



Friends of Pinner Village Gardens

**NEWS
Spring
2023**

CORONATION PICNIC PARTY, MUSIC & FUN

The Friends of Pinner Village Gardens park are inviting the community to bring a picnic to the park on Sunday 7 May 2023 to join together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The Friends are also delighted that the Mayor of Harrow Councillor Janet Mote will attend.

A first for the Friends

The event will include children's rides and local traders' stalls, and an understanding nature demonstration at the pond. For the first time the Friends are organising a Dog Show. It is being judged by Dr Punit of Faunavets' of Northwood. First, second & third will be awarded rosettes and treats that are good for them. But all entries will receive a certificate. The Friends of PVG are grateful to the Pinner Association for their sponsorship of the event.

New NEWSLETTER for FoPVG Members

Welcome to the first edition of the all new newsletter for Life and Annual (individual and household) Friends of Pinner Village Gardens.

We aim to bring you news of the park and useful tips.

We hope to also provide the opportunity of exclusive visits or talks & training on looking after your plants and gardening.

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### **SPRING GARDENING TIPS page 2**

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Question

What is the difference between Rhododendrons and Azaleas?

Answer
See page 2



EXCLUSIVE VISIT FOR MEMBERS

Friends of Pinner Village Gardens members (both Annual and Life members) are invited to join an exclusive visit behind the scenes of the RHS Library in central London. Places are limited.

Courtesy of the Royal Horticultural Society Lindley Library, a small group of 15 members of the Friends of PVG will go behind the scenes to the historic and rare books section of RHS Library in central London on Tuesday 13 June 2023. The visit will start at 11am and last an hour.

There are only a total of 15 places on this exclusive trip. These are only for Life Members and those renewed or new Annual (Individual or Family) subscribers for 2023-24.

Places are strictly limited to 2 per subscription.

To apply to join the visit:

Firstly make a minimum donation £10 per place, via the Join / Donation page on the park's website

www.pinnervillagegardens.org.uk;

Secondly, email FoPVG via website email give your payment reference, full name(s) of attendees and a phone number so that we can confirm and send more details.

Places are strictly limited. First come first served. When all allocated a note will be on the website.

You do not have to be a member of the RHS. This is a fundraising event for FoPVG kindly hosted by the RHS Library.



NEW BOOKS

Ghosts in the Hedgerow

A hedgehog who dunnit
by Tom Moorhouse.

Written in the style of an Agatha Christie mystery murder this looks at who and what contributed to the decline of our hedgehogs. *No spoilers!*

GARDENING NOTES:

Spring is an uplifting time of year as we watch the natural world burst into life. Here we suggest handy gardening tips on planting, pruning, feeding, weeding, and protecting flowers and vegetables



The rose circle at Pinner Village Gardens. Rose gardens do not have to be bare sticks for six months of the year.

- Plant lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs in pots and borders
- Feed roses, clematis and ericaceous shrubs, such as *Rhododendrons*, camellias and *Pieris*, using appropriate fertiliser
- Keep on removing weeds
- Mulch borders generously with garden compost or well rotten manure
- In May when warmer, plant out annual seedlings either potting on or in garden
- Check tender new shoots for aphids and remove before infestations get out of hand
- If not growing your own from seed, look out in garden centres in late May for strawberries and plant them in hanging baskets to keep fruits away from slugs. Try trailing tomatoes too. Peppers are also easy to grow.
- To avoid Carrot fly: Ensure early crops are sown under cloches or fleece and maintain 60cm high barrier, companion plant with alliums, chives or rocket, but not parsnips
- If you still have pots of bulbs that flowered at Christmas plant them in the garden for blooms next Spring.

We would love to hear from you on topics or questions we might briefly cover in the newsletter.

Email us via the **Contact** page at www.pinnervillagegardens.org.uk or email friendsofpinnervillagegardens@gmail.com
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SPRING SHOOTS & FEEDING PLANTS

Spring is the time to begin fertilizing most plants

Garden soil may contain all the nutrients plants require, but over time the nutrients are used and need to be replaced.

The best fertilizer for spring depends on plant species.

Camelias and Rhododendrons need acidic soil. Adding Sulphate of Iron helps them take up the nutrients and not become yellow.

As soon as soil is workable – neither frozen nor saturated - prepare it by working in granular food for slow uptake and continuous feeding of plants like vegetables and ornamental plants. Natural fertilizers like fallen rotting leaves, compost, bonemeal, and wood ash can also provide plants' basic needs. A combination of organic and synthetic fertilizers is useful when large amounts of organic material are difficult to obtain. All-purpose fertilizers provide basic nutrients and minerals that most plants need. Perennial plants rarely need food. Sometimes applying too much will result in leggy weak growth.

For more information on when and what to use in Spring:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/soil-fertilizers/spring-fertilizing-tips.htm>

A VERY COLD JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2023

In the first two months of 2023 temperatures were abnormally low for many hours, doing lasting or fatal damage to some plants in the park.

Pinner had 8 nights where temperatures were between -5C and -8C, and 8 nights between -2C and -4C. Affected plants will be replaced when funds are available.



Above: 10 stamens Below: 5 stamens



Answer to page 1

Rhododendrons and azaleas are related. All azaleas are *Rhododendrons*, but not all *Rhododendrons* are azaleas. The botanical name for an azalea is *Rhododendron*.

Azaleas are usually deciduous, while other *Rhododendrons* are evergreen, grow larger and have bigger leaves.

Most azaleas have 5 stamens, while other *Rhododendrons* have 10, but there are exceptions.

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We aim to get it right. Please forgive us if we get it wrong.

www.pinnervillagegardens.org.uk

This Newsletter is sent to paid up subscribers first, that is Life Members and Individual & Family Annual members. Some weeks later it will be added to the website. By not being a member you may miss out on opportunities such as exclusive visits or gardening advice.