

The Mayoral visit to Northway Gardens

On June 30th, the Worshipful the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Caroline Stock, made her second visit to The Rose Garden and Fletchers Garden which form part of Northway Gardens. These areas had been saved from turving over in 2011 when the Northway Gardens Organisation, set up by Brian Ingram, had applied to maintain it under Barnet's Adopt a Space scheme. The NGO volunteers, led by Brian Ingram and assisted by Joan Edwards, have nurtured these neglected spaces and created a visual treat for all HGS residents and visitors. Ingram said "We didn't want it to be municipal we

wanted to create a naturalistic feel... I am very pleased with what we've achieved." The Mayor, resplendent in a fuchsia pink jacket – matching some of the wonderfully vibrant roses, said

the Rose Garden and Fletchers Garden were "a fantastic initiative." Around 40 residents and visitors turned up to welcome the Mayor – social distancing was observed.

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY



(Far right) NGO leader, Brian Ingram and, left of him, Linda Edwards, an NGO volunteer, who arranged the Mayoral visit.



Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Caroline Stock does some deadheading.



Ivy Ingram, age 6 with Honey the dog.



Kitty Samuels, age 8 and Tilly Samuels, age 10.

Northway Gardens Organisation

We are all local, hard-working volunteers keen to improve the environment and to help young families and children, as well as providing a pleasant safe area for the less active; especially important during these Virus times. Here's an update on some of our work.

THE ROSE GARDENS AND FLETCHERS GARDENS

As can be seen from the before and after photos, these gardens were in a very neglected state. The NGO volunteers have fought against having these areas turfed over and since October 2014 have worked hard to produce an aesthetic landscape – which also includes Fletchers' Garden on the other side of Northway. The two Gardens offer year round colour. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Caroline Stock, was very impressed with what we have achieved on her recent visit. See article above.

OAKWOOD PLAYGROUND

The NGO would like to widen Oakwood playground by 3 metres so parents can sit in the shade. It would be a minimal cost (just moving the fencing) and we need a leader to work with Councillors and Barnet. If you are interested please contact Brian Ingram on 8458 5313.

DONATIONS NEEDED

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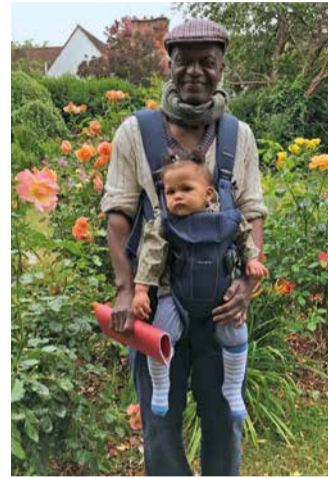
Solicitors, Amber Rose Florists, LCS Security, Ellis and Co, The RA and HGS Trust.

We are always in need of further funds for our work. You

can support us by going to JustGiving hgs rose gardens. Or you can send a cheque to Northway Gardens Organisation c/o 69 Brookland Rise, NW11 6DT.



Northway Rose Gardens – before (above) and after (below).



Moses Gbekou, a regular NGO volunteer and his baby daughter Annabel.

Trees & Open Spaces committee

This quarter has been a busy time for the Trees and Open Spaces Committee. Volunteers, particularly Peter Falk, Maria Schlatter and Brian Ingram, used their permitted daily exercise hour during the early days of the lockdown to tramp the streets of the Suburb and check up on the condition of trees that had been planted by LB Barnet and checking out trees under threat. The Committee mounted a successful campaign to save a lovely plane tree in Turner Close which was threatened with felling because it was allegedly causing subsidence at a nearby house. Fortunately, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust also objected to its removal and LB Barnet have now put a tree protection order on all the plane trees in Turner Close.

During 2019/20 LB Barnet planted 46 new trees on the Suburb. The Residents Association pays for additional trees to be planted, and so far this year has paid for 7 extra trees, with a further 8 to be planted in the next planting season. A number of the trees planted recently got very stressed during the long period of dry weather and sadly a few have died. We have been pressing LB Barnet to do more to make sure their contractors maintain young trees after planting. But we can all do our bit to help. Although street trees are generally chosen for their resilience to urban stress, all need regular watering from April to September during their first few years in order to survive.

During dry weather we are asking for extra help from residents to ensure young trees receive at least two watering cans worth of water a week (and ideally more). You can use tap water, or even grey waste water (but no chemicals such as bleach). If you spot a tree that is in trouble, please email trees@hgsra.uk.

We are hoping to persuade LB Barnet to increase the number of trees planted so as to fill some of the vacant spots that have arisen over the years (which now number over 350). The RA is considering running a special fundraiser for this purpose – would you support this? Please email your views to trees@hgsra.uk.

This has been an incredibly challenging time for the Heath and its custodians, the City of London Corporation. Litter bins had to be removed because the City did not have the staff to clear them when lockdown commenced. Unfortunately, some

people's thoughtlessness in leaving behind piles of rubbish and dog waste is beyond belief. RA Chair Emma Howard and Lynda Cook have been working with the City to try to address the problem. Another issue has been the lighting of barbecues and fires, which is prohibited and incredibly dangerous in dry weather.

Cycling is another problem: it is not allowed anywhere on the Heath Extension or on Sandy Heath, but the warning signs put up by the Heath staff are frequently ignored and even removed. Some of our beautiful old trees have even been graffitied. Heath Constabulary and staff are doing their best to mitigate the situation. We hope Suburb residents will do all they can to prevent this wonderful open space, of which we are all custodians, from being harmed by the increased use as lockdown restrictions are eased.

COLIN GREGORY



Saved plane trees in Turner Close.

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