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**A.G.M. Date**      The next AGM is at 8pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April at 122 Leicester Road (the one called Athend at the junction with King Edward Road). It is hosted by Helen Oubridge. [HelenOubridge@btinternet.com](mailto:HelenOubridge@btinternet.com)  
 We are always on the lookout for new committee members so don't be afraid to come along.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 12 noon.

To mark the Diamond Jubilee and as an excuse to meet your neighbours we're going to have a bit of a do in the park on Sunday the 3rd of June...a gathering in the gardens. It will start at 12 noon.



**Big Jubilee Lunch**

If you are around please come along. Bring a picnic and some to share!

Everyone (residents, friends, family) is welcome. There's a national scheme called the Big Lunch which aims to get people to develop a sense of community so we're tying it in with this. There's more information on the website [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com). If you play a musical instrument bring it along as we are hoping to do a rendition of God Save the Queen (in C) at 3pm. For those of you who don't play musical instruments kazoos will be given out so you can join in. If you're shy don't worry - it won't be compulsory. We are also thinking of having a tug of war and maybe a raffle.

Bring bunting and flags if you feel like it!

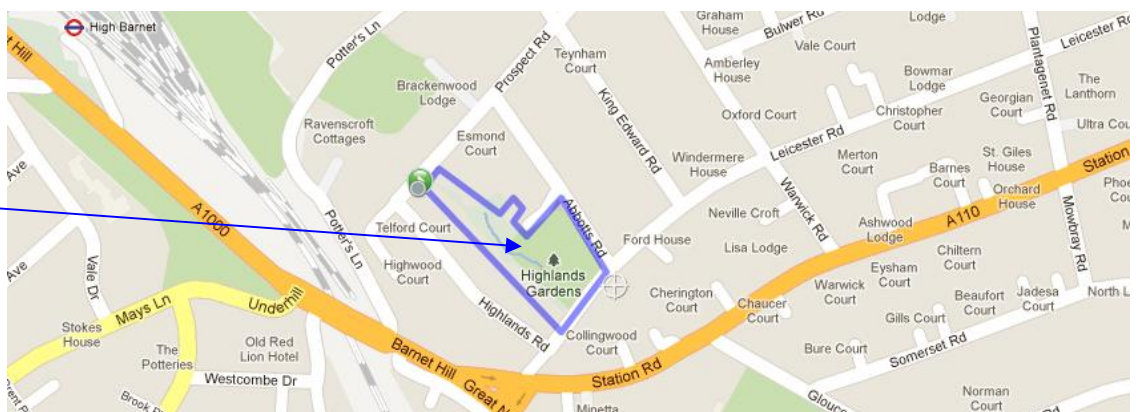
Is there anything else you think would be fun?

If you would like to help out with ideas or activities please email [biglunch@highlandsgardens.org.uk](mailto:biglunch@highlandsgardens.org.uk) (If it rains it will be called off - so keep your fingers crossed).

**It Could Be Us....**

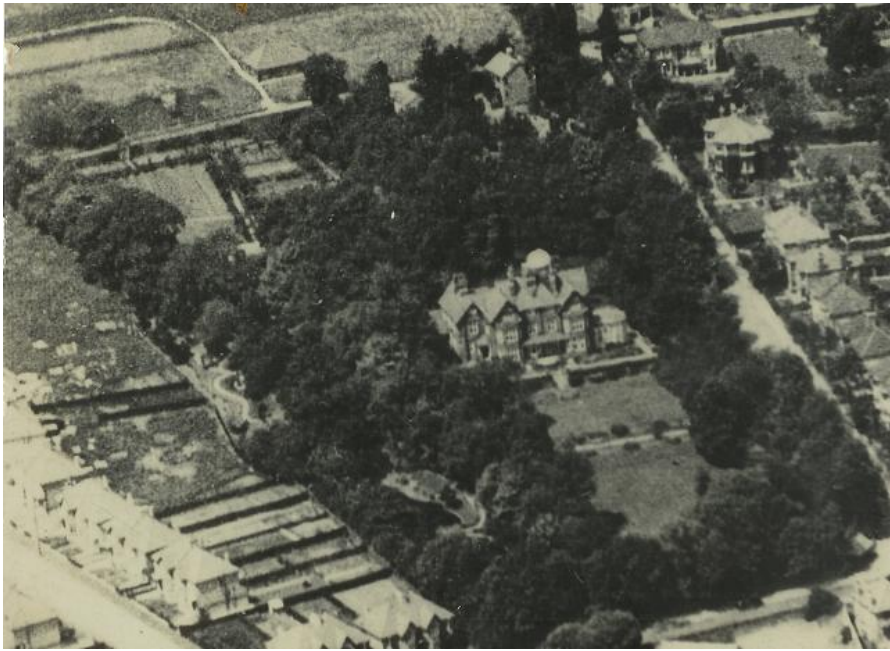
Highlands Gardens is through the first round in the quest for Lottery Funding. The pond was built in Victorian times using concrete. We need it to drain the pond and to repair the lining. If we secure the money it will mean the pond will fill to its proper level and hopefully we can kiss goodbye to the sludge and duckweed. It's an expensive job. We are hoping for 50 thousand pounds to get the work done. If you are asked your opinion please let people know how important it is to restore the pond and the water features. We need to get it all looking lovely again. Lottery money is our only hope to preserve the site for future generations!

Highlands Gardens is located at the junction of Abbots Road and Leicester Road with an entrance also on Prospect Road.



It was originally a private garden belonging to a banker who lived in a large house where the blocks of flats is now sited. The Gardens contain stepping stones, pathways, a watercourse and waterfall which plunges into a pool. The watercourse is currently operational and the spring flowers are out. If you've never been - do come and have a look. It's a gardening gem hidden in suburbia.

This was taken in the 1930's before the Gardens were donated to Barnet and



split from the main house.

The building was lovely; the copper dome on top was visible some of the year through the trees.

What we think happened was that the house was sold by a banker and after a few years the family who bought it split it into flats for their children and grand-children, none of whom were quite as well off as the parents, so the whole house started to decline.

In the 1970s there was a great push to get rid of the old and bring in the new, so the old house went.

A couple of houses for staff to the old house remain. These are behind the meadow.

## History Section

We're still keen to collect as many memories of the park as we can. Please do get in touch if you can remember how the Gardens were in former years. Have you lived here since the 1930's? Please get in touch. Do you have any pictures of family or friends in the gardens? - May we see them?

Take a look at our website - there are some more archive pictures on there.

[www.highlandsgardens.org.uk](http://www.highlandsgardens.org.uk) or contact [bexhanley@hotmail.com](mailto:bexhanley@hotmail.com).

## Notice Board

We have obtained a new Information Board for the lower entrance to Highlands Gardens. Here the Friends will post information about activities & news about grant applications. Keep your eyes peeled. Thanks to Ian Wilson for obtaining this and for setting it in it's new home.

## Thank YOU

A big THANK YOU to everyone who uses Highlands Gardens and picks up the litter left by less tidy people. It really makes a difference. Barnet Council regularly empty the bins and tidy up, including painting out the graffiti, but anything we can do to keep our space looking good and feeling welcoming can only benefit us.



## Four Legged Friends

A big thank you also to those owners who clear up after their dogs.

To the minority who don't - there is no excuse not to pick up after your pet. You could face a fine.

## SNT

**Safer Neighbourhood Team** - If you spot any anti-social behaviour or anything happening in and around the gardens or area that you are concerned about you can contact the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Their numbers are: Office 020 8721 2846, Mobile 07887 633343. They do not work 24 hours so you may get the answer phone. You should leave a message as each incident is recorded and can help determine the priority areas for foot patrols. In Emergency dial 999.

## Contact

Visit our website at [www.highlandsgardens.org.uk](http://www.highlandsgardens.org.uk) or email us [webmaster@highlandsgardens.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@highlandsgardens.org.uk)  
The Friends of Highlands Gardens are also on Facebook so take a look.

## Next Time

It is planned to circulate our Next Newsletter after the AGM and to include further details of the Big Jubilee Lunch. We look forward to your ideas.