

# ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

## MONTHLY BULLETIN

April 2016

[www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk](http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk)



***Paul Ellis-Hoe – talk on 13<sup>th</sup> March at The Store. See page 3***



***Sally Baker: working for her gardening badge – see page 8***



***Time to plant your dahlias!  
Page 6***

## **CHAIR'S REPORT APRIL 2016**

The main business in April is of course RENT TAKING. You should have received your invoice by email or post on or about 28<sup>th</sup> March. We are trying to get everyone to pay by direct bank transfer but committee members will be in the Store in April every Sunday (from 10 to 12) and Wednesday evenings (from 6-7pm) to take cash or cheques.

Thanks to our hard working Plot Inspection team all our 245 plots were looked at in March and you will have received a letter from your Site Secretary by now if they were concerned about your plot.

Several plot holders don't seem to understand that they are responsible for removing their own rubbish from site and there are still bags left standing on common paths and inside and outside our gates. We usually organise a collection in November but until then you must keep your rubbish on your plot until you are able to remove it from site. If you see any offenders please let me know.

Slow progress on our new Lease with Wandsworth I am sorry to say! But we are still working on one that is acceptable to the Charities Commission.

SITE KEYS. From 1<sup>st</sup> April we are increasing the returnable key deposit from £10 to £20. This is to encourage people who leave to return their keys. It is a security risk to have too many keys out there.

On Sunday 22 May we will welcome members of the

Wandsworth Horticultural Society to see our allotment sites between 10 and 12. If you would like to help showing them round please let me know. All help most welcome.

**Jackie Savage**  
**Jackiesavage29@gmail.com**  
**07508 559134**

### **ANNUAL TRIP TO WISLEY**

***The RHS is affiliated to the RHS, So, once a year we can organise a trip to RHS Wisley for up to 55 members who can visit free of charge.***

***This year we will be going on Wednesday 14 September.***

***You are free to wander yourselves or for £3 you can join the group on a guided tour. We have had some excellent tours over the years, visiting parts not seen before.***

***A number of us will be driving so can offer lifts. Let me know if you are interested in going, as I need to let Wisley know number of members visiting, if you need a lift and if you want to join in a garden tour.***

**[Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk)**  
**020 8789 7568**

## **STORE REPORT**

We are now well into spring and members are now making good use of the Store again. It is fully stocked with a selection of composts and soil improver, with the exception of John Innes No 3 that have already sold out. More will be ordered towards the end of the month.

We sell most soil improvers loose which makes them much better value than buying packets from the garden centre.

Our root trainers proved very popular last year and are great for seeds that develop long root systems, e.g. beans, sweet peas and strawberries. The cells simply hinge open to allow the plant to be removed without damaging the roots and can be used year after year. We also have a good selection of Kings seeds that are offered at 20 per cent off the price on the packet.

We still have some potatoes for sale at £2 per kilo. We also have onions and shallots that we are now selling at 50p a bag which need planting now.

April is rent collection month and as in previous years, **the Store will be open every Wednesday evening between 6 and 7 pm during April as well as Sunday mornings.**

We are always pleased to hear from our members about particular requests for items they need or would like to see in the Store. If we have room and can source them at a good price we will do our best to do so. It is always helpful if you can let me know if you want a large quantity of one item as I can take this into account when I make an

order, so please email me with any special requests at [gilltamsett1@hotmail.com](mailto:gilltamsett1@hotmail.com).

***Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary***

## **PAUL ELLIS-HOE. SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH –report on the lecturer**

Twenty-five of us spent a very interesting hour with Paul Ellis-Howe who is the judge of the Wandsworth best plot competition.

He spoke for a few minutes about his allotment sites, the RGS (Redbridge Garden Society) and the RAF (Redbridge Allotments Forum). It was interesting to hear how rigidly they imposed their rules, which are much stricter than ours!

He regarded plotholders as custodians of their plots and reminded everyone that there is a long waiting list so they must show evidence of the following: -

- Soil maintenance i.e. feeding the soil and exclusion of weeds
- Use of space including vertical growth
- He encouraged plotholders to be present when the judging takes place as they can then discuss their aims and aspirations. These are some of the questions he answered:

Woodchips - These are excellent on paths but must never be used on the soil

because they might come from fences or other unknown sources, which have been treated with chemicals and should not be near vegetables.

Manure – Manure should always be straw based and not woodchip based for the same reasons as above. He always puts his in compost bins so that it can break down and never directly on the soil when fresh.

Compost – He has several bins and rotates them over a 3 yearly cycle. He recommended the use of a food processor/shredder to speed up the process.

Double digging – He advocated letting the worms do the work! When taking over a plot some deep digging may be necessary but on an annual basis turning the soil with a fork is all he found necessary. He thought spades were obsolete and recommended a hoe, fork and rake!

What does weed free mean? – He encouraged the hand removal of weeds especially dandelion, mares' tails and bindweed, which rob the soil of nutrients and water. He never uses chemicals and finds that if he removes weeds consistently and regularly they get weaker and weaker.

Glass – their sites are totally glass free (health and safety)

Polytunnels – They extend the harvest and he wasn't aware of any evidence of plastic producing a toxic environment.

Carpet – Carpet is not allowed on his allotment site, nylon is not biodegradable and dyes leak into the soil.

Ponds – He encouraged ponds (in the centre of a plot if possible) as they promote wildlife and frogs eat slugs. Cats often catch frogs especially when small, and he suggested covering most of the pond with mesh and having an entry route for frogs.

Lime – He only uses it for brassicas and never puts it on the soil after February. He uses builder's lime, which is cheaper and rakes it in.

Wildlife – Ponds already mentioned. Flowers attract bees and birds and stones/logs provide a refuge for hedgehogs and insects.

**LAMBETH PALACE  
GARDEN MUSEUM  
Plant Fair 2016**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016  
10.30-17.00**

**Lambeth Palace Gardens,  
London SE1 7JU.**

**Public entry: £5, children under  
16 free.**

**Many specialist nursery  
exhibitors (for purchase and  
advise), tours of Lambeth Palace  
Gardens, Café.**

## ***The Wandsworth Borough Council Best Plot Competition***

The annual competition that is run over all 10 Wandsworth allotment sites will be held towards the end of July 2016. The exact date will be announced nearer the time. There are two methods of entry. Either Plot holders may submit their plots to the Site Secretaries or Site Secretaries with one other Committee member select plots with the permission of the plot holder. Last year WBC restricted the number of entries to 15% of plots on each site. As we always have more eligible plots than this percentage the Site Secretaries eliminate some that do not sufficiently meet the set criteria. The criteria below were set by Wandsworth for the 2015 competition and may be tweaked for 2016. Plot holders will be notified if this is so. Some people do not like competitions but these criteria are really a 'good practice' guide. All entrants receive a feedback score sheet that can be useful when considering areas for improvement.

***Georgina O'Reilly,  
Secretary Site 2***



## ***CRITERIA FOR JUDGING BEST PLOT***

1	<b>LAND MANAGEMENT</b>	JUDGE'S MARKS
	<u>Soil cultivation</u> , weed control, management of wildlife	
	<u>Evidence of crop planting system</u> – labels, companion planting, grouping types of plants etc.	
	<u>Well-maintained common pathways</u> , general neatness and tidiness.	
2	<b>PLANT GROWTH/YIELD, PEST/DISEASE CONTROL</b>	
	<u>Growth and vigour of crops</u> , good sized plants making good use of available space	
	<u>Crops free from pests or disease</u> , cleanliness	
	<u>Potential yield of crops</u>	
3	<b>PLANNING TO GROW FOOD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR</b>	
	<u>Evidence of crops for summer and autumn supplies</u>	
	<u>Evidence of crops for winter and spring</u>	
4	<b>COMPOST</b>	
	<u>Quality of compost</u> in bins	
	<u>Volume of active</u> compost bins available and in use	
5	<b>WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDENING</b>	
	<u>Evidence of methods to encourage wildlife</u>	



## TIME TO PLANT YOUR DAHLIAS



Dahlias always give a wonderful splash of colour to a garden or allotment and you can enter them for the Autumn Show.

Dahlias have been around for many years and are named after the 18th Century botanist Anders Dahl.

They are grown from dormant tubers, have a very good success rate and will last for several years if stored and protected from frost. They can be grown in well-drained soil or compost and in tubs or pots.

J.Parker Dutch Bulbs are offering bulbs at good prices and Sarah Raven some very pretty colours.



### Types of Dahlias to try growing this year

The main types of Dahlias available can be classified into a number of

different categories, representing the main characteristics of the flower blooms themselves.

**Anemone Flowering** – Sometimes referred to as Powder Puff Dahlias, these beauties produce unique flowers with double feathered central petals resembling a Powder Puff.

**Cactus** – A favourite for many years, Cactus Dahlias produce fully double pointed petals that turn backwards to create a tubular petal effect. Sometimes referred to as Spiky Dahlias, they are perfect for the border.

**Dark Leaf** - These Dahlias are a little different in that their foliage is not the usual green colour of most varieties. They create an abundance of flowers through the summer as expected, however the blooms appear on darker (usually purple/black) foliage.

**Decorative** – The largest range of large, fully double flowers with rounded petals through the summer right up until the first frosts. They produce masses of flowers for cutting purposes.

**Dwarf Gallery** – A range of smaller, more petite Dahlias that is perfect for the front of the border. They are prolific flowering varieties, look also great planted mixed together in pots on the patio.

**Dinner Plate** – As the name suggests these are the largest flowers within the range, often up to as much as 25cm in diameter. Try these as cut flowers and be certain to draw attention.

**Pompom** – Love the unusual, then

these are certainly for you. Almost spherical flowers (like balls) appear through the summer. The petals have rounded tips and are curved upwards at the edges. The flower heads are also slightly flattened towards the centre.

Parkers offer some very useful information about growing Dahlias.

[www.jparkers.co.uk](http://www.jparkers.co.uk)

[www.sarahraven.com](http://www.sarahraven.com)

### **NEWS ITEMS FROM GERALDINE KELLY, PARKS DEVELOPMENT AT WBC**

A message from another allotment site in Wandsworth:

"One of our new ploholders has their own online organic gardening shop and blog which we thought would be of interest to other ploholders. You can read the description below and there is a link to her website. Rachel has kindly offered 10% off with the code: **AllotmentGP** that can be entered online. It's called 'Natural Urban Gardeners, NUGs for short' and the website is <http://www.naturalurbangardeners.com/>. "Our aim is to garden as green as we can and not to use any harmful substances" says founder, Rachel Collison "We are so excited to be starting our allotment this year and will be using a lot of our products and documenting our growing activities for the website and social media. Of particular interest to fellow ploholders would be our soil enhancers; we have neem fertiliser, seaweed granules, biohumus and biochar and also our wildflower seeds and bee/ butterfly mats to

attract wildlife to the plots and grow some wildflowers which is becoming increasingly popular with allotmenters. We also have organic potting kits for starting off seeds and saplings - these are made from coir and use coir compost discs. "

Dan Male from Waitrose writes: You may be aware that Waitrose give away free coffees to it's my Waitrose card-holders. As such, we generate a lot of **coffee grounds**. I am trying to minimise this by-product going to landfill, and as a very popular and effective compost, I would like to investigate if your allotments may be interested in using the grounds? In my mind, I'd like to set up a local 'little Waitrose' store with its nearest allotment, where a relationship can be established whereby we save the grounds to be collected by a representative for the allotments. Its a good opportunity to save waste and build closer relationships with the community." Dan has said this will require you to collect from the local coffee shop, usually between from half to a full wheelie bin each week. If you are interested I will ask Dan to put you in contact with local groups.

### **International Compost Awareness Week- 1-7 may 2016**

**Visit Garden organic website**

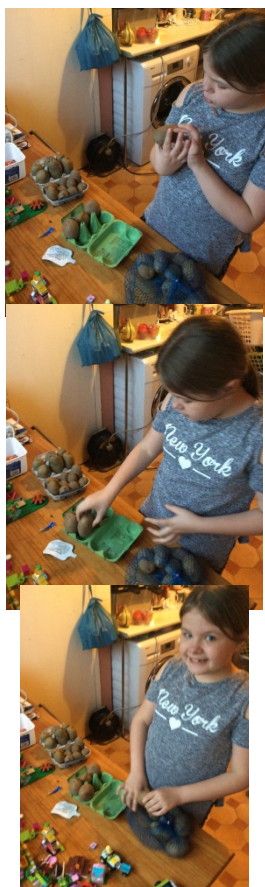
[www.homecomposting.org.uk](http://www.homecomposting.org.uk)

**To get tips for composting at home.**

**Or goggle international compost  
awareness week to see what is  
happening around the world.**

**WORKING FOR THE  
BROWNIES GARDENING  
BADGE: BY SALLY BAKER  
April Update**

This month I have been chitting my second early (Lady Christl) and main (Maris Piper) seed Potatoes all ready for planting out mid and late March.



I have decided to plant some of my seed Potatoes in the ground and try growing some of the Potatoes in Potato grow bags, so it frees up some of our land. I have also been preparing the soil by removing all weeds and large stones, giving the soil a good dig over to loosen the soil and adding some country natural compost and potato fertiliser.



I went along to the allotment shop on Sunday morning to buy some onion sets (Sturon and Red karmen) and more seed potatoes (Charlotte salad and Picasso) and multi-purpose compost for my seeds, which I am starting in pots and trays.

My Carrots, Leeks, Sweet Basil, Garlic Chives and Parsley seeds came up, which I was very excited about. This year I am going to try some rainbow carrots, which I am looking forward to seeing the end result.

I have also been looking at melon seeds, and I have decided to buy them as super plugs as from seeds it maybe a lot harder to get a good result or anything at all, so I will have to wait till mid-April for them to arrive.

I brought some more strawberry plants (Malling Opal) to add to the



ones I had last year. I did in the past try to grow strawberry plants from seeds and they didn't grow very well, they did grow into a very small plants but died as the cold weather came in and I never got a strawberry. So I think from plant is best for me, as I do like to have strawberries and cream in the summer. Hopefully they will arrive soon so I can plant them out.

I'm going to get a cutting of mint from my nan's garden, as her mint is very nice with a strong smell and flavor. I'm still waiting for my dwarf apple and pear tree to bud, I'm not too sure when this is going to happen, so I'll just have to wait and see.

**Sally Baker (plot 43a)**



**The Big Dig  
Saturday 16  
April**

**Don't be fooled  
by the name...it's  
about much more  
than digging!**



**It's about growing food  
and getting outside.  
It's about building raised  
beds and creating  
community.  
It's about planting seeds  
and making new friends.**

**Three ways to get  
involved**

- 1 Find a garden to volunteer  
with on the day
- 2 Register your garden to  
take part in this year's  
Big Dig Day
- 3 Come along to our  
network event on  
Wednesday 16 March  
to pick up supplies and  
win garden goodies

<http://www.sustainweb.us9.list-manage.com>

**EXHIBITION ON SCREEN –  
Painting the Modern**

**Garden: Monet to Matisse**

- In cinemas from 12th April 2016.

A new film celebrating the exhibition 'Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse' at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

Visit [EXHIBITION ON SCREEN](#) for further information, to view the trailer and book tickets at your local cinema.

*Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse*, will explore the intriguing relationship between the world's greatest artists and horticulture.

The film will transport viewers across Europe to some of the most beautiful gardens depicted in art, from Monet's water lilies at Giverny to Bonnard's privately owned garden in Vernonnet. It will also offer privileged access to the artworks they inspired, on display at the Royal Academy exhibition *Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse* (30 January - 20 April 2016).

50g mature Cheddar Cheese,  
coarsely grated

1 level tablespoon plain flour

25g butter

1 dessertspoon olive oil

Salt and freshly ground black  
pepper

1. Scrub the potatoes and cook with a little salt for 8 minutes. Drain and cool.
2. Put the spring onions or cabbage into boiling water for 2 minutes, and then drain well.
3. Coarsely grate the potatoes into a bowl, and season with salt and pepper, and then add the grated cheese and onions and greens.
4. Toss lightly together using two forks.
5. Shape mixture into 7.5 cm rounds by 1 cm thick.
6. Dust lightly with flour.
7. To cook, preheat the oven to Mark 7, 220°C. Grease a baking tray. Place the Rösti on the baking tray. Melt the butter and oil and brush or pour over the Rösti.
8. Cook on top shelf for 10 minutes, and then turn over for another 10 minutes.
9. Delicious with ham and poached eggs.

**APRIL'S RECIPE**

With thanks to Delia Smith. Bubble and Squeak is a classic leftovers recipe but this version gives it a new dimension.

***Bubble and Squeak Rösti***

450g potatoes (Desirée or Romano are recommended)

75g spring onions and green cabbage (or Cavolo Nero), finely chopped

## **NOTICES**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**2016 dates:**

**Summer Show 2016: 11 June**

**Autumn Show 2016: 10**

**September AGM 2016: 23**

**November**

### **RGS ADDRESS AND POST BOX**

Fixed to the gate at site 2, The Pleasance. The address is:  
Roehampton Garden Society The Pleasance Allotments The Pleasance  
London SW15 5HF

### **RHS CONTACTS**

Committee Chair: Jackie Savage,  
Site 2 Allotment Secretary:  
Georgina O'Reilly;  
Site 3 Allotment Secretary: Helen Finch.  
Site Manager: Shirley Gillbe;

### **BASIC RULES FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL COHESION ON OUR ALLOTMENT SITES**

- Respect the rights and belongings of other plot holders.
- No dogs without leads.
- No unsupervised children.
- Lock the gate behind you.
- Dispose of your own rubbish.
- No structures to be erected or trees to be planted without permission of your Site Secretary.

**If you think someone is breaking the rules contact a committee member or me, rather than confront another plot holder.**  
[jackiesavage29@gmail.com](mailto:jackiesavage29@gmail.com) or  
07508 559134

## **DISCOUNTS**

10% discount when you show your RGS membership card at:  
Capital Gardens, opposite Wandsworth Prison  
Adrian Hall Garden Centre in Sheen (please remember that you need to get an Adrian Hall discount card by showing your RGS card;  
**Comments, questions for Chair and/or Committee via website:**  
[root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

### **THE CARTRIDGE PEOPLE,**

Give 10% of the cost of your order back to the Society when you buy from:

[www.cartridgepeople.com/RaisingMoneyFor/Roehampton-GS](http://www.cartridgepeople.com/RaisingMoneyFor/Roehampton-GS)

### **YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH**

**Professional & Reliable Service**

**Complete Security Specialists**

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**Lock & Safes Emergency**

**Locksmith Security Gates &**

**Grilles Alarms**

**391 Upper Richmond Road West,  
East Sheen, SW14 7NX Tel: 0208  
392 2233**

### **SECURITY**

**If you see someone trespassing or causing damage on Sites or in an emergency phone 999 or text phone 18000.**

### **NEW DAWN GARDENS**

Artan Deliallisi, one of our plot holders, offers regular or casual maintenance for gardens. He will repair or build fences, gates, sheds, paving, walls and arches.  
07411 288485  
[artandeliallisi@gmail.com](mailto:artandeliallisi@gmail.com)

**MANTRA LANDSCAPES  
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE  
SPECIALISTS**

[www.mantralandscapes.com](http://www.mantralandscapes.com)

Alexander Barrington

Thompson- Byer

Tel: +44 (0)7985 463 283

**THE CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION TOOL SHED**

*Mend and re-furbished old  
garden tools for schools*

[www.conservaionfoundation.co.uk](http://www.conservaionfoundation.co.uk)

[www.vegetableseeds.com](http://www.vegetableseeds.com)

**FREE HORSE MANURE**

Ridgway Stables in Wimbledon  
(next to Swan Pub on the corner of  
Hillside and Ridgway) have a  
constant supply of free horse  
manure available.

The manure is already bagged and  
gardeners are welcome to collect  
between 8am -5pm, 7 days a week.  
They can also deliver manure in  
larger loads (approx 60 bags) to  
allotments in the area. This is done  
on Saturdays.

Please call Julia on 020 8946 7400  
if you are interested.

**AUSTIN MOWERS**

*Repairs and sells reconditioned  
mowers and sharpen shears. 300*

*Garratt Lane, SW18 4EH 020*

*8874 4206*

[www.austinmowers.com](http://www.austinmowers.com)

[austinmowers@aol.com](mailto:austinmowers@aol.com)

**CAPITAL GROWTH**

Capital Growth is the largest food  
growing network in London. It was  
set up initially as a partnership  
initiative between London Food  
Link, the Mayor of London, and the  
Local Food Fund and helped create  
2012 new community food-growing

spaces across London by the end  
of 2012.

You may be interested in their  
courses and voluntary work  
opportunities. See what they are  
doing and sign up for their  
newsletter at

[www.capitalgrowth.org](http://www.capitalgrowth.org)

***Volunteer gardeners needed***

Volunteers are needed to help in  
the large and beautiful gardens at  
Mount Court which is a retirement  
home in Weimar Road, Putney  
SW15 1SJ. If you are interested  
please phone Maggie on 07549  
279 215.

**THE STORE**

*Open on Sunday mornings  
between 10 -12.00 noon, also the  
café serving tea, coffee and  
homemade cake.*

*New volunteers to help are  
always welcome. Please contact  
Carol Martinez at the Store or  
leave a message at:*

[root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

**NEXT BULLETIN:**

The next Bulletin

Sunday 1 May 2016

by email, in store and on both  
sites.

Copy for next edition to Pat Dark  
(020 8789 7568, 27 St Margaret's  
Crescent, Putney, London SW15  
6HL or by email:

[Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk) by 25  
April 2016