



In this issue:

Spring Into Action
Golden Memories

AGM notification
Tree trail update

Pond update
Safer Neighbourhoods

Meadow
Support Us

Spring into Action

HIGHLANDS GARDENS is located at the junction of Abbots Road and Leicester Road. For the past few weeks we've been treated to a host of golden daffodils many of which were planted by Friends of the Gardens. If you haven't ever ventured inside then now is the time to do so. The waterfalls are working - and the grounds men have done a fantastic job of tidying up the gardens. It's a lovely place to sit and soak up any spring sunshine.

You are cordially invited to attend our Annual General Meeting on May 25th 2010 at 8.30pm at 3 Highlands Road. You are more than welcome to come along and listen in or to suggest ideas or offer help. **A.G.M.**

Pond Update

The pond and the various waterfalls is our big project. It makes such a difference to the park when the water is running. A floating switch has been installed to turn it off if the levels drop below a certain point to save the pump. Contractors will be removing the silt from the ponds this summer, when the water levels drop, at the council's expense. This will allow the concrete lining to be inspected so an assessment can be made of exactly how much work needs to be done. We are about to apply for a large grant to re-new the concrete bottom of the pond (which seems to be leaking).

At the top of the gardens there's a patch of land that looks rather unkempt. Bear with us - at the moment it looks as if someone's forgotten to mow the lawn. But it is intentional. It was planted by our Gardening Club in autumn 2008 as a wildflower meadow. We planted over 500 plants altogether, of about 20 species. The area is managed as a meadow, so it will only be cut in September & February each year. Will our eco-project succeed? Take a moment to take a look. **Meadow**

Golden Memories

Who can remember the goldfish?
A long time resident told me that until as recently as 20 years ago the ponds were full of fish. He remembers summer days spent watching the golden fish darting in the waters. At the moment you're more likely to see a thick layer of green algae. If we can manage to keep up the momentum and fix the leaking pond hopefully there could be a return to the large pond's glory days. You can have a look at some great old photos and find out more about the Garden's history on our website www.highlandsgardens.org.uk
If anyone has any memories of Highlands Gardens call Rebecca 07968 375204 or email bexhanley@hotmail.com and we'll try to include something in our next newsletter.

Tree Trail Update

We are in the process of applying for funding to set up a tree trail. We hope that this will enable you (and your children) to explore the park using this trail just as soon as possible.
If you have any feedback or any other ideas then please let us know.

Putting Your Foot In It

A big thank you to those responsible owners who clean up after their pets. To others - please remember that the gardens are not a dog toilet.

Check out newbarnet.org.uk for information on plans for the New Barnet area.

Safer

Neighbourhood

If you spot any anti-social behaviour or anything happening in and around the park that you are concerned about you can contact our 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. It is always best to leave a message as each incident is recorded and can help determine the priority areas for foot patrols. Of course in an emergency you should always dial 999.

Support Us

You can Support by the Friends by being a member. Membership costs £5 per household. Please drop your payment off with your name and address to 122 Leicester Road. Cheques can be made payable to 'The Friends of Highlands Gardens'. All the money we raise goes towards improving the gardens. If you know of any organization that we can apply to for grants then please let us know.