

Horticultural Society - bringing residents together

The Horticultural Society prides itself on providing events that can bring together all Suburb residents, perhaps over family tea or listening to the brass band at the flower shows in June and September or visiting lovely gardens, among other things. The summer season kicks off on 11 May with a Plant Sale at Fellowship House from 10.30-12 noon with free entry for everyone and there will be a members' only coach trip to Wisley on 2 June.

There have been flower shows since the society's foundation in 1909 and this year's Summer Flower Show on 8 June in the Free Church Hall will be its 275th - do come and celebrate this milestone with us. As well as the usual beautiful displays of fruit, vegetables, flowers, cookery and home-made teas, we hope that

Jonathan Ross will again be able to judge the children's fancy dress competition. This time children should dress up as a biscuit, cake, chocolate or sweet and adults can also enter fancy hats on the same theme.

On Sunday 23 June there will be lots of events going on from morning to evening on the Suburb, among them the Horticultural Society's Open Gardens extravaganza and Specialist Nursery Plant Sale. Around 12 attractive Suburb gardens will be open to the public from 1-6pm and two specialist nurseries will be selling wonderful plants at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, from 12 noon, where home-made teas and entry tickets and route maps for the gardens will be on sale.

Profits from the open gardens ticket sales and teas will

be split between the North London Hospice and the Horticultural Society (to subsidise future events).

There are still a few vacancies left (double rooms only) for the society's 3-day coach trip to six gardens in Hampshire and Dorset from Sunday 7 July to Tuesday 9 July, with hotel

accommodation for two nights. Full details of how to book for this and all Horticultural Society events and activities are in Suburb News What's On, online at www.hortsoc.co.uk or call 8455 0455. Membership costs £5 single, £7.50 double (children under 18 free). To join call 8444 2329 or check the website.

YELLOW BOOK GARDENS OPEN

The following gardens will be open in or near the Suburb for the National Gardens Scheme (Yellow Book) charities this summer (www.ngs.org.uk):

Sunday 19 May: 2-6pm, 94 Oakwood Road, NW11 6RN (teas)

Sunday 16 June: (National Gardens Weekend), 2-6pm, 48 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HG (self-service refreshments) and 79 Church Lane, N2 0TH (teas)

Sunday 14 July: 2-6pm and Wednesday 17 July, 5-9pm, 5 Hillcrest Avenue, NW11 0EP (teas)

Sunday 21 July: 2-6pm, 4 Asmunds Hill, NW11 6ET, 5 Heathgate, NW11 7AR (refreshments) and 86 Willifield Way, NW11 6YJ (teas).

Yoga classes for the over 50s at Fellowship House

A new class is starting at Fellowship House in May on Friday mornings ran by Hilda Silver who has lived in the Suburb for over 25 years and has taught yoga for more than 30 years. As well as holding workplace yoga sessions, Hilda has made a specialism of teaching yoga to older people. Many over 50s want to keep

active but are looking for something more enjoyable than heavy gym workouts.

Yoga helps to alleviate the stiffness which occurs as one grows older. In addition many of the exercises can be done sitting at a desk - helping to release tension from the constant use of computers. This ancient science is truly

beneficial to everyone in today's stressed society and Fellowship are promoting this aspect of well being for people in the local community who may have, up to now, felt uncomfortable at joining classes with younger people. Details are available on the front desk at Fellowship House in Willifield Way or email hildamsilver@btinternet.com.



Yellow Book Garden

Suburb rainfall

At the time of writing, everyone is talking about the weather, but it is not precipitation that is on everybody's lips. It was two days ago (in early April); it was in March and in February and in January. It was being talked about because it fell as snow and it fell as snow because it was so cold. It is the continued and penetrating cold that has been the hallmark of our lives recently. The average March daily maximum in Meadway was nearly 5 degrees Celsius colder than average, the coldest since 1963. Today, the sun has shone and we are hoping there won't be too many setbacks before spring is really here.

However, this column is supposed to be about rainfall.



The total of 7 inches for the first three months of the year is absolutely average. But the total for the last three months of last year, at 12 inches was 3 inches above normal and followed the extremely wet summer of last year. So the ground is still pretty well saturated and there are no hosepipe bans in sight at the moment. If any gardener managed to dig over some

saturated soil it has been nicely broken up by the penetrating frosts, but probably most people will have found the weather too horrible to get the digging done as they would have wished. However, there are primroses in the garden; there are cowslips on the Heath extension; there are daffodils and other bulbs all over the Suburb. Spring has sprung.

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