

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

February 2016

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

**WINTER HAS ARRIVED
AND SO HAS SPRING!**



Primroses



Snowdrops

Sincere apologies to Pamela Partridge re the Ruby Chard recipe last month.

I am very sorry the recipe was for Ruby Chard not rhubarb as I said in the December Bulletin.

The correct recipe for Ruby Chard Bake can be found at the end of this Bulletin. Please ignore the one in the December Bulletin, as rhubarb leaves are poisonous and will make you very sick!

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF
ALLOTMENT RENTS - to be
collected in April.**

See page 2

GUEST SPEAKER

**RGS is delighted to
host
Wandsworth's
allotment judge,
Paul Ellis-Howe
who will discuss
allotmenting and
judging a plot**

**At the Store (Site 2
next to 18 The
Pleasance)
On Sunday 13th
March at 12 noon.**

**Limited places please
book early
root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk
Or 07508 559134
(Jackie)**

CHAIR'S REPORT

Our soggy plots have not been very welcoming this winter but from the amount of manure that has been used I can see a lot of you have been very busy. Thanks go to Derrick Ratcliffe for organising the regular deliveries of manure.

There is little to report on our Charity status. We are working on a new lease that will be acceptable to both the Charities Commission and Wandsworth Council before we take the next steps.

Wishing you a happy and productive gardening year!

Jackie Savage
Jackiesavage29@gmail.com
07508 559134

ADVANCE WARNING OF 2016 RENTS

Roehampton Garden Society Advance Notice of Allotment Rents due April 2016			
2016 table of rents			
	Full	Senior	Disabled
Rate/Rod	21.5	17.5	16.5
RODS			
0.5	10.75	8.75	8.25
1	21.50	17.50	16.50
1.5	32.25	26.25	24.75

2	43.00	35.00	33.00
2.5	53.75	43.75	41.25
3	64.50	52.50	49.50
3.5	75.25	61.25	57.75
4	86.00	70.00	66.00
4.5	96.75	78.75	74.25
5	107.50	87.50	82.50
5.5	118.25	96.25	90.75
6	129.00	105.00	99.00
6.5	139.75	113.75	107.25
7	150.50	122.50	115.50
7.5	161.25	131.25	123.75
8	172.00	140.00	132.00
8.5	182.75	148.75	140.25
9	193.50	157.50	148.50
Note: Additional charges			
Water rate = £2 per rod			
Insurance = £1 per plot holder			
RGS membership fees = £3 or £1.50 (over 60's)			

STORE REPORT

Several members gave up their Saturday morning on 2 January to come to the Store to give it a spring clean. Floors were swept and the shelves wiped down in readiness for its re-opening on 10 January. We also took the opportunity to rearrange some of the items so that they are easier to get to and there is now more room to mill around. My thanks to everyone involved.

We also had a delivery that week to ensure the Store is fully stocked. This includes all versions of John Innes compost and plenty of additives to improve the quality of the soil in readiness for the growing season. There are fish, blood and bone, rock dust, seaweed, growmore and sulphate of potash, all sold loose by the kilo.

We have had a long wait for onion fertilizer that has been out of stock for some months. I am pleased to say that 50 kilos was delivered to my house this week and is available to buy by the kilo from Sunday 24 January. This is high in nutrients at the correct balance to enhance strong bulb development. Spread at 120 gm per square metre mixing well into the root zone. This should produce tastier and increased yields of onions, shallots and garlic.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Store on Sundays between 10-12 to buy what you need and for tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake.

Gill Tamsett
Trading Secretary

Please bring along your own carrier bag when you shop in the store as now that we have to pay for supermarket bags we are running out of bags to give away.

If you do have plastic carrier bags or paper bags spare that you can donate to the store these will be greatly appreciated.

SEED POTATOES AND ONION SETS IN THE STORE

Seed potatoes are now available in store.

CHITTING

Set out to 'chit' straight away. Place the potatoes in egg boxes or seed trays. If you can already see where they will chit (or sprout), point these upwards. Put in a dry, frost free and light place but not in direct sunlight. Once 'chitted', retain 3 or 4 of the strongest sprouts and the potatoes can be planted out from mid March.

There are 4 varieties of potatoes available:

First Early: Arran Pilot. A very early traditional 'new' potato that was popular in the 30's. They have excellent yield and flavour.

Second Early: Kestrel. A good all rounder especially for making chips and roasts. Good resistance to slug damage.

Second Early / Salad: Charlotte. Has a uniform shape and is great as a salad potato. **SELLING FAST**

Main crop: Picasso. Good for roasts and mash. Good disease

resistance. Stores well – **SELLING FAST**

All potatoes are £2.00 per kilo and sold by weight so you can buy just a few if you have a small plot.

By the end of January we will have the following onion sets and shallots for spring planting:

Red Karmen: A red skinned, flattened globe shape. Flesh is white with light crimson circles between the scales. A fine and sweet taste means it is good for both salads and cooking. Plant out from early April onwards. These onions store well.

Sturon: A white-fleshed onion with light gold skin. Globe shaped and with very crisp flesh. It has long storage qualities.

Red Sun: A deep red coloured variety that reaches a good size producing 5 or 6 crisp, white fleshed shallots from each set. They have a distinctive spicy taste so can be used raw in salads; they are also good for pickling. Plant out from early April onwards.

Prices for onions and shallots will be very competitive and will be sold by weight.

If you can bring along a bag or 2 when you shop for potatoes it will be appreciated.

Carol Martinez

SECURITY/CLOSING THE GATES

The new locks on the gates are a big improvement. Please make sure that when you lock the gate you also slide home the bolt to

strengthen the gate and for extra security. Many thanks.

RUBBISH

Any non-compostable material must be removed from the site by plot-holders. Please bag it up and take to the Council refuse tip in Wandsworth.

BONFIRES

Unfortunately, at the annual bonfire night parties, neighbours living adjacent to the sites called the fire brigade to both sites. Concern was also expressed about the size of the bonfires.

The Committee is reviewing the events of the evening and putting together a policy. Comments are being sought on the following areas:

- a. There will be 2 official bonfire parties. The fires will be carefully supervised at all times.
- b. We will leaflet the houses adjacent to the sites with information about the parties.
- c. There will be a large notice on the gate when the parties are taking place giving a telephone number of a committee member on site to call in case of emergency.
- d. Plot holders may have an individual small fire on November 5th after dusk.
- e. Water must be visible i.e. full watering cans or a connected hose.
- f. Fires must be dampened down before leaving the site.

Comments via the website, to Jackie or please leave a note at the Store.

WELCOME TO NEW PLOT HOLDERS AND MEMBERS

Site 2

Jane Varnus

Neil Mason

Site 3

Paul Osbourne

Andy and Paulette Ward

Jonathan Spraggs

Caroline Holohan

FIRST TASTE OF EGG AND CHIPS PLANT

Jackie forwarded this article to me. I thought, at first, that it was an 'April Fools Joke' but no it is a 'serious' article from *'The Times'*.



Simon de Bruxelles

Published at 12:01AM, January 7
2016

It is the perfect plant for the epicure and lovers of Greek food. Horticulturalists have come up with a single plant that provides the ingredients for a moussaka, apart from the lamb, all from the same pot.

The new "Egg and Chips" plant produces aubergines — or eggplants, if you are an American — and potatoes from the same stem, saving space and time if your garden is a window box or a pot on the patio.

The Franken-plant is the result of years of trials by horticulturalists, who have succeeded in grafting the two closely related vegetables together.

The new plant is on sale now, but will be delivered this spring. Kitchen gardeners should be eating their first crop at the end of the summer, with each one expected to produce four aubergines and 2kg of potatoes.

Thompson & Morgan, the Suffolk-based company that developed the plant, said that dual-cropping was ideal for small gardens. Michael Perry, its product development manager, said: "For seasoned veg growers, Egg and Chips is a real innovation. For those without the luxury of an allotment or large vegetable patch, it makes the most of available space in the garden. Even the smallest patio or balcony can accommodate a pot-grown Egg and Chips plant."

The two vegetables belong to the same plant family, known as the Solanaceae, or nightshades. The potato is said to support the weight of the aubergines better than its own root system can in British soil. The plant, which is available by mail order in 9cm pots for £14.99, may not be ideal for moussaka, however — the aubergines can be harvested at the end of summer and the potatoes two weeks later. The aubergine variety chosen for the grafting process is a modern strain that has had any bitterness bred out of it. Mr Perry added: "It also dispels the myth that you need to salt, wash and dry aubergines to draw out bitter juices before cooking — a laborious chore that has put many people off growing

these Mediterranean plants in the UK — so you can simply pick, chop and cook it.”

Franken-fruit and veg

Tomtato or pomato

As the name suggests, this is a hybrid that produces both tomatoes and potatoes, but it does not do away with the need for tomato ketchup with your chips.

Pluot

This is a cross between a plum and an apricot created by Floyd Zaiger, the Nebraskan biologist, which has 13 varieties of its own.

Tangelo

A tangerine crossed with a grapefruit or pomelo.

Rabbage

A radish crossed with a cabbage developed by a Soviet agronomist in the 1920s. It never really caught on.

RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES!

SHED WANTED

Eveleen Mc Geary is a plot holder on the Pleasance site and is looking for a shed. If you have a shed you would like to sell please contact her, through the store or email me, Pat Dark, details at the end of the Bulletin, and I will forward you email.

FOR SALE: SUPER HEN HOUSE

Model: Sandringham purchased from www.thechickenhousecompany.co.uk.

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

Almost new. Cost £496 + £75 for stand

Can be seen erected. Under cover since arrival. Genuine offer. Don't all rush I only have one!

Why newly new you may ask? Birds didn't like being moved from pasture and wouldn't go in.

CONTACT: Leslie Harvey Plot 18A Site 2

Leslieharvey123@btinternet.com

phone: 020 8780 5464

BEST

OFFER OVER £200



HOME WANTED FOR A PRESSURE COOKER

I have bought a new cooker with an induction hob and my beloved pressure cooker does not work on it! The pressure cook is made of stainless steel and is about 5 years old. No money wanted, maybe a donation to the store? Pat Dark

National Allotment Society
www.nsalg.org

National Allotments Week
8-14 August 2016

BAKED RUBY CHARD AND PARMESAN

Ingredients:

Ruby Chard
Knob of butter and dessertspoon of olive oil
Single cream
Grain mustard
Salt and pepper
Parmesan cheese

1. Wash the leaves and stalks well, separating the leaves from the stalks. Chop stalks into 2 inch pieces and sauté in a little butter and oil until tender.
2. Wilt leaves in same water or by steaming them. Squeeze excess water from leaves.
3. Arrange leaves in a buttered baking dish - then chopped stalks on top. Season with salt and pepper. Mix the mustard into the cream then drizzle over the chard.
4. Grate Parmesan cheese over the top. Bake in hot oven 180 degrees until top has light golden crust.

Thanks to Nigel Slater - although he uses double cream - 400ml and a good handful of Parmesan'

With sincere thanks to Pamela Partridge.

OBITUARIES

MISS NINA NAYLOR

In October 2015 the RGS lost one of its last links to its past with the death of Miss Nina Naylor who lived at 18 The Pleasance (adjacent to the main entrance to Site 2). Miss Naylor's family were the original tenants of this house on the Dover House Estate and the house had been lived in continuously by her family since the 1930s. Nina used to work the allotment that backed on to her garden as a young woman as well as other plots on the site during the war. She retained an interest in vegetable growing to the end.

A staunch supporter of the RGS, Nina was a key holder and the eyes and ears of Site 2. Her support, help and personality will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to her nieces Val and Ann.

Shirley Gillbe, Site 2

MRS JEANNE RATCLIFFE

Sadly, Jeanne Ratcliffe, Derrick's wife, died just before Christmas. Derrick and Jeanne had a very long and happy marriage, bringing up their two children in the house that Jeanne had lived in all her life. Jeanne was a very loved wife, mother and grandmother and will be sorely missed by her family. Our deepest sympathy goes to them all.

Pat Dark

MR PATSY CULLEN

Patsy Cullen, a very long serving allotmentee, has also died. After giving up his allotment he has spent his last years in a care home. Our thoughts are with his son and family.

Sheila Konig

NOTICES

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;

Comments, questions for Chair
and/or Committee via website:
root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

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 or
07508 559134

SECURITY

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

Dates for Your Diary

2016 dates:
Summer Show 2016: 11 June
Autumn Show 2016: 10 September
AGM 2016: 23 November

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

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;

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

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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

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

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.

**NEXT BULLETIN: The next
Bulletin**

Sunday 6 March 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 by 26
February 2016