



Early evening drinks for the Allotment Committee (Photo: Philip Harlow)



Best plot winners, Susie and Mike Gibber (Photo: Augusta Wolff)

Suburb gardeners come up smelling of roses!

MARJORIE HARRIS

Each year the London Gardens Society hosts the All London Championship competitions for gardeners throughout Greater London. Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society is affiliated to the LGS. This year several Hort Soc members and Northway Rose Garden and The Orchard sheltered housing in Willifield Way had their gardens judged by Jim Buttress and his All London Championship team. Six of them and both Suburb organisations won some of the most prestigious top three cups or medals in one or more classes, or received a certificate of excellence, at an awards ceremony at the Guildhall on October 6.

What is more, when the total individual marks accumulated in the All London Championships were added up and combined, it emerged that HGS Horticultural Society had come out on top by a mile and had won the coveted Wakefield Trophy for affiliated horticultural societies for the very first time. A delighted Caroline Broome, Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Chair and Suburb News gardening correspondent, stepped up to receive it from Gardeners' World presenter Adam Frost. (Photo: David Broome)

- Gerlinde Kathuria won two firsts with the London Gardens Society Cup and gilt medal for both Large Front Garden and Large Back Garden and second place with a silver medal and certificate for Window Boxes, Containers & Hanging Baskets
- Marjorie Harris took third place and won a bronze medal and certificate for Large Back Garden and a silver gilt certificate for Window Boxes, Containers & Hanging Baskets.
- David Weinberg took third place with a bronze medal and certificate for Small Back Garden and a gold certificate for Window Boxes, Containers & Hanging Baskets.
- Betty Pollack won the Wyndham Deedes Cup and Gilt Medal and Certificate for Patio, Roof or Balcony displays.
- Rosie Daniels was awarded silver certificates for Patios, Roof or Balcony Displays and Large Back Garden.
- Yvonne Oliver received a silver certificate for Small Front Garden and a gold certificate for Small Back Garden.
- Northway Rose Garden won a silver certificate for a Garden Display in a Public Place.
- The Orchard was Highly Commended.

It's been a good year for the Horticultural Society, back on track at last after Covid. In July members opened their gardens on one of the hottest days of the Summer and raised nearly £3,500 for the North London Hospice and Combat Stress. The Summer and Autumn flower shows also made a welcome return, with the brass band in September reducing many of their audience to tears as they played 'God Save the King' very early on in the new reign in the garden of the Free Church Hall.



Adam Frost and Caroline Broome lift the LGS trophy (Photo: David Broome)

Allotments

AUGUSTA WOLFF

One of the many disruptions created by the pandemic was the suspension of the much-loved Harvest Festival supper which had been held in September in Fellowship House. In 2021 the requirements of social

distancing meant that the allotment committee took the decision to celebrate the end of another season with an outdoor event consisting of early evening drinks and refreshments hosted by one of the allotment sites. This year the second such event took place, this time hosted by Big Site. The fear of Covid has now largely receded, but death of the Queen and a period of national mourning weighed heavily. A Suburb event that brought people together in a relaxed and friendly setting was particularly valued at this time.

A good number of ploholders arrived on a beautiful early autumn afternoon to enjoy a glass of wine

while looking round the plots. This way of celebrating the hard work of the allotmenters and the productivity of our plots was confirmed by the many appreciative comments and emails which followed. The prizes were allocated:

- Best plot: Mike and Susie Gibber
- Best newcomer: Liz Hall
- Innovation: Emily Asquith and Mark Jenner.

Certificates of commendation were also awarded to a number of plot holders in recognition of the high levels of good cultivation.

If you are interested in applying for a plot, then all you need to do is email allotments@hgs.org.uk, or contact the Trust.



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