

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

February 2014

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Happy New Year
New Style Store, well stocked.



Come and buy seed potatoes and onions



Refreshments

Pruning the apple tree on site 3



Start of the prune



Pruning process



End of the prune

See article on page 2 about the pruning of the apple tree on site 3.

Hazardous Conditions

Please be very cautious when walking on the allotment site paths. The recent wet weather has made them very slippery and a few members have already had some bad (and extremely muddy) falls.

CHAIRS REPORT

A Happy New Year to you all! I am pleased to say that at last the **scaffolding** on the house at the entrance to our Site 2 (The Pleasance) has been adjusted so we can have free access for larger vehicles again. It has been a long story but mainly the scaffold prevented the rubbish truck, organised by Wandsworth Council, gaining access so we had to make alternative arrangements. (Please see Georgina's article later in this Bulletin.)

The scaffolding also meant that no delivery vehicles could get in to the store and all the goods had to be carried in from the roadside, so many thanks particularly to Dave McCall and Mike Ebberson for their cheerful hard work! Not only that but the scaffold also meant that Site 2 plot holders have been deprived of manure deliveries at this important time. We apologise for the inconvenience; deliveries will be resumed as soon as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you, if you have Internet access, to take a look at our website: www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk. You will find, amongst other items, Diary Dates (RGS events as well as others in the area are listed here), the Store price list, Bulletins back dated for 2 years and, from March, you will find Minutes of our monthly Committee meetings.

As agreed at the AGM, the Lease Renewal Sub-Committee is working on our proposal to become a **CIC**, while looking at other models. We hope to have something to put to you in April, but please let me have any alternative proposals before then. We are still looking for a member with **accountancy skills** to help us out – any time you can give will be eagerly accepted! **Volunteering** really is fun – whether you would like to help at the Store or with the Shows or deliveries we really need your help. Some duties might be only a few hours a year, others more involved. Whatever you can offer we look forward to hearing from you.

Jackie Savage, Chair
jisavage@talktalk.net
07508 559134

NEWS FROM THE STORE!

Freshly decorated and stocked to the brim, the Store offers fantastic bargains, home made cakes, hot drinks and a welcoming atmosphere! We have managed to reduce prices on some products, and have new stock too! (See www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk for full price list)

A flavour is listed below:

FOR SALE in the Store, 4 varieties of potatoes, all potatoes 12p each, or by the kilo. Red or white onions, or mixed - 70 for £1 or 30 for 40p. Buy exactly what you need and plant the same day!

NEW in the Store, a great range of Kings Seeds with 20% off marked price, a bargain! Kings Seeds are one of the oldest seed Companies.

NEW - Root Trainers, re-useable seed trays, that allow a really good root formation, at an excellent price of £4, (usually retail from £8 upwards!)

NEW - CALCIFIED SEAWEED
This is NOT the same as Dried Seaweed.

It can be used as an alternative to lime, changing the PH level of the soil, making it more alkaline.

Produced from naturally occurring calcified coralline algae, it is formed on the seabed from dead seaweed, coral and crushed up shells. It is a natural product, dried and formed into granules. It is as good as lime for helping to stop club root, dug in or as a top dressing. It is slightly slower acting than lime as it is in a different form. Its advantage is that it will not burn plants, indeed plants often attach to the granules taking up very important trace elements directly. Calcified Seaweed also attracts beneficial bacteria and insects to the soil, improving its balance, as well as breaking down clay soil. A good price at £1 per kilo.

DRIED SEAWEED, also sold at the Store, as mentioned before

in previous Bulletins is also an excellent naturally occurring product, fresh seaweed, just dried. A soil improver, used for decades by gardeners to improve the soil and as a foliar feed.

NEW - Liquid Seaweed, *bring your own bottle!* Bring your own recycled one litre bottle to buy this excellent form of liquid seaweed. We can measure you out a litre or more, a cheaper way to buy this plant food @ £5.00 per litre.

PRICE REDUCTIONS: Country Natural down to £3 per bag, Dried Seaweed Down to £3.50 per kilo, Rock Dust down to £1 per kilo, to name a few!

We continue to have the 'Bargain Corner' with second-hand tools, stock etc., great if you are a new allotment member, look here before buying new!

Site 3 Members if you have difficulty getting large bags from the Store to Site 3, there is now a way!

Country Natural, New Horizon and Clover are kept in a small shed, to the left of the main entrance, where the manure is delivered. Just pay at the Store, obtain a receipt and present the receipt to a member whose name is on the shed door.

We do need a few more strong

people to help unload the lorries of all the wonderful stuff we have!

If you can help, please contact let Jackie at:

jisavage@talktalknet or

Barbara at

barbaramccall@hotmail.co.uk

Or leave your contact details at the Store. It will really help to spread the load!!

Barbara McCall, Store Committee Member

PRUNING OF APPLE TREE ON SITE 3

About 15 of us gathered on a very wet morning on 26 January to learn and to help Damien (plot holder on Site 2) prune the overgrown apple tree on plot 85B, (which is now a common plot for us all to enjoy the fruit of the tree).

Damien was very skilful and informative. He explained his pruning method and answered questions about this particular lovely old Bramley and gave general tree advice. Damien was careful not to prune too much of the tree and there will be summer pruning required to keep it in shape.

The wood that was pruned out is available under the tree on the plot as well as along the main path and at the end of plot 83. Please help yourself; particularly popular are the cuttings that will make good pea sticks.

Once warmer weather is with us we may build a wildlife habitat under the tree, but any other suggestions for the common use of the ground are welcome.

With special thanks to Barbara McCall and Bill Young.

Jackie Savage

RUBBISH COLLECTION ON SITE 2

Plot holders and visitors to Site 2 could not fail to have noticed the slow removal of the chaotic and unsightly rubbish pile on the hard standing next to The Store. The problem arose for several reasons.

Firstly, there was a breakdown in communication at WBC's end that meant that the annual rubbish collection did not occur by the end of November as agreed. By the time this was sorted out, scaffolding had been erected on the WBC-owned house at the entrance to the site and it was decided that there was not enough clearance for the rubbish collection lorry to gain access. Up until this time plot-holders had followed requests to bag all rubbish, stack glass separately and not include compostable waste. Over late December and the Christmas period rubbish was added un-bagged and randomly and it was obvious that it was also being used for dumping of general household waste and bags of soil and stones. This has caused a major problem to

manage. Although the Council agreed a one-off payment for us to use a smaller vehicle to remove some of the pile, this has not met the full cost. We are very grateful to Mike Ebberson who has patiently given of his time and muscle to bag the waste that had been so carelessly dumped.

We would be grateful if plot-holders could take a bag when they make a car run to the dump so that the area is cleared for an overdue manure delivery.

Georgina O'Reilly, Site 2 Secretary

Wood Chip

Keep an eye out for a wood chip delivery for site 2 once the current manure pile is gone. Plot-holders may find this very useful for waterlogged paths. Leslie's path to the chickens (Plot 20) is a good example of effective use if wood chip.

Georgina O'Reilly, Site 2 Secretary

Book Review

'Grow your own Vegetables' by Joy Larkcom

A young friend and allotmenteer gave me a copy of the above book recently. Although, not a newly published book (originally 1995), it is well written and full of common sense. The first half of the book covers the basics, such as the vegetable garden site, soil, manure and

compost, planning and protection. The second half is a detailed vegetable directory, written in alphabetical order from Amaranthus leaf (Chinese spinach) to Turnips. She discusses, site and soil, cultivation, pests and diseases, harvesting and cultivars for each vegetable.

I have enjoyed dipping into it and found it most useful.

Pat Dark

February Recipe

A great opportunity to use your purple sprouting broccoli in a new way.

Fettuccine with purple sprouting broccoli

1 onion, finely chopped
1 organic garlic clove, chopped
4 anchovy fillets, chopped
2 tsp capers, rinsed chopped
1 tsp rosemary leaves
1 tsp chopped flat leaf parsley
4 tsp extra virgin olive oil
285g/10oz purple sprouting broccoli
450g/1lb fresh fettuccine
½ lemon juice
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Parmesan shavings, to serve

1. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan and when hot add the onions, garlic, anchovies, capers, rosemary and parsley. Fry gently until the onions have softened, without colouring them. Keep warm until ready to serve.
2. While this is cooking, heat the fettuccine in boiling water

and steam the broccoli on top for about 4 minutes.
3. Drain and toss the fettuccine and broccoli together and add the hot onion mixture. Add lemon juice and season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Serve with shavings of Parmesan.

**Chiswick House
Camellia Festival
1-30 March 2014
10.30 am – 4.0 pm
(last ticket 3.15)**

The Camellia collection at Chiswick House is one of the finest collections in the country and they are displayed in the newly restored conservatory.

Tickets cost £8, concessions £7 and reductions for English Heritage and Art Fund members.

From Putney main line station you can get a train direct to Chiswick Station and it is a 7 minute walk, down Park Road to the entrance.

www.chgt.org.uk

Would you like to contribute to the Bulletin?

I would welcome any recommendations or reviews of books you have read for the Bulletin. Also contributions of recipes, topical websites, or information or advice.

***Thanks Pat Dark
Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk***

Getting your Bulletin by email

2/3 of members now get their Bulletin by email.

If you have an email address and are not getting your Bulletin this way, please send me an email
topatdark13@yahoo.co.uk
And I will add you to the list

***Thanks Pat Dark
Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk***

NOTICES

RGS CONTACTS

The RGS Site Manager is:
Paula Alderson;
Site 2 Allotment Secretary:
Georgina O'Reilly;
Site 3 Allotment Secretary:
Helen Finch & Paula Alderson

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 from:
Adrian Hall Garden Centre at Sheen;
Wimbledon Gardener, Merton Road,
Capital Gardens, opposite Wandsworth Prison.
Discount will be given if you show your membership card.

DATES FOR	2014 DIARIES
Summer Show	14 June
Autumn Show	13 September
AGM	26 Nov

Small Ads

The Cartridge People

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

www.cartridgepeople.com/RaisingMoneyFor/Roehampton-GS

10% of your order goes to RGS

Recycling Used Cartridges

These can be recycled using 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.uk

Or leave a message in the Store or email at

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 February 2014 please, to Pat Dark (tel. 8789 7568) 27 St Margarets Crescent, SW15 6HL.

patdark13@yahoo.co.uk

Next Bulletin: 5 March 2014, by email, in the Store and on both site.