

# **ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 1873

## **MONTHLY BULLETIN**

March 2016

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

***Ready for Spring: photos from allotments on Site 2 and 3.***



***The Linton's broad beans***



***Albert's plot- ready for spring***



### **Plot 41D**

**Foreground healthy broad beans ready to go; middle bed spinach and beetroot, rear bed leeks.**

### **INSIDE**

**MARCH PLOT INSPECTIONS AND RENTS**

**WORKING FOR THE BROWNIES GARDENING BADGE**

**RECIPE FOR QUINCE CHEESE**

## **CHAIRS REPORT**

The growing season has started and we have lots of green shoots on our plots and in our gardens. The store has been very busy already, with our members browsing the seeds (so tempting!) and buying potatoes, onions and fertilisers. The water will be turned on again as soon as there are no frosts forecast.

We also have our plot inspections on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March (please see article later in Bulletin) and ask that if you are giving up you let us know now so we can arrange for your plot to be let to one of the 200+ people on the waiting list in time for a good start to the season and before rent collection in April.

I have little new to report on our Charity status. Our main concern is that any new lease with Wandsworth is acceptable to the Charities Commission. We are working on this with the help of Cllr Ian Lewer.

Please let me know if you would like to come and hear our Guest Speaker, Paul Ellis-Howe on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Paul is the Best Plot Judge (Wandsworth) so you may have a lot of questions for him. He will be at the Store from 12 noon. As you know there isn't much room in the store so we need numbers and questions beforehand if possible. Thank you.

**Jackie Savage**

**[Jackiesavage29@gmail.com](mailto:Jackiesavage29@gmail.com)**

**07508 559134**

## **STORE REPORT**

This is the month to finish your soil preparation ready for planting. We had a large delivery of Country Natural last week so, if you did not mulch your plot with manure towards the end of last year, you can dig in and plant immediately with Country Natural.

Now is the time to look at the packets of Kings Seeds sold in the Store at a 20% discount and start planting your seeds for this year's crops. Our Deep Root Trainers are excellent for starting off your seeds and cost £4 for 32 cells. We have plenty of John Innes Seed and Cutting Compost sold in 20 litre bags at £4.00 and Vermiculite sold loose at £2 a kilo.

We still have potatoes on sale at the Store at £2 per kilo. Once they have finished chitting, wait until the soil has warmed up, after a few days of sunshine, and put 5 cms/2" of organic matter over the area before you plant them.

Our onions and shallots are selling well at £1.50 a kilo or 75p for 500 gms. A good way to start the onions off is in small pots. Plant 4 onions in a 3" pot of multi-purpose compost and lightly water. Plant out at the end of March/early April when they have started to sprout putting the whole clump in the ground. If you have several pots, plant these 4"-6" apart.

At this time of year it is a good idea to clean up after winter and deal with disease and pest control. We sell Armillatox, although not licensed as a pesticide can be used to clean, sterilise and disinfect greenhouses, pots, patios and stone paths. Dilute 50 ml in 5 litres of water at an application rate of 1 litre per square meter. We also have Vitax Winter Wash, which is based on natural plant and fish oils designed to destroy overwintering pests and their eggs on fruit trees and bushes. Mix 50 ml per litre of water and apply as a fine spray during calm and dry conditions covering all the bark surfaces and crooks of branches and stems. This should be done straight away.

***Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary***

## **MARCH PLOT INSPECTIONS**

The next plot inspections will be carried out on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March. At this time of year the team is looking for a start of cultivation, before the rents are due on 1 April. Weeds should have been removed and at least 60 % of the plot area should either be ready for planting, have been planted with the first crops of the year or have viable crops left over from the winter. Soft fruit should have been pruned. The team expects to see plenty of clear bare ground although broad beans and peas might be visible. Paths around a plot should have been tamed and made safe to walk on. Please have your plot correctly numbered. Replacement plot numbers and labels are available free of charge at the store

If your plot has been badly neglected, we may not accept your rent and you risk losing your plot.

If you have been unable to work your plot due to illness or other reasons please let us know. For site 2 contact Georgina O'Reilly and for site 3 Helen Finch (see below for details).

We will contact you individually after the inspection if essential work needs to be done.

***Shirley Gillbe, Site Manager***

### ***Welcome to new RGS members and plot-holders***

#### **Site 2**

Darren Wright

#### **Site 3**

Valente Panattoni

Karen Crossly

Laura Polglase

Katie Morgan

## **RENT DUE 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL**

It's that time of year again already! If you have decided you **are not able to continue with** your plot so want to discontinue your tenancy, it is important to **tell either** \*Helen Finch for Site 3 or \*Georgina O'Reilly for site 2 as soon as possible and at least two weeks before rents are due. This is to ensure we do not have a shortfall on rent as it does take time to let a plot. It will also ensure an unwanted plot does not become overrun with weeds and difficult for the incoming tenant to get back under control.

### **Contact preferably by text or email:**

\*Helen Finch,

Mobile: 07736 422 373 or email: [helen.finch2@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.finch2@btinternet.com)

\*Georgina O'Reilly

Mobile: 07468 539 476 or email: [georgoreilly@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:georgoreilly@yahoo.co.uk)

**Shirley Gillbe, Site Manager**

### **ADVANCE WARNING OF 2016 RENTS/CHARGES**

<b>Roehampton Garden Society Advance Notice of Allotment Rents due April 2016</b>			
<b>2016 table of rents</b>			
	<b>Full</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
<b>Rate/Rod</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>RODS</b>			
<b>0.5</b>	<b>10.75</b>	<b>8.75</b>	<b>8.25</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>21.50</b>	<b>17.50</b>	<b>16.50</b>
<b>1.5</b>	<b>32.25</b>	<b>26.25</b>	<b>24.75</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>43.00</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>33.00</b>
<b>2.5</b>	<b>53.75</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>41.25</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>64.50</b>	<b>52.50</b>	<b>49.50</b>
<b>3.5</b>	<b>75.25</b>	<b>61.25</b>	<b>57.75</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>86.00</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>66.00</b>
<b>4.5</b>	<b>96.75</b>	<b>78.75</b>	<b>74.25</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>107.50</b>	<b>87.50</b>	<b>82.50</b>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>118.25</b>	<b>96.25</b>	<b>90.75</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>129.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>99.00</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>139.75</b>	<b>113.75</b>	<b>107.25</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>150.50</b>	<b>122.50</b>	<b>115.50</b>
<b>7.5</b>	<b>161.25</b>	<b>131.25</b>	<b>123.75</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>172.00</b>	<b>140.00</b>	<b>132.00</b>
<b>8.5</b>	<b>182.75</b>	<b>148.75</b>	<b>140.25</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>193.50</b>	<b>157.50</b>	<b>148.50</b>
<b>Note: Additional charges</b>			



Water rate = £2 per rod			
Insurance = £1 per plot holder			
RGS membership fees = £3 or £1.50 (over 60's)			

***SPRING ALLOTMENT PHOTOS FROM SARAH PURCELL (with many thanks)***



### **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.

### **PAINTING THE MODERN GARDEN: MONET TO MATISSE (30 JANUARY- 29 APRIL 2016)**

Do try and visit the above exhibition. It brings together Monet's painting of Giverny and examines the role of gardens in the development of modern art across Europe, featuring other major artists such as Manet and Klimt

Click on link below to find out more.

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

The exhibition has 5 star rating so is well worth a visit.

One of our members has been to the exhibition and sent me the following Paul Klee quote. Many will empathise with it.

**Paul Klee (1879-1940)**

**Flower Bed, 1913**

**Oil on cardboard**

Plants and gardens deeply fascinated Klee from an early age. Scholars estimate that he devoted around a tenth of his oeuvre, about 10,000 works in all, to plant imagery. Klee expressed his affinity for gardens in a letter to his fiancée, Lily:

***'My mind is clearest and freshest, and I often experience the most captivating moods, even moments of great joy, when I am tending plants in my garden, making cuttings, potting, binding, pruning, transplanting, separating, etc., and when I feel like a plant myself.'***

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. Estate of Karl Nierendorf, by purchase.

### **WORKING FOR THE BROWNIES GARDENING BADGE: BY SALLY BAKER**



Hi, my name is Sally Baker, I am 9 years old, and I like to help my mum out on her allotment, plot number 43a. (site 2)

I have been a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Barnes Brownies since October 2014 and this year I am hoping to get my Gardener Badge.

To get my badge I will need to

1. Explain how and why you keep your garden tidy and free from weeds.
2. Grow four kinds of fruits, vegetables, herbs or annual flowers from seeds or bulbs.  
Transplant the seedlings then tend and train them as necessary.
3. Do all the following:

Show which tools you need to care for your garden and how to keep them in good condition.

- Know the dangers of tools left lying around.
  - Know the dangers of garden products such as weed killers.
4. Know how the following affect your garden.
    - Light and shade.
    - Temperature and weather conditions.
    - Soil types.

As we go through the grow seasons I would like to keep you up to date on how my badge is going, with a write up and some photos of what I am growing and how it is all going. Hopefully I will be able to get my Gardener Badge at the end of the growing season to show you all.

This month I have been helping my mum to choose the seeds we would like to grow, and our crop growing plan, all ready for next month when I can start to sow some of my seeds indoors.

The four vegetables I would like to grow are leeks, onions, potatoes and carrots. The four fruits I would like to grow are melons, strawberries, apples and pears. (I am growing dwarf apple tree and dwarf pear trees in large pots). Finally the four herbs I would like to grow are sweet basil, garlic chives, mint and parsley. Until next month happy sowing.

**Sally Baker**

## **LETTER THANK YOU**

To all my friends and acquaintances in RGS, I wish to express my heartfelt and sincere thanks for your support and sympathy following the death of my dear wife, Jeanne, in mid-December. It is comforting to me and my family that so many of you have come forward and offered your sympathy and help in this sad and distressing time.

My grateful thanks once again

Yours sincerely

***Derrick Ratcliffe***

## **ORCHIDS AT KEW GARDENS**

Every spring Kew Gardens puts on a splendid Orchid Festival. Below are some images. The exhibition finishes on 6 March but there will be another next year at this time.

Some Orchids are becoming endangered, particularly the 'Slipper Orchids'.



### ***Margaret Mees: Brazilian botanical art***

A lovely exhibition has just opened at Kew of the work of Margaret Mees, an amazing woman and artist, who made her first trip to the Amazon when she was 47 and her last aged 78. The drawings are exquisite and well worth visiting.

### ***Wild Orchid found in France***





## **MARCH RECIPE**

Quinces are in fashion! Recently, I have seen several recipes for quinces. I have just made this cheese with quinces from my garden. I got the recipe from the River Cottage site, so many thanks to Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

The Quince Cheese needs to mature for 4-6 weeks before using and will last for about a year.

It has a delicious lemony scent and sweet/sharp taste, and is an excellent accompaniment with cheese.

## **QUINCE CHEESE**

Quinces

Sugar

Wash the quinces well. Roughly chop them and put them into a pan and just cover with water.

Bring to the boil, and then simmer until soft and pulpy. Leave to stand for several hours.

Rub the quince pulp through a sieve or pass through a mouli. Weigh the pulp and return to the pan. I weighed the pan, then weighed it again with the sieved pulp in it. Add to the pan an equal weight of sugar.

Bring slowly to the boil, stirring until the sugar has dissolved, then simmer gently, stirring frequently, to prevent burning, until the mixture is thick and glossy.

This takes an hour to an hour and a quarter. The mixture is ready when it is so thick you can scrape a spoon through it and see the bottom of the pan for a couple of seconds before the mixture oozes together again.

The mixture gets very thick and bubbles and spits, so take care!

You can keep it in a number of ways.

1. Pour into small dishes that have been brushed with glycerine, to help them come out easily. Cover with a layer of greaseproof paper and cling film and store in the fridge.
2. Pour into a shallow baking tray lined with greaseproof paper. Also cover with greaseproof paper and cling film.
3. Pour into small, sterilised jars. Seal open jars with melted food-grade paraffin wax and lids.

Serving Quince Cheese

1. Slice and serve with cheese.

2. Cut into cubes and toss in sugar as a sweetmeat.
3. Roughly chop a little and add to a lamb casserole, taglines.
4. Add a little to stewed apples or pears for a pie or crumble.

***ANNUAL TRIP TO WISLEY***

***WATCH OUT FOR A DATE NEXT MONTH. THE RGS IS AFFILIATED TO THE RHS AND WE CAN TAKE 55 MEMBERS IN FREE OF CHARGE.***

## **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/Raisin\\_gMoneyFor/Roehampton-GS](http://www.cartridgepeople.com/Raisin_gMoneyFor/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 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 3 April 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 28 March 2016