

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

December 2014

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

2014 AGM EDITION Elections of Officers



Jackie, our Chair



**Georgina, Site 2 and Helen
Site 3 Secretaries**



**Alison, our Minutes
Secretary**



Liz, our Treasurer

**AGM reports, photos &
election results p. 1-13**

Awards p.18/19

December News p13-17

2014 A.G.M.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Well it has been another busy and productive year for the Roehampton Garden Society.

There have been a variety of visits including to Wisley, Chiswick House Camelia Festival and the Wandsworth Dump (Re-cycling facility). Our events have included, participating in the Gardeners' Question Time organised by Friends of Putney Library; hosting a Wildlife Workshop in our newly painted Store in the spring as well as two Bonfire Parties in early November. All this as well as the two wonderful Shows.

We have purchased a Filemaker database for all our membership records. This will simplify our record keeping and mean we can produce individual invoices to send to you so you can pay your rents directly into the bank, as many of you have asked for, but only if you wish to do so, you may also pay by cheque or cash.

At the last AGM there was a request for the monthly committee meeting minutes to be posted on the website and this now done. We also put a copy of the Bulletin and update "Dates for your Diary" where we add suggestions of horticultural courses and so on.

You may have noticed that we are trialing a new style lock on the gate for the Pleasance allotments. We have engaged a local locksmith who with one of our committee members has devised a solution that we hope means you can all keep your keys and we don't have to keep replacing broken padlocks

at great expense (and annoyance). Once we are happy with this lock we will put them on the other three gates.

A Post Box is to be fixed to the Gate of the Pleasance as we now have an official post office address!

I hope you have bought your copy of our very first RGS calendar – with photos of our allotments taken by three of our members. They are for sale in the Store along with Christmas gifts for gardeners! Next year we hope to have a selection of images to choose from taken by more of our members. As long as they are taken of one of our sites they will be considered. I think we will be particularly looking for photos of the sites in winter.

I am sorry to report that this year there was a lengthy dispute between the committee and a new tenant, over a requested plot move, which we were unable to resolve internally and had to refer to Wandsworth Council. I would like to thank Jerry Birtles (Chief Parks Officer) and Geraldine Kelly (Allotment Officer) and all the committee for the time and consideration they gave this matter. I am relieved to report that the Council found that the committee had not acted improperly. They welcomed our initiative, which had started in February, on the development of a Plot Letting Policy and re-wording of Rule 3 that they thought "could be more clearly defined and give clearer guidance to members".

I hope that now all those concerned can enjoy their plots and leave the dispute behind them.

This brings me to our request that you, the members, approve the re-wording of Rule 3 relating to our Plot Letting Policy. I circulated the documents to you all about a month ago and have had a several replies and some suggestions, for which I thank you.

Our Plot Letting policy is different to the other Wandsworth sites (which are not self-managing) and where moves (unless there are the most compelling circumstances) and requests for additional land are not allowed. Of course allowing moves and adding land takes up a lot of time but the committee is keen to preserve the historical practice of the RGS. We allow our tenants to move plots and to be able to add more land to their holding (up to the limit of 5 rods per household). The purpose of the re-wording is to make the Rule more clearly defined and communicated whilst retaining the advantage of flexibility.

I propose (and Helen Finch seconds) that we change the wording of our Rule 3 as you can see on the white paper on your chairs.

3 "Offering Plots to Let" Only Wandsworth residents over the age of 18 will be eligible for an allotment. 5 rods is the maximum holding per household. New tenants will usually be offered plots of 2 to 3.5 rods (inclusive). An existing tenant (whose name is on the Primary Waiting List) may be offered plots as additional land up to the maximum total of 5 rods per household. Only existing tenants will be offered plots of 4 rods or more. To take up a larger plot the tenant may need to move. Two waiting lists will be kept: the Primary Waiting List and the

*Secondary Waiting List. The Primary Waiting List will be for potential tenants who want an allotment and existing tenants wanting more land **or to move** who will be added to the bottom in order of date of application. When at the top of the list the person will be contacted.*

The Secondary Waiting List is for those who have reached the top of the Primary Waiting List but who are unable to take a plot at the time it is offered. It will be the responsibility of the person on the Secondary Waiting List to make contact (e.g. email root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk) when they are able to take on a plot.

After much discussion this was carried unanimously with the one addition "or to move" after "wanting more land".

I cannot name anyone in person from the large number of volunteers that are now helping the RGS in so many ways! From all those committee and sub committee people who, for example, work to let and inspect plots, are preparing to become a Charity, write the bulletin, collect rents, help with deliveries, serve in the Store, publish our Calendar, fix broken locks, help at the Shows and AGMs and clean the toilets – what would we do without you all!

Of course more volunteers are always needed please email us root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

However there are 2 very special volunteers who we would like to thank and I pass you over to Georgina who will thank Paula Alderson and Derrick Ratcliffe who

are resigning from the Committee tonight. **Jackie Savage, Chair**

“Hi great AGM last night – biggest attendance for a while I’m sure. If you ever need my help on anything do always let me know. I’ll do my best to help!”
Justine Greening

TREASURER’S REPORT

As at the last AGM I can report that the Society’s finances are strong. This year the financial report comes in a different form, designed to make the figures easier to understand. The table presented to the AGM is a summary of income and expenditure over the last two years (over the periods 1 October to 30 September) in the 3 main areas of activity: the Store, Shows and managing the allotment sites. The Store has made a profit of over £1k, slightly up on the previous year. We do not aim to make a large profit but to provide members with good value for money products that they need to get the most out of their plots. For the first time we are offering seeds, at a discounted price, for which the initial investment was £1.3k. The Shows also made a profit - about £150 more than last year. 2014 saw the completion of the refurbishment of the Store - painting of the interior, which came to just over £1k. The RGS collects rents and manages the allotment sites, for which we get 20% of the rents collected. This is used for repairs and maintenance, and includes security (locks and keys). Allotment expenditure is up on last year

mainly because we purchased a shredder. To summarise, we have more money than last year in our bank accounts, in cash and in the form of assets: £24.1k last year and £26.4k this year.

Liz Chrominska Treasurer

TRADING SECRETARY’S REPORT

It has been quite a year for our beloved Store; having had a total 'make-over!'

Before I report on just how it all happened and how the Store is doing now, I would just like to thank Alan Rake for running the Store, successfully, for so many years which has meant that we had a great base from which to develop and extend it today - many thanks Alan!

So.... the Store re-born!

When Alan retired from the role of Trading Secretary, a Store Sub-Committee (SSC) was formed to run the Store now, comprising of: Jackie Savage, Barbara McCall, Georgina O'Reilly, Carol Martinez, Raj Patel and Liz Chrominska. We saw our aim as this:

"The Store should be run for the benefit of its Members, to share knowledge of gardening, to act as a community hub and to provide good quality gardening products at competitive prices. The SSC is committed to acting in an ethical and environmentally responsible manner for its Members."

We first met in the winter of December 2013 to devise a plan of action:

1. To thoroughly tidy up, sort out

and clean out the Store

2. To check with Wandsworth Borough Council that we could decorate and change the use of the Store

3. Mike Cooper was to investigate the possibility of the Store having mains water

4. To totally re-wire the Store

5. To install a kitchen area, with hot and cold running water

6. To investigate the possibility of painting the Store

All of these ideas were to be presented to the RGS Committee for approval, once estimates had been obtained.

It began....!

In the depths of winter 2013, we had an amazing sort out of the Store and then a clean!! There was decades of dust and thankfully, many people came along to help. Once all the dust was removed then all the shelving was cleaned and some reshaped to meet the new needs of the Store.

Trading continued around the refurbishments, which was not too difficult as our opening hours were only on Sunday of course! Stock that could be boxed up and stored was, mostly in greenhouses and the sheds of members and the toilets/shredder shed/small shed on Site 2. Bulky stock like the bags of manure and compost, tables, ladders, chairs etc., were stacked up outside and wrapped up in huge tarpaulins against the elements. Imagine all this was done in the freezing cold by many good-hearted members! Precious items such as our old till, antique desk and scales were taken home for safe keeping by various SSC members.

After much investigation, the Store was finally connected to the mains water supply, the kitchen units installed and the whole Store was re-wired, making it safe and increasing the number of sockets and great lighting! The final job was the painting of the Store! Mike Cooper filled in all the holes and dips in the walls prior to painting, and then a specialist Company sprayed the whole Store!

Then the entire Store was restocked with the shelving forming a self-service system. A new tablecloth was also bought as a finishing touch to the new Cafe area! All this work occurred in the spring and the day finally came to open the new Store! Members thought it was amazing and all the SSC were highly delighted with the outcome and response!

The next job was to actually run the Store efficiently, so we all took on different roles:

Jackie and I are the Trading Secretaries, ordering stock, Georgina and Liz manage the new Kings Seeds, Carol manages the perishable goods (potatoes, onions, garlic etc) and Raj is our very knowledgeable advisor, and we all work in the Store too!

Georgina initially sourced the seeds from Kings Seeds and we are able to give a 20% discount on the marked price. Liz now manages this and there is a very comprehensive range of favorites' and new ideas, all very popular with members. Carol has developed selling loose potatoes, onions, shallots and garlic. She orders several varieties and then they are sold in the Store, this has worked very well this year and will continue in 2015.

The rest of the stock is ordered and sourced by Jackie and myself. The RGS's favorite Country Natural is our best seller, in the spring we were ordering 100 bags a month and our price remains very competitive! The unloading of this and other bulky items is often problematic, as it requires people able to lift heavy bags. A special thanks to Dave McCall and Mike Ebberson who always unload on Site 2 and, Artan and Dave McCall again on Site 3. In the past others have also helped and thanks to, Dave Savage, John Ireland, Alun Thorpe on Site 2 and Mick Markey. As well as the regular stock we have new products including root trainers, seaweed, rock dust and other soil improvers, loose liquid fertilisers, good gardening gloves, soil pH testers, trowels and forks, secateurs, loppers, seed trays, calendars, products for seasonal use to deter unwanted insects ready for spring planting, woven netting on a roll, environmesh on a roll. Many items have been re-ordered and we are selling very well, both the Store turnover and profit for the RGS has significantly increased!

New initiatives in running the Store have included:

Labels for all loose products, pre-bagging up loose products; info leaflets for all loose products; new containers for all the loose products, a member's stock request book if stock not on the shelves; clear guidelines for Store Volunteer Workers; new shed on site 3 for stocking Country Natural and Composts (upon purchase at the Store, a receipt is issued and exchanged for the goods on Site 3); gardening info available in the

Cafe area as well as homemade cakes and other refreshments! The success of the Store is only possible because of all the people who volunteer to work in the Store and help with deliveries. Many thanks to member's partners and children who also came and helped with the great clean up! This year we had a School Visit to Site 2 allotments to study plants and insects and the Store Cafe provided a mini classroom and great refreshment area. The Store also had a stall at Putney Library Gardeners Question Time, the Show this autumn and the AGM where good sales were made. As yet we have not had a request for parties or wedding receptions, but in 2015 who knows!

Barbara McCall, Trading Secretary

SHOW CHAIR'S REPORT

This year has seen another two successful shows. Some changes were introduced to keep the schedule fresh – such as the most fragrant rose and a pot of growing herbs. And fun too – the biggest marrow, longest runner bean, widest sunflower head and heaviest pumpkin being a focal point of the autumn show – with Geoff Smith and his Grandson Oliver's pumpkin an astonishing 52.5 kilos (we expect a bigger one next year Geoff).

New competitions saw some lovely flower displays in a range of different teapots and delightful hand tied posies. All of the new categories had entries that are very pleasing.

Our new cookery judge Helen Sabieri – a food writer - has set some new standards for us (she checks for soggy bottoms) and will be helping us choose some different categories for next year to liven it up and keep the bakers interested.

And we do have some fantastic bakers who donate to the cake stall and help to entice those from near and far to come along to the show. And with the help of publicity from the Putney website and Putney Society and sometime Brightside we are attracting new people to every show.

The auction has continued to be a fitting end to the afternoon – where people are willing to pay for and take away all those beans and courgettes that you thought you would never see the end of.

We saw both new novices and children enter this year - both with a very high standard of entries. Can we have a steady supply of these every year please?

We have also tidied up the categories for winning cups with an even spread between the summer and autumn shows as well as the usual annual ones.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered this year to put up tables and man the stalls and everyone who donated to the cake stall, the raffle and tombola and the produce stall, to George and Helen for judging and to everyone who entered or came along to support our 'village' shows.

Carol Martinez, Show Chair

SITE 2 SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Lettings: There have been 13 lettings from November 2013 to November 2014. Of these 12 have been to new plot-holders and 1 to an existing plot holder who had come to the top of the list for another plot. 2 larger plots have been split bringing the total number of plots on site 2 to 80.

- Site management – fences/trees:

Following the damaging gales last spring we requested repairs to fences to the rear of two Council properties which have finally been replaced. Another request to a private house owner has also resulted in a replaced fence.

The Society has also erected a temporary fence to the rear of another plot pending the house-owner's reinstatement of their permanent fence next spring.

The gales also caused damage to the tall pine tree on site 2 that was made safe by a tree surgeon last March.

- Security: Unfortunately, petty thefts from green houses and plots continue from time to time. Even more regrettably, these have had the hallmarks of an 'inside job'. Plot-holders are

- urged to be vigilant and report all thefts to the Site Secretaries so the situation can be monitored. Plot holders have been much more reliable in locking the gates after them at all times and we are not aware this year of any trespassing from outside.
- Community links: In July we organised a hands-on learning session about growing vegetables for children from Sacred Heart Primary School and we have agreed to repeat this next year for two groups. Plot holders have contributed to items for the bug hotel that a parent is building at Granard School.
 - Plot inspections: The 4-monthly plot inspection timetable is now well established along with our designated team. The main issues for the team are reasonable levels of cultivation, weed control and path maintenance and responses from plot-holders who receive letters have been positive. We try to take into account the very different circumstances of our members and ask members to discuss with us any difficulties they are experiencing so this can be considered at inspection times.
 - Chickens: A complaint to Wandsworth Council about the size of one of the chicken structures on site 2 has resulted in the plot-owner having to apply for planning permission retrospectively. This process is on going, but is a reminder to all members to check the permissible size and location before erecting structures on their plots.
 - Shredder: This year a new shredder has been purchased and is installed in the shed adjacent to the Store. It is a highly effective machine, but needs to be used with sensitivity. Full instructions and tips on usage are in the shredder shed.
 - Andrew Fleming-Williams: Sadly, I have to mention the death of one of our plot-holders, Andrew Fleming-Williams, who was unexpectedly taken ill and died this summer. Andrew was a passionate composter and we have him to thank for advice on the new shredder. It was some comfort to him that he was keenly working his plot and harvesting raspberries until shortly before his death.
 - Thanks: Finally, I'd like to extend thanks to the many plot-holders who give of their time freely in many ways, helping with the store

deliveries, helping with the disposal of the accumulation of rubbish last winter, managing the bonfire and of course keeping our toilet clean. And for those plot-holders who contact me about issues arising so that the site can be managed as effectively as possible for us all. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

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

SITE 3 SECRETARY'S REPORT

I took over from Mary Jane Ireland at the beginning of this year. There was little written guidance regarding letting plots, just Rule 3 in the RGS rules. Paula Alderson who with Derrick had done the job of letting plots for many years mentored me. Now there is a long waiting list for this public facility I felt it was important to ensure I was doing the right thing. I drafted a policy document and in February we formed a sub-committee to develop it.

Plot lettings: Site 3 had 153 plots at the beginning of the year but 2 have been divided during this year so we now have 155. Over the year since the last AGM there have been a total of 22 lettings (14%), 18 to new tenants and 4 to existing plot holders.

Jackie and Georgina put together 'Welcome Packs' for new plot holders. It is a very comprehensive pack aimed to inform new

Allotmenters, to enable them to get help if needed and to encourage them to use the store. The large apple tree on plot 85B was pruned professionally last January. Allotmenters were invited to watch and learn from the professional so several people braved the winter rains and learned how to prune a fruit tree.

No major thefts or vandalism this year but there have been reports of people taking produce and plants from other tenants' plots. A notice about this will be in the December Bulletin covering this issue of theft and trespass.

Georgina has covered the Plot inspections: the problems on Site 3 are very similar to Site 2. The letters to tenants about various problems found at the inspection are aiming to encourage good cultivation and to increase awareness of all the enthusiastic, patient people on our waiting list.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how valuable Paula's input, support and encouragement has been since I took over as Site Secretary. Also the rest of the committee has been very helpful and supportive. Many thanks to you all.

Also since taking on the role of Site Secretary I have become more aware of how the allotment site works as a community. The way people step in when there is a job that needs to be done is very impressive and is essential for the allotment site to work. So many jobs that need to be done get done through the goodwill and kindness of Allotmenters. Thanks you all

for the help and time you have given to the allotment site.

Helen Finch, Secretary Site 3

Waiting List:

There are 179 people on the waiting list of whom 24 are existing plot holders. Those at the top put their names down in April 2012 so it is taking about 2 ½ to 3 years for new potential tenants to get a plot at the moment. There is a steady stream of people wanting to go on the waiting list. There have been 98 names added to the list since beginning of November 2013, of which 12 are existing plot holders.

***Helen Finch,
Secretary Site 3***

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

Site Manager's Report (given by Jackie Savage)

As Paula Alderson is not able to be with us this evening I can report that she has attended the bi-annual meetings with WBC Allotment Team. Among many items of interest this year there has been a lot of discussion about Structures and what size and how many will be allowed on the plots. There was also a change of judge in the Best Plot Competition and he would welcome the plot holder's presence on the plot when he goes round next year.

The other matter of interest to RGS is that of the yearly rubbish collection organised by Wandsworth. This year we have a date (rather than a vague indication covering a few weeks) and this, as

you are all aware, is to be this Friday 28th. Let's see how it goes!

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT

Increasing numbers of people are taking their Bulletin by email, currently 225 people, which reduce paper and ink consumption and saves the Society costs. There are inevitably some problems with email addresses so if you would like to get your Bulletin by email and are not please email me your address and I will ensure you are on the mailing list. I have also been phoning people to check addresses, where their email has bounced back.

For the Bulletins we have printed, about 70 in all, we use Quickprint, at Wandsworth Council. They provide a very efficient, quick and reasonably priced service – you will see this in the treasurer's report. I am able to send the Bulletin by email and they have it copied for collection by the next day.

10 Bulletins are produced each year none in January and August. Also the Show stationary, that is the show schedules, entry forms etc.

I welcome feedback and contributions, for example, the photo of John and Artan digging out a bath from a new member's plot, articles, recipes, opinions, photos, new websites, birthdays, wedding & birth announcements as well as obituaries, gossip, jokes etc, Please send them in.

I am trying to link with other community organisations to

advertise events, for example, the Friends of Putney Library, have an author event tomorrow night at 7.00 pm. We recently advertised the St Margarets Christmas Fair. Let me know of anything you want advertising.

Pat Dark, Editor

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

At our AGM the following members were elected unopposed to the Committee for 2014/2015:

Jackie Savage – Chair & Website Editor

Carol Martinez – Vice Chair and Chair of Show subcommittee

Liz Chrominska - Treasurer

Alison Linton – Minutes' Secretary

Georgina O'Reilly – Site 2 Allotment Secretary

Helen Finch – Site 3 Allotment Sec

Pat Dark – Bulletin Editor

Mike Cooper – Security

Barbara McCall – Trading Secretary

Bill Young

Sheila Konig

Melanie Tham – Membership Secretary

Gill Tamsett

Steve Clarke

Shirley Gillbe – Site Manager for Wandsworth Council (non-voting position)

A.O.B

The Committee was thanked for all the work they do on behalf of the Society

Some prize-winners being presented with cups by our President Justine Greening



Carol Martinez



Raj Patel



Pat Davis



John Ireland



David Rossiter



Jenny Gorle



Susan McDonald



Robert Linton



54 people came to the AGM

DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE STORE!

Looking for Christmas present ideas? We have some excellent ideas in the Store:

Glossy, creative RGS Calendars featuring our own allotments throughout the year and gardening tips too! £5.00 each, a **brilliant** gift!

Robust Root Trainers! £4.00 each Great for sweet peas, broad beans, corn etc., why not team up with a bag of John Innes Seed Compost? Also £4.00

Terrific Trowels! Beautifully made stainless steel trowels, with a wooden handle, lovely to use! £7.00 each

Fabulous Forks, to match! Also £7.00 each

Great Gardening Gloves, the Town and Country Weed/Seed make, two different sizes, styled in fabric and rubber, lightweight and functional. £3.00 per pair

Stunning Secateurs! Excellent value! £6.00 per pair. Why not team up with a pair of gloves

Ph Soil Meters, easy to use and essential for knowing your soil and what it needs. We have two types £9 and £12.50 each. Gloves would go well with these too!

Irresistible Insect Houses! £5.00 each Great to encourage helpful insects onto plots and gardens, children will love them too!

Great wired, sturdy, pop up reusable sacks, two sizes £8.00 and £10.00 each. Of course the Store has all your regular favourites as usual! How about making your gardening friends a special **Christmas Hamper** full of useful items for gardening? This could include Bug Sprays, Liquid Fertiliser, String, plant labels, seeds and many more items from the Store!

Thank you to everyone who has shopped in the Store and supported our Cafe this year, and a huge thanks to all the volunteers who have helped run the Store every week! It has been a great success! We will be open on the 30th November, and then closed, for the holidays. We open again on Sunday the 11th January 2015. Happy Yuletide! **Barbara McCall**

MORE FROM THE STORE!

Pssst.... a tip from Raj... recently heard in the Store! Raj has been experimenting and using NEEM OIL, as a deterrent to white fly and various other pests that attack plants! Neem Oil is a vegetable oil pressed from the seeds of the NEEM an evergreen tree (*Azadirachta indica*) endemic to the Indian sub-continent. Traditionally used in India for preparing cosmetics, as an antiseptic, to cure a range of skin conditions and as an organic deterrent to plant pests. Raj has successfully rid chili plants of white fly this summer, by coating the leaves in Neem Oil and then further hanging a cloth, dipped in Neem oil near plants. He suggests it could be used to deter a range of pests e.g., black fly and green fly too! Why not investigate this extraordinary oil on line, there are many sites! We are always interested in innovative ideas, especially organic one, do let the Store Staff know if you have any more and you may yet see this product in the Store in the New Year!

New varieties of seeds include **Flower Sprouts** - like tiny cabbages with green frilly leaves streaked with purple, they have a complex taste of a sprout with the mild, sweet, nutty taste of kale. **Igloo** a cauliflower that can be used as a mini-vegetable. **Pea shoots** - these are added to salad or used as an edible garnish. **Firestorm** - a self-pollinating runner bean which sets well even in poor weather. This comes highly recommended by the RHS after one of their trials. Finally there are some new varieties of **sweet peas**.

Come and have a browse in the New Year.

POTATOES, ONIONS AND SHALLOTS

After the success of last year we will again have a choice of different varieties available for sale in the store.

Potatoes will be delivered in the first couple of weeks of January to give plenty of time for chitting.
Duke of York – First Early
Kestrel – Second Early
Charlotte – Second Early / Salad
Picasso – Main Crop

Onions and shallots will be delivered late January / early February
Red Baron – Red onion
Sturon – White onion
Golden Gourmet - Shallot
I will send out a notification once the orders have arrived. Please come to the store early, as these will be sold on a first come first served basis. Prices are to be confirmed. They will all be sold both by the kilo and individually and will be very good value as we are buying in bulk.

Carol Martinez

Wood chips will be delivered to site 2 at the beginning of December once the rubbish has been collected. These are free. They can be spread on paths to level them and improve the surface.

Georgina O'Reilly

THE WATFORD ALLOTMENTS High Court Case.....A VICTORY!

Yes, finally the Farm Terrace Allotment Holders had their verdict, Watford Borough Council (WBC) was not granted permission to build on their beloved Allotment Site! It was reported in various daily newspapers and on the One Show on BBC TV! Although, after talking with one of the Claimants, he said that they were disappointed because it was not the win they had hoped for, not a moral victory that allotments can never be taken to build on, if people want them to cultivate. Indeed, allotments nationally had hoped for this victory. The WBC lost on a pure technicality because they had withheld information from the Secretary of State regarding changes in plans for the proposed Health Campus.

As the verdict was announced a furious WBC declared that they would re-submit their plans and at the latest Council Meeting a few days ago, the Mayor declared that the Council would not be re-opening the waiting list for an allotment plot on the site as "it will soon be a building site." They appear confident but there was angry opposition from the Labour Councilors and the Tenants from the Farm Terrace Site, in the public gallery, because they felt this Health Campus that could include a new hospital, homes and businesses could be completed without the allotment land! WBC just will not compromise at all!

The lawyer, Adam Hundt acting for the Farm Terrace Allotmenters has said how many other allotment

societies have contacted him saying if only they had known or thought they could do something to save their allotments, like the Farm Terraces, they would still be in with a fighting chance!

Surely, this is what the Farm Terraces have still! These brave and tenacious Watford Gardeners have fought a long battle and have been supported by so many Community Groups and have given us all an amazing example that it is possible to raise objections and the ordinary people do have a voice AND it is not over yet! So far it is believed that this decision is the first time that the Courts have overturned a decision given by Local Councils, to allow a development of allotments!

Offers of support and donations from all over the country have continued over the last two years, to aid the Fighting Fund and to pay for Court Costs and the Roehampton Garden Society donated £100 and had a collection box in the Store too! The Campaign is to continue, with growing support nationally and from the media! Please continue to help them by donating to www.gofundme Farm Terrace Allotment, Vicarage Ward, Watford. This is also an excellent site to get the latest update on the developments and send messages of support!

Good Luck to the Farm Terrace Allotments!

Barbara McCall

DECEMBER RECIPE

My daughter presented me with a delicious pot of Chilli Jam. It is not too hot but has a nice kick and is delicious with cold meat and cheese! It is also easy to make and would be very acceptable as a gift. The recipe is below.

SWEET CHILLI JAM

8 red peppers, roughly chopped
10 red chillies, deseeded and roughly chopped

A finger size piece of fresh root ginger, peeled and roughly chopped

8 garlic cloves, peeled

400g can cherry tomatoes

750g golden caster sugar

250ml red wine vinegar

1. Put the peppers, chillies (with seeds), ginger and garlic into a food processor, then whizz until very finely chopped.
2. Pour into a heavy bottomed pan with the tomatoes, sugar and vinegar. Stir until sugar is dissolved then bring everything to the boil.
3. Skim off any scum that comes to the surface, then simmer and cook for about 50 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Once the jam is becoming sticky, continue cooking for 10-15 minutes more, stirring frequently so the bottom does not burn. It should look like thick, bubbling lava!
5. Cool slightly and then ladle into sterilised jars*. Cover and label. Then leave to cool.

*To sterilise jars, put the well-washed and dry jars in the oven at No

THREE FIG TREES FOR SALE

A unique opportunity to acquire an eight year old potted fig tree (Brown Turkey), which will grace any south/south-west facing wall or fence in your garden or at the allotment. They will produce lots of lovely figs next year. You can see them on plot 20 on site two at any time by prior arrangement. I am happy to sell them at £25.00 each or £70 for three.

Please telephone Leslie Harvey at 0208 780 5464.

MY 70TH BIRTHDAY CAKE.

My wonderful son-in-law made this beautiful cake for my birthday, in honour of my allotment!



NOTICES

RGS CONTACTS

Site Manager is Shirley Gillbe;
Site 2 Allotment Secretary is
Georgina O'Reilly;
Site 3 Allotment Secretary:
Helen Finch

SECURITY

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

DISCOUNTS

10% discount to RGS card holders
when you show your RGS card:
Adrian Hall Garden Centre at
Sheen;
Capital Gardens, opposite
Wandsworth Prison.

DATES FOR	2015 DIARIES
Summer Show	20 June
Autumn Show	12 September
Autumn Show	12 September
AGM	18 November

Small Ads

The Cartridge People

Help raise funds for the RGS while
saving money yourself when you
buy ink cartridges from the
"Cartridge people":

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

10% of your order goes to RGS

Recycle Used Cartridges in the
box in the Store.

The Conservation Foundation Tool Shed

Mend and re-furbish broken and old
gardening tools for schools.

conservationfoundation.co.uk

THE STORE

The Store is open Sunday morning
between 10.00 a.m. and noon.

There is a café serving, tea, coffee
and homemade cake.

We are always looking for
volunteers to help run the Store on
Sunday mornings. If you can help
Contact Carol Martinez via the
website:

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

Or leave a message in the Store or
email at

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

www.vegetableseeds.com

AUSTIN MOWERS (sharpens shears as well)

300 Garratt lane, SW18 4EH.
020 8874 4206

**www.austinmowers.com
austinmowers@aol.com**

NEXT BULLETIN

Comments, questions to Chair &
Committee via the website:
root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Comments and copy for the next
Bulletin, by 25 January 2015

please, to Pat Dark (tel. 8789 7568)
27 St Margarets Crescent, SW15
6HL or at
patdark13@yahoo.co.uk

**Next Bulletin: Sunday 1st February
2015, by email, in the Store and on
both sites.**

Show Awards 2014

Special Awards for the Summer Show

The Roehampton Estate Challenge Cup (presented by Douglas Overall)
– The best vegetable in the summer show – **Raj Patel (Carrots)**

The Hugh & Lady Linstead Centenary Cup– The most points for vegetables in the summer show – **Raj Patel**

The Davis Memorial Cup – The best exhibit for 1 vegetable/1 fruit/1 flower
– **John & Mary Jane Ireland**

The Lady Hudson Cup - The best rose in the summer show – **Pat Davis**

The Dr Howard Coulthard Cup - The best bowl of roses arranged for all round effect - **Mariangela Renshaw**

The Lady Corry Cup - The best vase of multiflora roses - **David Rossiter**

The A Norman Rogers Challenge Cup - The best vase of cut flowers, 3 or more kinds - **Pat Davis**

The Barbara Dacie Cup - The best flower display in a goblet – **Eileen May**

The Summer Cookery Cup – The highest number of points in Section F – **Jo Medler**

The WTF Iles Memorial Cup– The novice with most points in the summer show – **Jenny Gorle**

Special Awards for the Autumn Show

The Reta Challenge Cup – The best vegetable in the autumn show
– **John & Mary Jane Ireland – (Sweetcorn)**

The Hugh & Marie Jenkins Trophy – The most points for vegetables in autumn show – **Raj Patel**

Dr Miguel Lacroze Cup – The best Harvest Collection – B19
- **Carol Martinez**

The Tommie Noon Cup – The best exhibit in class C54 – 5 different vegetables/fruit - **Carol Martinez**

The Barnes & Mortlake Herald Challenge Cup – The best exhibit of dahlias
– **Susan McDonald**

The Jack Hawkins Challenge Cup – The best vase of 4 different types of flower (A8)– **Pat Davis**

The Ben Dandey Memorial Cup – The best vase of roses in the autumn show, either HT or multiflora - **Pat Davis**

The Autumn Cookery Cup (Ladies Cup) – The exhibitor gaining the highest number of points in Section G – **Ali Linton**

The Percy Barnes Memorial Cup – The novice with most points in the autumn show – **Marjuska Kortelainen**

Annual Awards

The Reverend PG Wallis Cup – The most points for fruit in both shows
– **Robert Linton**

The JHP Higgins Cup – The exhibitor gaining the most points in horticultural classes but not successful in winning a major award – **Carole Sewell**

The Banksian Medal – The exhibitor with most prize money in horticultural sections of both shows – **John & Mary Jane Ireland** (This cannot be won by the same person within 3 years)

The Rita Noon Cup – The most points in the children's classes in both shows
– **Isla O'Reilly**

The RGS Challenge/Paula Alderson Memorial Cup – For the best-kept allotment
– **Geoff Smith**