

# **ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 1873

## **MONTHLY BULLETIN**

November 2014

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



**DON'T FORGET!  
RGS CALENDAR    £5 each**

**All photos were taken on our ALLOTMENTS!  
IDEAL GIFT FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!**

**ON SALE AT THE STORE OR THE AGM!  
Or call Jackie on 07508 559134**

*From November the store will be stocking a range of items suitable  
for Christmas presents.*



**Site 2 Guy Fawkes Night  
Wednesday November 5th  
The Bonfire will be lit on  
Site 2 at 5pm.  
Please bring your Guy for  
burning, sparklers and light  
refreshments to share.**

**SEE AGM POSTER ATTACHED**

**MINUTES OF THE 2013 AGM  
TO FOLLOW**



**Site 3 Bonfire Night Party  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November from  
5.00 pm. Friends and family  
welcome. Bring drinks, snacks  
and sparklers.**

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Another growing year draws to a close and November is always a busy month for the RGS!

- The Certificates have been awarded to the Best Plot Holders and the Store Vouchers to the Autumn Show prizewinners.
- Notices are posted on both sites regarding Bonfires, so I hope you will be able to join us.
- Rubbish Collection – please see article in this Bulletin and take the opportunity offered to tidy your plot. Good preparation now will reap rewards in the spring when you are ready to plant!
- Plot Inspections will take place in mid November and letters will be sent shortly after to those whose plots are in need of attention.
- AGM and PRESENTATION OF CUPS  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
7 – 9 pm in St Margaret's Church Hall. Please see notice with the Bulletin and on all gates and notice boards.
- Water will be turned off at the end of the month but remember the toilets and outdoor taps next to them will still work all winter.

**I hope you will try and come along to the AGM – it is a great opportunity to**

**congratulate our Prize Winning Plot Holders and there are always delicious refreshments and a glass or two of wine!**

**Jackie Savage, 07508 559134,  
jisavage@talktalk.net**

### ***Dates for Your Diary***

**2015 Summer Show: 20 June**

**2015 Autumn Show: 12  
September**

**2015 AGM: 18 November**

## **STORE REPORT**

**ROOT TRAINERS** are now in **stock** again! They are at the very competitive price of **£4.00 for a set, including a cover!** These can retail from £8.99 up, so our price is **excellent!** Great for Christmas presents for your special gardening friends and family!

We also have many **new products** in the Store for autumn work in the garden and allotment; some are preparations for the spring and some for cleaning up after the heady summer growing period! We also always have the old favourite **Country Natural** to dig in for the winter, and many **soil improvers**. Remember soil benefits from improvers now, in readiness for next year. Come and look!

If you have plants that need **protection from frosts**, we have **Horticultural Fleece** to keep

plants safe, and you can buy exactly the amount you need - 2 metres wide and 50p a metre.

We still have the gorgeous **Calendars for sale at £5.00 each**, beautiful presents, but be quick they are going fast!

We are also planning to sell a range of new items suitable for **Christmas presents** and they will be in the Store from November onwards, so visit the Store open every Sunday between 10 - 12 pm, to browse and buy! Also we will be offering hot chocolate as well as our usual tea and coffee and delicious cake! Look forward to seeing you!

**Barbara McCall**  
**Trading Secretary**

## **PLOT INSPECTIONS**

The next plot inspections will be in mid-November. The inspection team usually consists of at least three Committee members (the Site Manager and the two Site Secretaries), and one non-Committee member.

What the team would expect to see in November is:

- That the plot has been tidied up for the winter
- That weeds are under control and particularly not left for seeds to blow on to neighbouring plots
- That surrounding paths are not obstructed

If the inspection team identifies a problem the plot holder will be contacted. The aim is to give guidance and encouragement but if

there have been problems in the past the team will know as records of previous shortcomings in cultivation have been kept. The team is mindful that there is a long Waiting List and we do have an obligation to those patiently waiting for a plot.

Quite a number of plots have lost their labels so some of these will be put in place ready for the inspection. Please do not move them, as they will have been positioned to help make the plot inspection go more smoothly.

Please let us know if there are any particular circumstances (e.g. illness or injury) that have prevented you from looking after your plot.

***For Site 2 (The Pleasance)***  
***please contact Georgina O'Reilly***  
***020 8789 7181 or 07468 539 476***  
***or email***  
***georgoreilly@yahoo.co.uk.***

***For Site 3 (Dover House Road)***  
***contact Helen Finch 07736 422***  
***373 or email***  
***helen.finch2@btinternet.com***

<p><b>Welcome to new plot-holders and members</b> <b>Site 2: Julia &amp; Andrew Garforth</b>  <b>Site 3: Wendy Williams Kevin Murphy</b></p>
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## ***Bindweed***

The only way to weaken bindweed is to be vigilant and keep removing the top growth when you see it and also dig out the roots. When

digging take out any white roots you find.

The Store is stocking *Bayer* 'Tree Stump, Bramble and Weed killer'. This is a biodegradable product that is a systemic, thus destroying the roots and not remaining in the soil.

See also:  
[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk) and search 'Weed Control'.

### ***Tomato Blight!***

Were you lucky this year and managed to escape the blight?

I have given up growing tomatoes on my plot, after several disappointments with tomato blight and now grow tomatoes in pots against a wall in my garden, with plenty of space around them.

I remembered Alys Fowler had written about this in 'The Guardian' (links below) so I am sharing some of her ideas.

The problem is our warm, wet climate. Tomato blight is an airborne fungal disease that affects the whole plant. It starts in June after warm rain! The first signs are the dark patches on the stems that quickly work their way up to the fruit.

The most important thing to do is to destroy the plants, black bin liner, and then burning is best. Do not put them on the compost of your compost will become infected, as the spores over-winter and the cycle starts again.

Alys recommends use of a greenhouse to help prevent the problem.

In October this year someone wrote to Alys at 'The Guardian' about having tomato blight in her greenhouse. She said she had tried various chemicals but Alys replied that hot water and a scrubbing brush was as good as you cannot stop blight just try and avoid it.

She said, "There is some anecdotal evidence that a solution of 50/50 milk and water sprayed weekly helps to keep the spores at bay". Also to strengthen plant feed them weekly with comfrey or liquid seaweed.

Alys also recommends growing some new varieties of tomatoes, such as Ferline and Legend F1 cordons as they are early fruiting so you may miss the blight. Also Matt's Wild Cherry and Koralik show signs of resistance.

[www.theguardian.com/global/2010/jun/26/alys-fowler-tomato-blight-june-drop](http://www.theguardian.com/global/2010/jun/26/alys-fowler-tomato-blight-june-drop)

I would welcome your thoughts and experiences with tomato blight.

***Pat Dark, Editor***

## ***NOVEMBER RECIPES***

There are two recipes this month, both thanks to Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

I grew sweet potatoes this year for the first time and, as I am a great breakfast fan, like this recipe, as they make a delicious weekend breakfast. The second uses butternut squash if you have a glut.

## ***Sweet Potato Pancakes***

180g plain flour  
3 tsp baking powder  
½ tsp nutmeg  
½ tsp ground ginger  
Pinch salt  
300g cooked sweet potato, mashed  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
60g butter, melted and cooled slightly, plus a little more for frying.  
Butter, honey & toasted walnuts

1. Sift the flour, baking powder and spices into a bowl.
2. In a separate bowl beat together the sweet potato, eggs and butter.
3. Fold all above ingredients together. The batter will be quite stiff.
4. Heat a frying pan and melt the butter in it. Drop tablespoons of the batter into the pan, shaping them into rounds.
5. Fry for 4 minutes on each side until browned on both sides.
6. Spread with butter, trickle on honey and sprinkle on the walnuts.
7. Alternately, they are good with maple syrup and crispy bacon.

## ***Butternut Squash Curry***

4 tbsp sunflower oil  
3 onions, peeled, halved and thinly sliced  
Salt & freshly ground black pepper  
4 garlic cloves, peeled and thinly sliced  
2 tsp finely grated fresh ginger

1 small green chilli, halved, deseeded and thinly sliced  
2 tsp ground coriander  
2 tsp ground cumin  
2 tsp garam masala  
1 butternut squash, peeled. Deseeded & cut into 2 cm chunks  
100g red lentils, rinsed  
700ml vegetable stock  
400g tinned plum tomatoes  
1 big handful of fresh coriander, tough stalks removed, leaves chopped

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan and sauté the onions with a pinch salt until softened, stirring frequently with a wooden spoon. This will take about 15 minutes.
2. Add garlic, ginger, and green chilli and cook, stirring for a further 5 minutes.
3. Add ground coriander, cumin and garam masala, stirring them well in.
4. Then add squash cubes and lentils and stir until well coated.
5. Pour in stock and tomatoes, breaking them down with the wooden spoon.
6. Simmer, part covered with the lid until the squash and lentils are very tender. Approximately 30 minutes.
7. Stir in 2/3 of the fresh coriander and check seasoning.
8. Serve with basmati rice and some thick yogurt and toss the rest of the coriander on top.

I sometimes throw in a couple of handfuls of washed spinach leaves 5 minutes before the end as this adds to the colour and flavour.

Bon Appétit!

## NOTICES

### **RGS CONTACTS**

Site Manager is Paula Alderson;  
Site 2 Allotment Secretary is  
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  
when you show your RGS card:  
Adrian Hall Garden Centre at  
Sheen;  
Capital Gardens, opposite  
Wandsworth Prison.

### **DATES FOR**

### **2014 DIARIES**

Autumn Show  
AGM

13 September  
26 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](http://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](http://www.vegetableseeds.com)**

### **AUSTIN MOWERS (sharpens shears as well)**

300 Garratt lane, SW18 4EH.  
020 8874 4206

**[www.austinmowers.com](http://www.austinmowers.com)  
[austinmowers@aol.com](mailto:austinmowers@aol.com)**

### **NEXT BULLETIN**

Comments, questions to Chair &  
Committee via the website:

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

Comments and copy for the next  
Bulletin, by 25 November 2014  
please, to Pat Dark (tel. 8789 7568)  
27 St Margarets Crescent, SW15  
6HL.

**[patdark13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:patdark13@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Next Bulletin: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
2014, by email, in the Store and on  
both sites.**