green wheelie bin is provided at Nethercourt Avenue for disposal of pernicious weeds. Only woody waste can be burnt on the communal bonfire at Gordon Road.
 - d. The whole plot, including any uncultivated/leisure areas, must be kept tidy, safe and free from weeds.
 - e. The Committee carries out two unannounced plot inspections a year: one in spring, another in late summer.
13. Tenants must not:
 - a. Plant, or allow to grow, any hedges or erect any fencing, walls or other barriers around their allotments.
 - b. Use barbed or razor wire or the like for any purpose.
 - c. Erect any notices or advertisements.
 - d. **Store petrol or gas cylinders (of any kind or size) inside a shed or other structure. Paraffin may be kept in sheds but is limited to one can in a container designed to hold paraffin.**
14. Tenants must keep any ditches and watercourses bordering their allotment open and clear of obstructions and must not, without the prior approval of the Society, divert, alter or in any way interfere with the free running or percolation of water in or under the site, whether the water is in defined channels or otherwise.

Bonfires

15. A communal bonfire site is provided at the bottom of the Gordon Road site (see map) and tenants are encouraged to use this for the disposal of **woody material only**. This is under the charge of a specified volunteer who manages this area and is in charge of the fires lit here.

Bonfires may be lit by tenants on their allotments only:

- a. on the first Wednesday of each month during the months May to September, and
- b. on any day during the months October to April.

Bonfires must be kept under control at all times and not left unattended, and must be completely extinguished before the tenant leaves the site.

Sheds and Other Fixtures

16. Tenants wishing to erect a structure on their allotment must first seek advice from the Committee. Moreover, tenants must not build or allow to be built on their allotments:
 - a. Any permanent structures;
 - b. Any temporary structures exceeding 2.5 metres in height
17. The total area of all temporary structures on an allotment, including sheds, greenhouses, polytunnels and the like, may not exceed 20% of the area of the allotment and must be built and maintained to a reasonable standard.
18. The Society encourages tenants to purchase a prefabricated shed, greenhouse or polytunnel. However, if the tenant wishes to build their own from suitable material it must comply with the above measurements and be safe and sound. The finish must be in keeping with the surroundings, treated with a suitable preservative or painted dark green or brown.
19. Any exposed, concreted areas on an allotment, such as paths, must not in total exceed 10% of the total area of the permitted structures as point 16 above.
20. Structures, fixtures and the like erected or installed on an allotment shall remain the property of the tenant during the term of the tenancy. Upon the expiration or termination of the tenancy for whatever reason, the tenant or his or her personal representative shall be entitled to dispose of such structures, fixtures and the like to whom and on such terms as they may desire, including sale to an incoming tenant, or remove such structures and fixtures and any produce. If the outgoing tenant neither disposes of nor removes such structures, then an incoming tenant may either enter into possession of these structures without payment or cause these structures to be dismantled and removed and to charge the outgoing tenant the cost of these works.

21. Upon the termination of the tenancy of an allotment the tenant shall, if required to do so by the Society, remove from the allotment all his/her property of any kind within 14 days of such termination, and shall make good any defect to the allotment caused by such movement. The Society may thereafter remove any such property remaining on the allotment and charge the expense of such removal and making good any defect to the tenant, who shall upon demand pay to the Society the amount of such expense.

Trees

22. **Tenants must not plant, or allow to grow by natural seeding or otherwise, any trees or bushes other than fruit trees and bushes of recognised varieties cultivated for their crop.**
23. Fruit trees and bushes must not be planted within 1 metre of – nor hang over or encroach upon - roads, paths, fences or neighbouring allotments, and should not exceed 5 metres in height.
24. All trees must be regularly inspected and properly maintained to the satisfaction of the Society.

Paths, Roads and Boundaries

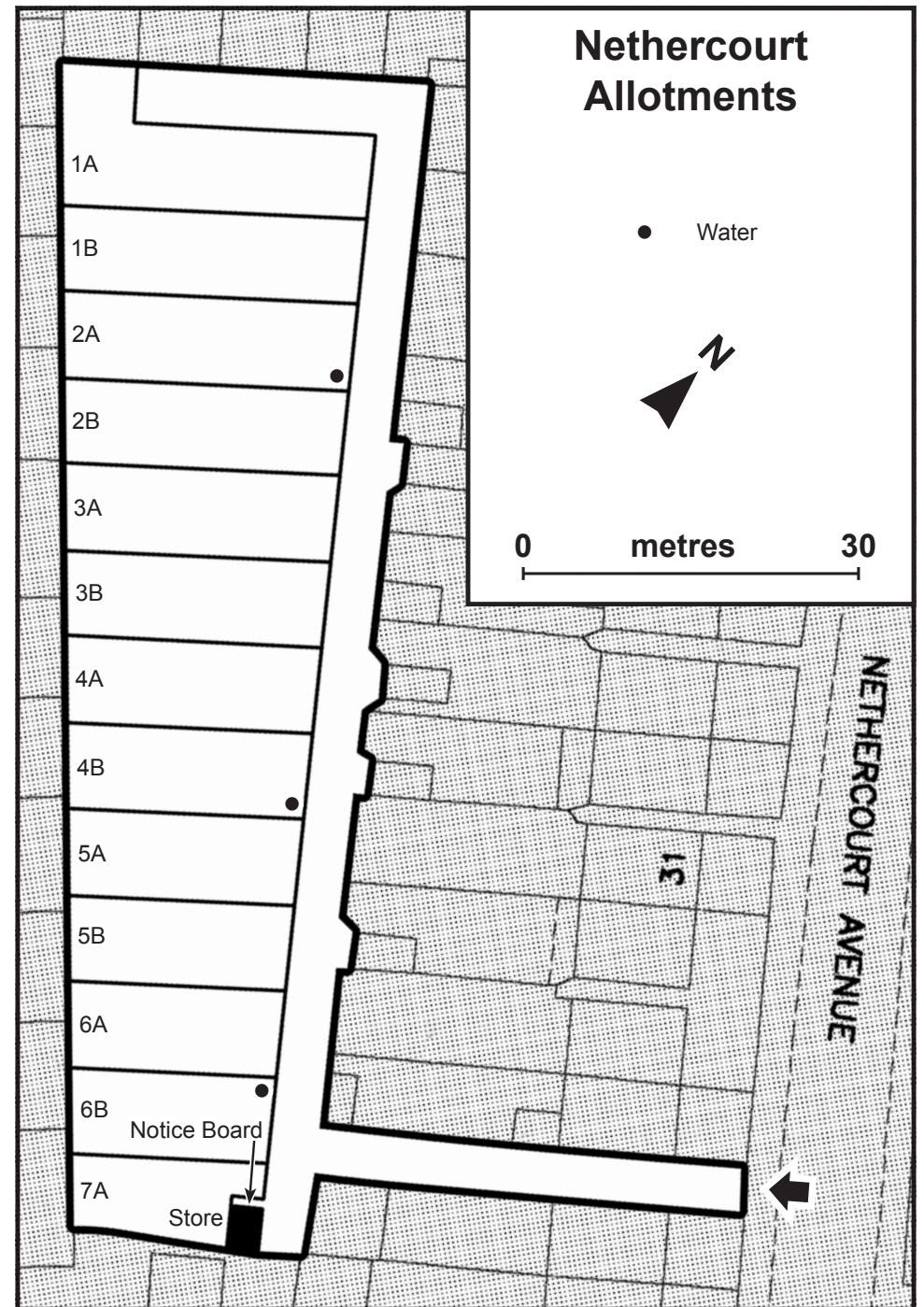
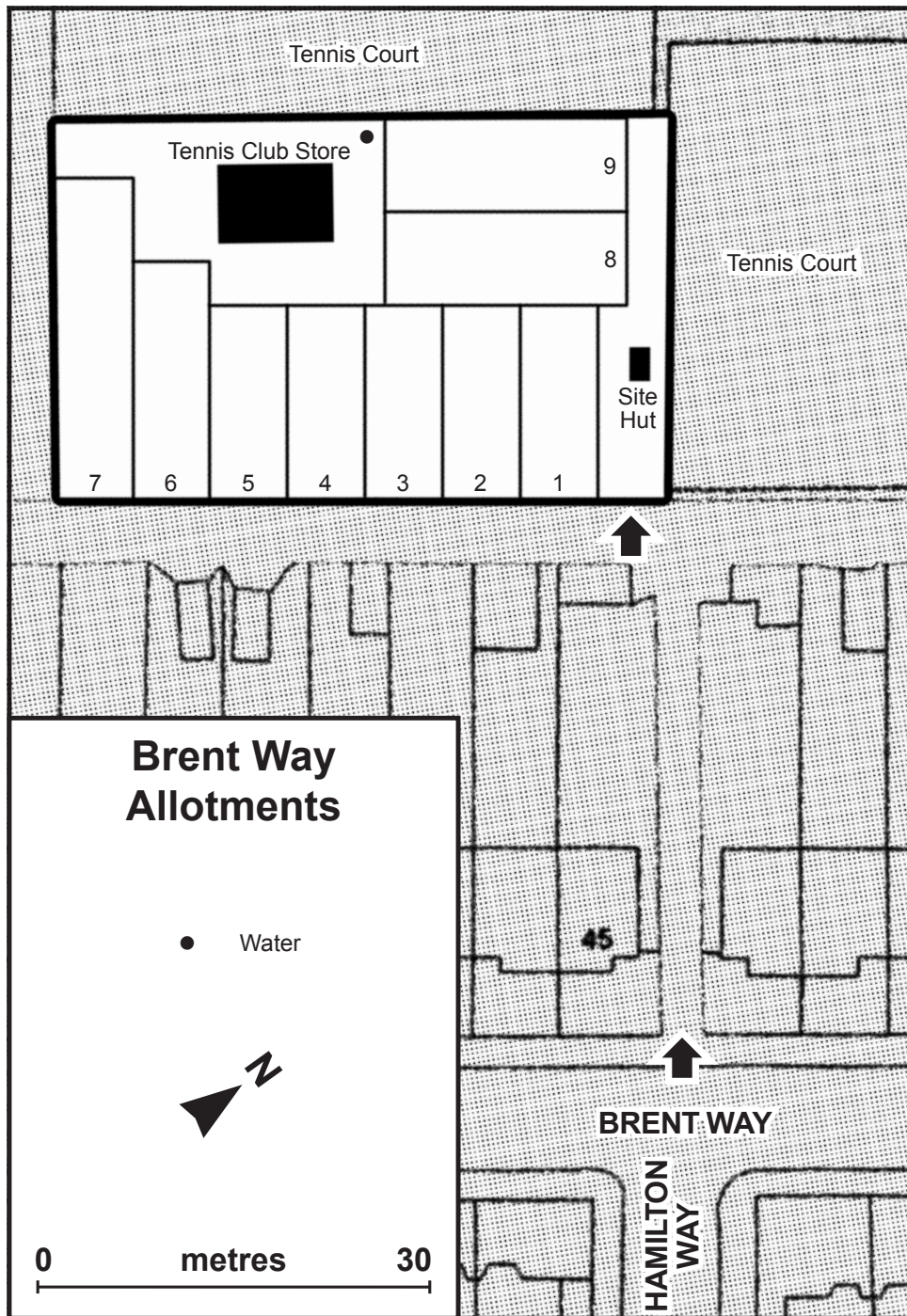
25. Tenants must keep in repair and tidy, to the satisfaction of the Society, every path bordering their allotment, and keep any hedges and verges bordering and forming part of their allotments properly cut and trimmed, except such paths, roads and hedges which the Society has agreed to maintain in good order.
26. Where there is a border path between allotments, the tenants of each of those allotments are jointly responsible for maintaining properly, and at a width of **no less than 0.6 metres (2ft)** the path between their allotments except that, by mutual agreement the tenants involved may agree that one or other of them will be solely responsible for maintenance of the path. Weedkiller must not be used on communal paths, which must remain as growing grass and free from obstruction at all times.
27. Tenants may not use carpet as a ground or path covering.
28. The Society reserves the right, acting reasonably, at the end of any tenancy year and having given reasonable notice, to re-define the boundaries of any allotment and re-calculate the rent if it believes this to be necessary to promote the efficient and effective management of the site.
29. **Where an allotment borders on the boundary of the site the tenant is required to maintain a clear pathway 0.75m/2ft 6” wide at Gordon Road (0.6m/2ft at Nethercourt Avenue and at Brent Way) between their allotment and the boundary fence of the site, and shall keep the fence clean of vegetation.**

Livestock and Bees

30. No livestock, including rabbits and poultry but excepting bees, may be kept on allotments.
31. Bees may be kept provided they are within the allotment allocated for this purpose, but the Society must first be satisfied that the tenant and/or the beekeeper is suitably qualified to care properly for them and that the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a. The beekeeper should have undertaken a recognised course of at least one year's duration, covering both theoretical and practical hands on training, to a good level of competence;
 - b. The beekeeper must be a full member of a recognised beekeeping association with full insurance against third party damages;
 - c. Any bees brought onto the allotment should be of good temperament and kept that way;
 - d. The beekeeper will be a member of and work with the recognised bee group;
 - e. Donate 10% of honey produced to the Society in lieu of rent for the bee plot.

Water

32. Hosepipes may be used on the site, subject to water company regulations. **Hoses must be held in the hand at all times and must not be left unattended.** Sprinklers, irrigation systems and the like are forbidden, except where provided by the Society for its raised bed area for disabled gardeners. Containers or watering cans used for poisons, insecticides or fertilizers must not be cleaned or dipped into the water tanks.

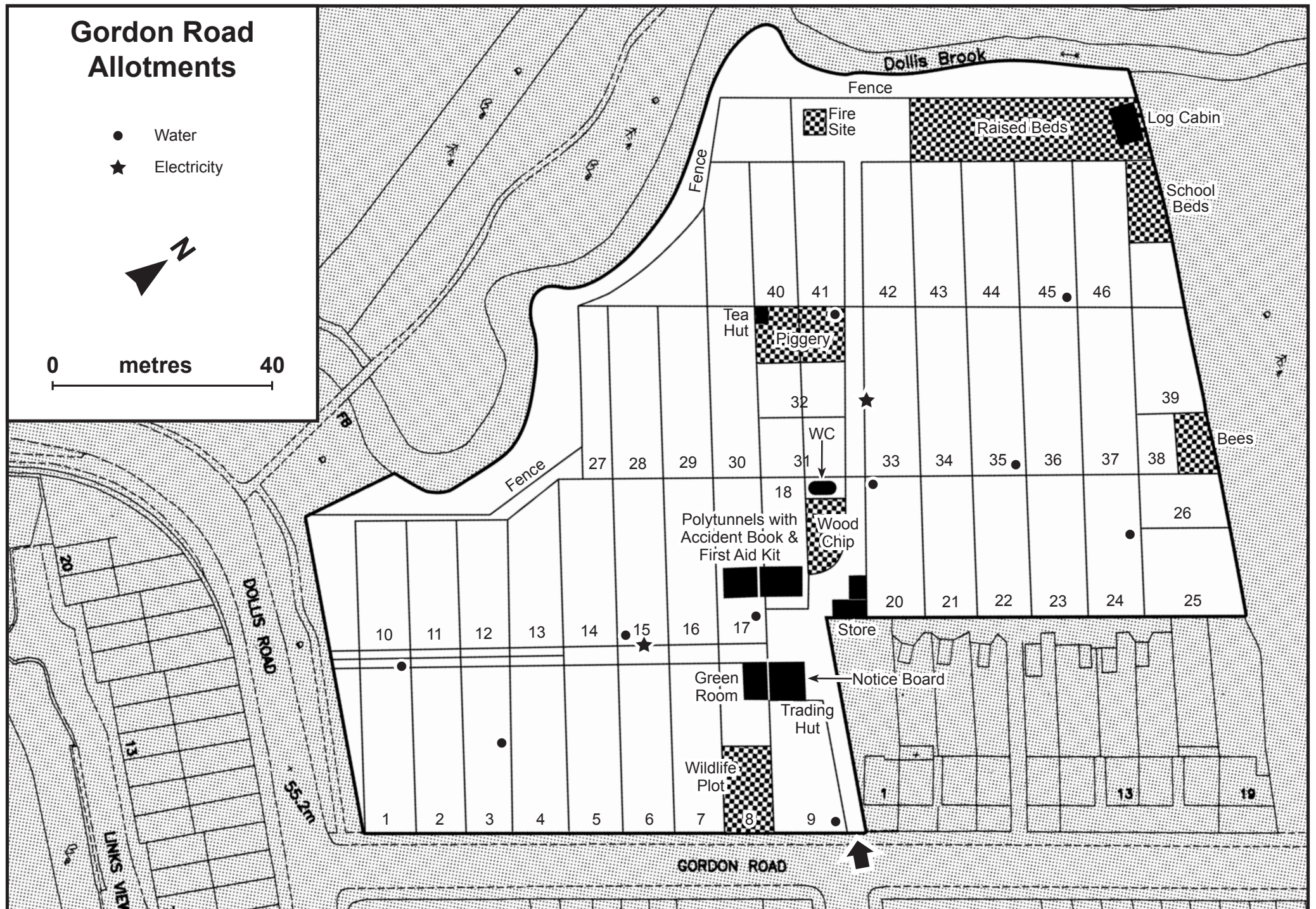


Gordon Road Allotments

- Water
- ★ Electricity



0 metres 40



Care of the Site

33. Tenants must not:

- a. Remove or carry away or permit to be removed or carried away from the site any clay, soil, mineral, gravel or sand.
- b. Dig or permit to be dug any pits, shafts, wells or ditches.
- c. Import, store or allow on the site any soil, fill or material from an external source, or any rubbish or other materials or items, which are not connected with the proper or lawful use of the site or which are likely to damage the horticultural quality of the site.
- d. Bring any domestic or commercial waste on to the site. The allotments must not be used as a place to dump rubbish. Grey wheelie bins are provided for general non green rubbish. Scrap metal and masonry should be placed near the communal greenhouses and will be removed regularly by the Society.
- e. Deposit any manure, refuse, or other material of any kind on the roads, track, paths, or anywhere on car-parking areas, in watercourses or on communal land except with the prior agreement of the Society and provided the material is cleared promptly. Piles of ordered manure must be removed from paths and driveways within 21 days of delivery.
- f. Park or cause to be parked any motor vehicle or wheeled vehicle on any allotment or on any part of the site except in designated parking areas and only when in attendance on the site.
- g. Interfere in any way with any material, plant, equipment, building or installation owned by the Society or the Council, unless authorised to do so by the Society.
- h. Remove any of the Society's plot numbering stakes from their existing positions.

Keys and Visitors

34. Tenants must:

- a. Pay a deposit for their key to the site (currently £15) returnable upon termination of their tenancy.
- b. If renting a Raised Bed, tenants must pay a deposit for their key to a Raised Bed Storage Box (currently £6) returnable upon termination of their tenancy.
- c. **Lock the gates (applicable to Gordon Road and Brent Way) after entering or leaving the site, even if they are found to be open or unlocked.**
- d. Make arrangements to meet personally at the entrance of the site any persons visiting them or vehicles making deliveries to them on the site and to ensure that the entrance is locked securely before and after.

- e. The Society shall have the right to refuse admittance, or to eject from the site, any person other than a tenant, Society member, or a member of his/her family or household to the allotment unless accompanied by the tenant or a member of his/her family.
- f. Return at the end of the tenancy all gate and other keys provided by the Society. All such keys remain the property of the Society. Where replacement keys have been supplied to the tenant, these must be returned at the end of the tenancy or on demand.
- g. Report to the Committee any matters of mains water leakage, any damage to fences, property or produce, through trespass or vandalism or from any other cause.
- h. Dogs must be kept on a leash whilst on the site. They must not be allowed to foul or cause damage to any allotment, or cause annoyance (eg incessant barking).

Termination of Tenancy

35. The tenant must yield up the allotment at the expiration or termination of the tenancy in such condition as shall be in compliance with the terms and conditions contained in this document.
36. The Society or the tenant may at any time terminate a tenancy by giving 12 months' notice in writing to the other expiring on or before the sixth day of April or on or after the 29th day of September in any year except that the Society may at its discretion accept from the tenant a lesser period of notice expiring at any time.
37. In the event of the death of the tenant, the tenancy shall terminate three months after the date of the death except that the tenancy may be terminated sooner by agreement with the Society.
38. The Society shall have the right immediately to re-enter and take possession of an allotment and to terminate the tenancy of any tenant after giving one month's previous notice in writing to the tenant:
 - a. whose rent is in arrears for 40 days or more, whether legally demanded or not, or
 - b. who is in breach of any other agreements, covenants or obligations (including the covenants in clauses 12 to 14 above concerning the care and maintenance of the allotment) imposed on the tenant by this document or the tenancy agreement in respect of the allotment.
39. The Society may terminate the tenancy of any allotment at one month's notice if it shall at any time be required by the Council to give up possession or occupation of the land, or any part thereof, of which such allotment forms a part.

40. This tenancy shall terminate forthwith whenever any tenancy or right of occupation of the Council shall terminate.
41. If the site or any part thereof that includes the allotment shall be required by the Council for a purpose for which it was acquired or to which it has been appropriated by the Council, the tenancy may be determined by the Society by three calendar months' notice in writing.

Compensation

42. Before taking possession of the land, every member shall pay to the Society or to the outgoing tenant, as the case may be, any charge due in respect of compensation, adaption or other matters.
43. The Society shall be entitled to recover from the tenant on his/her vacating the allotment on the termination of the tenancy, statutory compensation in respect of any deterioration of the allotment caused by failure of the tenant to maintain it as required in this agreement.
44. The allotment is not to be considered let or treated as a market garden or agricultural holding within the meaning of relevant legislation.

Breaches and Disputes

45. In the case of any member charged with a breach of these rules, the matter should be referred in writing to the General Committee, or such person or persons designated by them as they see fit, who shall at the earliest convenience deal with the matter. The Committee shall have the power to take such steps as they consider necessary.
46. The Society reserves the right to exclude from the site without notice, pending consideration of the matter by the Committee, any tenant or other person who is accused of gross misconduct such as (a) causing serious damage to any allotment or to the crops thereon or to any communal areas or (b) while on the site, damaging or stealing the property of any other person or of the Society or (c) assaulting or threatening any person on the site. Any failure to comply with an exclusion instruction may be regarded as gross misconduct.
47. Cases of dispute between two or more tenants shall be referred to the Allotments Committee for Gordon Road, and the General Committee for Nethercourt Avenue and Brent Way or such person or persons designated by them as they see fit. The Committee shall have the power to take such steps as they consider necessary.

Complaints must first be submitted in writing to the Allotments Secretary. Verbal complaints will not be acted upon. Complaints will be referred to the next Committee meeting. The Committee can:

- a. Give a written reply of their decision to the plotholder;
- b. Consider the matter to be outside the scope of the Committee and refer the complaint to the Society's General Committee (if not already being handled there) whose decision will be final.
- c. In the event of a serious complaint being upheld, the Society, at its discretion, may terminate the plotholder's agreement.

48. Any party to a breach or dispute may appeal against any decision made by the Committee. The appeal shall be made to a person or persons appointed by the Committee or such person as they shall designate to make this appointment. The person who will consider the appeal shall be independent of the management of the Society and of the management of the site. Such person or persons shall give the said parties a fair hearing before arriving at any decision on the appeal.

Warning Procedures

49. Finchley Horticultural Society is committed to ensuring their sites remain safe, vibrant and fully utilised borough facilities. To this end it keeps a close eye on plotholders' progress. Tenants are required to actively cultivate to a good standard (see clause 12). Tenants who fail to cultivate their plot may be sent:
 - a. Non-cultivation warning letter: This is likely (but not exclusively) to impose a 30-day deadline for the required level of cultivation to be achieved. Failure to achieve this, in the opinion of the Committee, may result in the plotholder's tenancy being terminated.
 - b. General warning letter: Tenants who break any other terms of their Tenancy Agreement may receive a verbal warning with, if appropriate, a deadline to rectify an issue. This may be followed by a formal written warning and, if appropriate, a deadline to rectify an issue. Failure to comply may result in termination of the tenancy.
50. Plotholders with mitigating circumstances, such as a medical condition, must inform the Secretary or another officer as soon as the problem significantly curtails their ability to cultivate their plot.
51. The Committee may offer the plotholder a smaller or more manageable plot. If a plotholder declines to move and goes on to receive a second Non-Cultivation Warning Letter within 12 months of the first letter, the tenancy may be terminated.

Letters and Notices

52. Any letter or notice required to be served under these terms and conditions may be served by hand, by pre-paid post or by suitable electronic means:
- On the tenant either personally or by leaving it at his/her last known place of abode or by prepaid letter addressed to him/her, or failing that, by fixing the same in some conspicuous manner on the allotment.
 - On the Society by addressing it to the Secretary for the time being of the Society at the Society's published address for correspondence.
 - Notices directed to all tenants may be served by post, e-mail, by posting them prominently on the Society's outdoor site notice boards or similar display space, or by including them in any newsletter or journal distributed by the Society to all its members.

Data Protection

53. Tenants' contact details, allotment history and other information relevant to their tenancy and membership of the Society may be stored on computer or otherwise. This information will be used only for the management and administration of the Society and its sites and will not be disclosed to third parties unless the Society is required to do so by law or in compliance with legal obligations. The tenant may inspect the information held by the Society about him/her on request.

Site Information

The following does not form part of the formal Agreement between the Tenant and the Finchley Horticultural Society. It is for plotholders' guidance and information.

Plot Measurement

All allotments are measured in poles. This relates to ancient measurement methods as below:

22 yards	=	1 chain
5.5 yards	=	1 rod, pole or perch
30.25 sq yards	=	1 square rod, pole or perch
4 poles	=	1 chain
40 poles	=	1 furlong

One pole is almost exactly 5 metres. A square pole is close to 25 square metres.

Disabled Beds

An area at the bottom of the Gordon Road site has a series of 12 raised beds specially constructed for people who cannot garden at ground level. They are complete with compost, tool storage and water taps and an irrigation system. Paving around these beds allows wheelchair users to have easy access. Anyone who is physically disabled and would like a bed here should apply to the Allotments Secretary. A parking area is provided in front of the first bed for the exclusive use of raised bed tenants. Two compost bins at the end of the raised bed area are for use by raised bed tenants. The log cabin is provided as a rest area and shelter for raised bed (including school) tenants but may also be used by all tenants at Gordon Road. The door lock code is C1940YZ. Please leave the cabin in a clean and tidy state after use. Note that there is no water or electricity supply here. There is a small library of gardening books donated by the estate of and in memory of Sylvia Elkington. Do not take any of these books out of the cabin.

School Beds

There are four raised beds reserved for use by Moss Hall Infant School and The Southover Partnership School. Pupils visit the site occasionally (always accompanied by teachers and parents) to learn about gardening and growing food.

Children

Children are welcome on all allotment sites but must be supervised by their parents or a responsible adult at all times. Children must not trespass on other people's plots. Ball games are not permitted.

Theft and Site Security

Do not keep valuable items on site. Tenants who keep items on site (either inside or outside a shed) do so at their own risk. The Society does not accept responsibility for the theft, loss or damage to tools, crops, structures, sheds, greenhouses, vehicles or any other possessions. Finchley Horticultural Society advises tenants to have their tools marked with their postcode. Don't leave tools lying around when you are not on your plot. They may cause an accident or be stolen. Keep canes and hoses tidied away when not in use. Report all break-ins, thefts, vandalism, breaks in the boundary fence and any other incident to the Security Officer or Site Representative in the case of Nethercourt Avenue and Brent Way.

It is essential to ensure that gates to the sites are locked on entering and leaving the site. This includes the side entrance gate off Gordon Road. If you use the mowers at Gordon Road make sure the garage door is locked when you have put the mower away. Approach strangers on the site with caution and get help if in doubt. All unauthorised persons on site should be asked to leave and if they refuse contact the Police. **For 24hr contact and emergency response telephone 999 or 101 to contact the Police if action is required. Crime incidents can be reported on line at: www.online.met.police.uk. For less urgent matters contact the West Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team at Whetstone Police Station on 07920 233739 (restricted hours).**

First Aid and Accidents

First aid kits are kept in Gordon Road in the large poly tunnel and in the Green Room, and at Nethercourt and Brent Way in the site huts. All accidents should be recorded in the Accident Books, kept with the First Aid Kits.

Chemicals

Use chemicals sparingly to protect the environment and wildlife. Take care to confine any spraying to the intended area within the confines of your plot. Avoid spraying on a windy day.

Site Facilities

Greenhouses and Polytunnels

There are a range of Society owned polytunnels and greenhouses at Gordon Road. Please be aware that these are for Society use only. **Please do not put any of your own plants in them.** At certain times of year they may be heated so if you have reason to go into these structures (a first aid kit is located in one - clearly marked), always ensure that the door is shut properly and securely behind you.

Tools and Equipment

The following are available at the Gordon Road site for communal use:

- Wheelbarrows
- Lawnmowers
- Grey wheelie bins for non-green waste and rubbish.

The following are available at Nethercourt Avenue:

- Wheelbarrows
- Lawnmower
- Green wheelie bin for green waste only

The following are available at Brent Way:

- Lawnmower

Trading Hut

The Gordon Road Trading Hut is open for sales from 10.30 am - 12.30 pm every Sunday from mid March to July, and September to mid October. A wide range of horticultural supplies, fertilisers, site-mixed seed and potting composts are available at competitive prices to Society Members only.

Refreshments

The Piggery (the raised area with overhead awning, chairs and tables in the centre of the Gordon Road site) is a communal seating area with nearby hut containing tea-making facilities (spring/summer only). Please leave as you find it. You will need to bring your own milk. A barbecue area is also available next to the Piggery - apply to the Allotments Secretary for personal use.

A communal meeting room 'The Green Room' for ploholders is adjacent to the Trading Hut. This also has a water supply all year round and tea making facilities (a contribution is requested if you use the tea/coffee/biscuits). Please leave it as you find it including washing up any used crockery. Ploholders can open the Green Room by using the security access code C1940YZ and turning the handle anti-clockwise.

Special Deliveries

Straw may be purchased in bales once a year for delivery in the spring (current price per bale is approx £2.50). Watch out for a notice at the Gordon Road Trading Hut for plotholders to place their orders.

Manure can be purchased by the load (approx price £35 per load) or half load. This is usually delivered to Gordon Road in November. It must be moved off paths and on to plots within 21 days.

Wood chip is provided free of charge at Gordon Road and is available on a regular basis from a heap placed just off the main path. Take care to keep this pile from spreading on to the paths.

Compost is provided free of charge. It is kindly supplied by London Waste Limited under the auspices of the North London Waste Authority. It is made at the EcoPark in Edmonton from kitchen and garden waste and contains no artificial additives. It has high plant nutrient levels. It has been composted at high temperature and contains no viable plant material. It does contain small fragments of rubbish and twigs which you will need to pick out.

Wildlife

There is a communal wildlife plot at Gordon Road (Number 8A). This has a small pond, wildflowers, open compost heap, and slow worm refuges. Take care not to disturb the wildlife here. Do not plant or introduce anything without consulting the plotholder who manages this plot for the Society (Ann Brown, see contacts). Do not pick apples from the trees: these will be made available to plotholders in trays in front of the shop when in season.

Slow worms are frequently found on the Gordon Road site. These snake-like reptiles (actually legless lizards) are not venomous and are totally harmless. They are beneficial to gardeners as they eat slugs. Please do not harm them. They are a protected species - it is an offence to handle them.

Wildlife is being put in danger by gardeners' continuing use of peat-based products, slug pellets and pesticides. If you have to use these, please try to use as little as possible.

Toilet

At Gordon Road site there is a permanent, environmentally friendly, composting toilet just off the central pathway. Please keep this clean and tidy. **Never pour water into the bowl as this harms the system.** Small children must be supervised.

Electricity

There are two electric supply points situated on the main paths at Gordon Road. These can be used for tools but not heaters. Seventy metres of electric cable is available for use at the Gordon Road site - apply to the Allotments Secretary for personal use. You must not use electrical tools on the site without a Residual Circuit Breaker. Take care to follow safety precautions and manufacturer's instructions. Be particularly careful of trailing cable.

Water

Water points are provided for plotholders' use on all sites. **Any leakage from pipes and taps must be reported as soon as possible.** Do not throw or allow children to throw debris into the tanks. Always check that all taps are turned off and hoses disconnected before leaving the site. The water supply is turned off in winter and turned on in spring in April. Hosepipe bans and other water use restrictions will be posted on the Notice Boards from time to time.

Bees

Bee hives are located at the Gordon Road site on Plot 38A. These are looked after by a group of plotholders who are trained beekeepers (lead by Louis Zweig, see contacts) and who have an agreement with the Society about the management of this area. A 2m (6ft) high fence ensures that the bees fly high to avoid flight paths crossing allotment plots. Society first aid kits include WaspEze to alleviate any stings, but if you are allergic to bees you should take your own precautions and we advise carrying an EpiPen at all times.

Events

A Plant Sale is held in May to raise funds and offer a wide selection of plants to members and gardeners of Finchley. An Autumn Fete is held in September when produce from the allotments is on display and for sale. Socials (barbecue, cheese/wine party) are held during the summer and in early November a Bonfire event is held.

The sites are entered every July into the Barnet Federation Allotment Site and Plot Competition. All plotholders should make a special effort to ensure that their plot and paths are tidy and in the best possible condition at this time.

Helping

These allotment sites are managed entirely by volunteers who undertake most of the essential maintenance and communal jobs to maintain a safe and pleasant environment. They keep the basic facilities going, ensure the Society is run in a safe and responsible manner, and also organise social and fundraising events. At Gordon Road compost mixing and running the Trading Hut is organised on a rota basis. **All plot holders are expected to regularly assist in the work of running the site and/or the society.**

If you see something wrong or a suspicious person on site, contact the Security Officer, Tony Ingram (see back page).

Contact Information

FINCHLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Claudine Fear	0208 346 0353	crubie@waitrose.com
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GORDON ROAD

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BARNET FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENT & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Secretary

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* Contact by e-mail if you would like an electronic copy of this Handbook