

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

June 2016

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk



Many thanks to Robert Linton for the lovely photo of his Quince

SUMMER SHOW

Saturday 11 June 2016 at 3.00 pm

St Margaret's Church Hall, Putney Park Lane

Show schedules and entry forms attached. Please enter something! Vegetables, fruit, flowers or a cake or preserve. Also come along to see the entries, have a go at the raffle or tombola, buy some produce and enjoy a cup of tea with home made cake.

Lots of volunteers are needed to help. On Friday 10 June, at 5.00 pm people are needed to help load tables and equipment at the Store and then help unload and set up in the Church Hall. Lots of cakes are needed for the refreshment stall, produce and preserves, bottles for the tombola. Please try and help. Contact Carol Martinez at the Store or leave a message at: root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

CHAIR'S REPORT JUNE 2016

I am pleased to report that we seem to have moved on with our aim to become a Charity and secure a long lease on the allotment land. Ian Lewer, our local councillor, has met with both Wandsworth Council (who own the allotment land) and Enable (who manage the allotments) and the groundwork seems to be in place to move forward. We have now sent them our draft Constitution and Lease and we hope to work towards a decision by the summer. I am keeping our President, Justine Greening MP, informed.

There have been a few thefts reported again this month so please lock your valuables away. As the growing season is well underway remember that you must supervise any children and all dogs must be on leads, so that we can all enjoy our plots in peace.

See you at the Show!

Jackie

07508 559134

Jackiesavage29@gmail.com

SUMMER SHOW

The weather has been up and down, but most people will have now started to plant out a few of their seedlings – which means you should have some produce to exhibit at the show on Saturday afternoon 11th June.

The schedule has been tidied up over the last few years and it is now, how we think it should look, with a good choice of classes featuring flowers, fruits, vegetable and cookery. But, we are always open to suggestions and so there is

one new category this time - Elephant garlic.

Once again the featured recipe is a lemon drizzle cake that comes up lovely – so please have a go at making one, so that Helen the cookery judge can compare, contrast and taste all the different ways it can turn out.

Talking of cakes – the show wouldn't be so popular without the wonderful array of homemade cakes that are kindly donated for sale on the refreshment stall. If you can make a cake please let me know via

root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

or just bring it along to the church hall on Friday 10th between 18.00 and 19.00 or anytime on Saturday 11th. We also kindly ask for donations of seedlings, gardening items and jars of homemade jam for the produce stall, bottles / jars for the bottle tombola and small toys for the children's tombola.

We have lots of new plot holders so I'm hoping that there will be some new faces in the novice's section. This is the chance for first timers or those who have never won a first prize to show what they have grown. There will be lots of people to give advice on presentation on the morning of the show when all the entries are laid out.

So study the schedule and decide what you can enter. If your fruits and vegetables aren't ready on the day there is always cookery or flowers from your garden. If you have kids why not get them to enter something – there is now a cup for the child with the most points from both shows.

Carol Martinez, Show Chair

STORE REPORT

Part of my role as Trading Secretary is to try and keep abreast of developments regarding the products we sell in the Store. One such development is the possible ban on the use of Glyphosate by the general public.

In July 2015, the IARC (the International Agency for Research of Cancer), acting on behalf of the World Health Organisation, classified glyphosate as 'probably carcinogenic to humans'.

Also, when honeybees come into contact with glyphosate, scientific research has shown that they lose their ability to eat and have difficulty foraging.

However, the European Food Safety Authority concluded that glyphosate was 'unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans.'

The European Commission is currently preparing to decide whether to approve the use of glyphosate herbicide for another 15 years when the existing licence for the chemical expires in June 2016.

Given that our aim is to run the Store in an ethical and environmentally responsible way, we will not be ordering any more of the products that contain glyphosate, namely Roundup, Scotts Weedol, Pathclear and Bayer Tree Stump until the situation is resolved. I will be testing Weedol's Fast Acting 1 hour Weedkiller gun as an alternative.

Another alternative is vinegar. This has to be vinegar concentrates of 20 percent acetic acid. One can spray the product directly onto the plant that strips off the waxy protective coating on the foliage

making the plant dry out all the way to the root.

Alternatively, vinegar concentrates can be sprayed onto the soil as a soil drench. This lowers the soil pH to a level where the plants cannot survive. Once the weeds are dead, which may take up to 6 months, the soil pH needs to be brought back to a neutral level using lime.

Another alternative is, of course, deep weeding!

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

BEING WATER WISE

Ensuring your crops have sufficient moisture for their needs can be a real challenge for allotment holders, particularly in dry and warm summers. The following tips should reduce the amount of watering required, and also ensure that your plots get the most benefit from any water used.

Improving soil structure will have a big impact on keeping your soil moist, and will also enable each plant to grow its root system sufficiently to maximise the available nutrients. The best way to establish good soil structure is to add lots of organic matter. This is true whatever type of soil you have. The most obvious example of this is well-rotted garden compost, but spent hops, farmyard manure and composted stable manure will also do a good job.

Make sure that **nutrient levels** in your soil are good, as plants use water most efficiently where nutrient levels are good. You should aim to feed the soil, not the plants, as direct feeding of your

crops can encourage too much lush growth which will require extra watering.

Keep your soil **free of weeds & grass** as these will compete with your crops for any available moisture, and **mulch your soil** to retain soil moisture. Apply a thick layer of mulch while the soil is moist. This will help to retain the moisture in your soil and will also prevent competing weeds from establishing. The same materials that are used for improving the structure also make good mulches.

Avoid watering frequently in small dribbles. Give individual plants a good soak and then mulch.

Water in the **evenings or early mornings** when the day is cool. This allows water to soak into the ground instead of evaporating.

Apply water to the **base of your plants**, this ensures that water quickly gets down to the roots where it is needed.

(This article is reproduced from the spring edition of the Wandsworth Horticultural Association Spring 2016 Newsletter, with thanks)

BEES & ALLOTMENTS

Allotments can provide an ideal habitat for bees and the results of the first Great British Bee Count published in 2014 suggest that bees are more common on allotment sites than in any other type of habitat including parks, gardens and the open countryside. Sadly, scientists warn that British bees are in serious decline with 71

of our wild bee species under threat and more than 20 already extinct. Loss of habitat and forage are the main problems facing wild bees. Since the Second World War, 97% of the UK's wild flower-rich grassland has been lost due to modern farming practices and urban development.

All bees make excellent pollinators of fruit and vegetable crops, and their value to UK agriculture and productive allotments, is immense. Keeping honeybees requires specialist knowledge and competency in maintaining healthy hives. Neither Beatrix Potter or Sailor Prince are suitable for hosting honey bee hives due to the densely packed nature of the sites, and the relatively small plot sizes, but it is possible to encourage both Bumblebees and Solitary Bees on to your plots;

There are over 220 species of **Solitary Bees** in the UK, and they make excellent pollinators. They carry less pollen than honey bees so need to make more trips between flowers and their nest consequently pollinating more plants. As the name suggests Solitary Bees live alone rather than in large colonies, and are very docile. They nest either in underground burrows (Miner Bees), or in holes in wood. To encourage bees on to your plot you can provide nesting boxes. These can be easily made from a section of log with 6mm and 8mm holes drilled into it, or from bundles of 10mm to 20 mm lengths of bamboo tied together. Solitary bees love the morning sun so place your bee home in full sun and firmly fix it so it doesn't move. The flight path

should be unobstructed allowing the bee easy access.



Solitary bee houses

Remember that your bee house will need maintenance at the end of the summer to prevent the build-up of fungus moulds, mites and other pests and parasites.

The UK has 24 species of [bumblebee](#), but only eight are commonly found in most places. They also make excellent pollinators, and nest in colonies rather than singly. Most species prefer dry, dark cavities to nest in including under sheds and compost heaps. Some will also nest above ground in bird boxes or lofts and trees. In gardens they will chose a relatively undisturbed area, which will be unexposed to the sun, as their nests should be kept cool. It can be difficult to encourage bumblebees to nest in a specific place – even specially designed nest boxes have limited success.

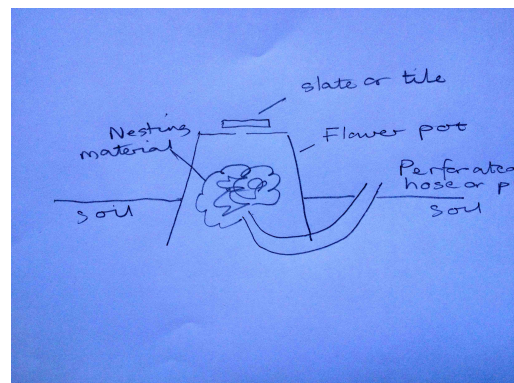
However, here is a simple design to build a suitable nesting site.

What you need:

- a flowerpot (20cm in diameter)
- a piece of slate or tile
- a length of tube, hose or pipe.
- a piece of chicken wire
- nesting material such as dry straw or hay cut into short lengths. Old bedding from a pet rodent is ideal!

Instructions:

1. Perforate the pipe with small drainage holes.
2. Form the chicken wire into a cup shape.
3. Fill the chicken wire cup with a generous handful of nesting material and place in the flowerpot.
4. Sink up to one third of the upturned flowerpot into the ground, making sure that the nesting material does not fall out.
5. Run the tube, hose or pipe underground to the pot, leaving the other end prominently above ground as an entrance.
6. Cover the drainage hole in the pot with the slate or tile.



Wandsworth Horticultural Association Spring 2016 newsletter

Welcome to new plot-holders and RGS members

Site 2

Jane Askam, Sophie Theodorou, Stephen O'Kelly, Julie Hadingham, Angela Kelly.

Site 3

**Alison Wraggs
Johanna Williams**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

2 volunteers are needed to help clean the toilets on Site 3. You will be part of a team as the work is done on a rota so you will be needed only twice during the year. If you could help please talk to Helen or contact her at root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

STORE SWAP SHOP

Do you have surplus PRODUCE, SEEDS, PLANTS, and TOOLS etc that you can't use?

Bring them to the Store and put them in the SWAP SHOP container.

(Try and label them so we know what they are!)

Maybe you will find something you would like in exchange that week

– Or maybe you will find something later in the season. OR if you are taking (and not giving) just put your donation In the pink pig on the Store counter.

THANK YOU!

JUNE RECIPE

- A BBC Food recipe by Simon Rimmer

**Broad Bean and Courgette Pilaf
Ingredients**

1 tsp cumin seeds
1 tsp. coriander seeds
50ml/2 fl oz vegetable oil
1 onion
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
1 cinnamon stick
1 tsp ground turmeric
10 cardamom pods, lightly crushed
2 cloves
225g/8 oz basmati rice, soaked in water for 20 minutes and drained
200g/70z small broad beans, podded
400ml/14 fl oz vegetable stock
4 courgettes cut into 3cm/1 inch rounds
Olive oil for brushing
Salt and pepper
50g/2 oz butter

Method

Fry the cumin and coriander seeds quickly in a dry pan until aromatic and lightly brown. Grind the seeds.

Heat the oil in a pan and fry the onion and garlic until softened. Add the ground spices, cinnamon stick, turmeric, cardamom pods and cloves and cook for 2 minutes.

Add the rice, broad beans and stock. Cover pan and simmer for 12-15 minutes until rice is tender.

Meanwhile, heat a griddle, brush the courgettes with olive oil and char them on both sides

Stir the butter into the pilaf and season well. Top with the courgette, some chopped parsley, lemon slices and a dollop of yoghurt.

NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2016 dates:

Summer Show 2016: 11 June
Autumn Show 2016: 10 September
RHS Wisley visit: 14 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;
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

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION TOOL SHED Mend and re-furbished old garden tools

for schools

www.conservationfoundation.co.uk
www.vegetableseeds.com

DISCOUNTS

Adrian Hall, East Sheen

On presentation of your RGS membership card you will receive 10% discount on horticultural goods that you take away with you, not on delivered items.

Neal's, Heathfield Road, SW18 3HR (opposite Wandsworth Prison)

Register for their loyalty card, as an RGS member by showing your membership card, giving your name, email address, post-code. A 7% retrospective discount on goods purchased, which can be redeemed at the time of the next purchase (like a Nectar card). The amount of discount is recorded as 'points' on the card and shown on each till receipt. £5.00 worth of points is put on your card as a thank you when you register.

If you are over 50, and a loyalty card member, you will receive 10% discount on Wednesdays.

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

YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH Professional & Reliable Service

Complete Security Specialists
Keys Cut

**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 the 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

MANTRA LANDSCAPES

grounds maintenance specialists
www.mantralandscapes.com
Alexander Barrington Thompson-Byer
Tel: +44 (0)7985 463 283

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 bagged up and gardeners are welcome to collect between 8am -5pm, 7 days a week. They will also deliver manure in larger loads (approx 60 bags) to allotments in the area, 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
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

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

NEXT BULLETIN:

The next Bulletin
Sunday 3 July 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 18 June 2016