

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

October 2014

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

THE AUTUMN SHOW 2014



Jackie & grandson raffling produce at the end of the show



Best in Show: John and Mary Ireland's sweetcorn



***The heaviest pumpkin
grown by Geoff Smith and
Oliver Shehan***



Best in Show: Pat Davies's rose

***Thanks for the splendid
photos from Sarah Purcell
and Jackie Savage (heaviest
pumpkin) More photos and
prize winners on p. 5 - 11***

CHAIR'S REPORT

AUTUMN SHOW

Another wonderful Show! A special thank you to all you exhibitors; the Show Sub-committee are keen that everyone has something to enter and hope that the new classes made this easier. The local Guardian picked up on Geoff Smith's pumpkin. Here's the link: http://www.wandsworthguardian.co.uk/news/11484328.Monster_pumpkin_picks_up_prize_at_Roehampton_Garden_Society_show/



2015 CALENDAR

We launched our first ever RGS Calendar and many of you bought your copies at the Show. Sarah Purcell compiled the calendar and

she, Peter Knight and Vicki Bennett, took all the delightful pictures on our Allotment Sites.

Next year we want all of you to submit your photos for the calendar so as the months progress please let me have any photos that you take and think would be suitable. The 2015 Calendars are £5 each and will be on sale at the Store every Sunday. If you can't get there let me know and we will sort something out.

PLUM TREE DISEASE

We have noticed that a lot of our plum trees seem to have a disease this year. The leaves are turning brittle and falling early. We would be very interested in hearing from

you if your trees have suffered and if you have any suggestions as to causes and cures. Thank you.

Jackie Savage, 07508 559134
jisavage@talktalk.net

AUTUMN SHOW REPORT

Attached (see page 13) is an article from the archives of a national Sunday newspaper and when I saw it a few weeks ago it reminded me of being told that the only break in our show not being held in its decades of existence was during the war. The Roehampton Estate Garden Society first staged a summer show in 1927 but the Roehampton Horticultural Society was running them long before this – at least from 1906. (The two societies merged to form the current RGS in 1956). It is uncertain whether there were any shows staged in Roehampton during the two wars but they have certainly been going strong since then.

The article describes the community coming together and enjoying the company of like minded gardeners and local people, about admiring your neighbour's efforts and a little bit of healthy competition. We had all those (and some shiny cheeked children), which made a lovely atmosphere at the show – just busy enough to keep us on our toes without being run off our feet. We would have disappointed Vita with our raffle and tombola but some things have to move on.

The flowers, fruits and vegetables once again made a magnificent display. All of the new categories had entries, which was brilliant.

The biggest marrows did indeed look like stranded whales but best of all was Geoff's pumpkin in the heaviest pumpkin class – weighing a massive 52.5 kilos.

Some new novices entered with some splendid produce and while there were a few children's entries it would be great to see some more.

Thank you to every one who helped and came along to make it a lovely 'village' event.

Carol Martinez, Show Chair

NEWS FROM THE STORE!

As autumn and winter approach they herald the seasonal work to be done in gardens and allotments and there are new items in the Store to help with many tasks!

New! A special *Onion Fertiliser* great for autumn or spring sown onions. It is an **organic** based granular compound with added magnesium and high in phosphates for strong bulb growth. Application: 1-2 oz per sq. yard (35-70 g. per sq. m), £1 per kilo

New! 100% Organic Fertiliser! Claims are that 'no other fertiliser is needed!' Ideal for all flowers, fruit and veg., shredded chicken manure, fast acting and will condition soil and break down clay. 50p. per kilo

New! Bulb Fibre Compost - a reduced peat compost containing oyster shells and wood charcoal to keep compost fresh and maintain ph balance. Recommended use for outdoor and indoor planting of bulbs. 35 litre bag £4.00

New! Organic Winter Tree Wash, to control all pests on fruit trees and fruit bushes, especially those over-wintering pests, larvae. It is a blend of natural plant and fish oils. Apply from Nov - Feb. 50 mls. per litre of water apply as a fine spray. It is £10 per bottle (usually retails for £14.99). Why not share a bottle with another RGS Member? (Small sprays available at the Store £2.00 each).

New! Boltac Greasebands, provides protection for fruit trees from winter moth, caterpillars and other crawling pests. Suitable for organic gardening, tie around trees in the autumn and again in the spring. £5.00 per box or £1.00 for a 35 cm strip.

New! Bayer Tree Stump, Bramble and Weed killer. A biodegradable product that is a systemic, destroying the roots and not remaining in the soil. Suitable for all stubborn roots, bindweed and many other weeds! Best to use between Nov - March, 1 sachet dissolved in 150 ml. of water. Box £4.50 and sachet at £1.50 each.

New! Greenhouse Sulphur Candle! Traditional product used to prepare the greenhouse for the growing or clean up in preparation for winter shut down. Eliminates pests in the greenhouse. Just light candle in the greenhouse and leave to fumigate! £5.00 each candle, which comes in its own tin.

New! Town and Country, Master Gardener Gloves at £4.00 pair.

New! Garden Secateurs, scissor action bypass blade, cuts up to 15 mm diameter and produces a clean cut with minimal damage £6.00.

We continue to have all the favourites - Country Natural, Peat Free Composts, range of fertilisers and soil improvers, string etc.

Remember...most heathers like ericaceous compost! In the Store now! 40 litres for £4.00

Remember...The Autumn is the optimum time to dig in Rock Dust, a fabulous organic soil improver! As seen on TV and promoted by the Soil Association! £1.00 for 1 kg.

Remember...Now is the time to add lime to areas to be sown with any brassicas in the spring. But the Calcified Seaweed, an alternative to Garden Lime can be sown at time of planting brassicas, as it will not burn roots. Garden Lime needs to be left before planting.

Remember...We have a variety of seeds that can still be sown now! Visit the Store to see! 20% off the marked price too.

LASTLY, a plea! Is anyone prepared to renovate the much-loved very old and historic balance scales use in the Store for years! They need a clean up and paint or a metal treatment. We would love to have them on display in the Store, just as part of the RGS heritage. If you can contact Barbara on 07709733008 or barbaramccall@hotmail.co.uk

Do visit the Store and check out all the products, have a coffee, cake and a chat! Let us know if you think we should stock something and we will do our best!

Barbara McCall, Trading Secretary

AGM NOTICE

Please remember that the AGM is on Wednesday 26th November at 7pm in St Margaret's Church Hall. Included in the general business will be an election of committee members, an update on the progress of our work towards becoming a Charity as well as the Presentation of Cups and delicious refreshments. Details will be posted on Notice Boards and in the November Bulletin.

Welcome to new plot-holders and members

Site 2

Eveleen McGeary
Inaki (Jose) Valcarcel

Site 3

Kevin Murphy
Wendy Williams
Jane S Hewitt & Kelly Pike
Clare (nee Mantle) & Eoghan Kelly

More photos from the Show on following pages

Thanks again to Sarah Purcell who stepped in at short notice and took the photos of the show.

OCTOBER RECIPE

This recipe, from Jack Monroe, who writes in *The Guardian*, is a novel way of using up some of your courgettes!

Courgette chocolate cake

2 courgettes
50g dark chocolate
zest of a lime
250g self-raising flour
pinch salt
75g sugar
75 ml sunflower oil
3 eggs
little icing sugar for dusting

1. Preheat oven to 180° C/gas Mark 4. Grease and line a loaf tin.
2. Wash the courgettes and coarsely grate them into the centre of a clean tea towel. Wring out as much moisture as you can over the sink – they hold a lot!
3. Grate the chocolate into a large mixing bowl. Add the flour, lime zest, sugar and pinch of salt and mix thoroughly.
4. Make a well in the centre and pour in the oil. Add the courgettes and the eggs.
5. Beat well to combine and pour into the loaf tin.
6. Bake for 40 minutes or until the knife inserted in the middle comes out clean.
7. Cool, then sprinkle with icing sugar



Cupcakes



Cakes for sale



Teatime!



Vivien's prize pears



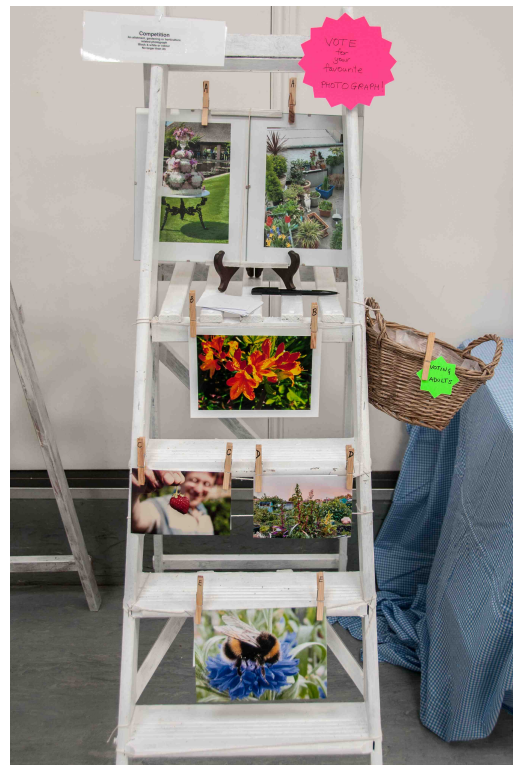
The calendar – you can still purchase it at the Store



Vegetable displays



Raj's prize dalhas



Photos ready for judging



Jenny Gorle won the photo prize



Mixed bunch 2



Mixed bunch1



Display of produce



Produce stall

THE AUTUMN SHOW

Section A-Flowers

1. Vase of 1 giant or large dahlia of any variety
– Pat Davis
2. Vase of mixed dahlias, not more than 7 blooms
– Raj Patel
3. Vase of decorative dahlias, not more than 5 blooms
– Pat Davis
4. Vase of pompom dahlias, not more than 7 blooms, not to exceed 5 cm
– Pat Davis
5. Vase of cactus dahlias (approx 10 cm), not more than 5 blooms
– John & Mary Ireland
6. Vase of ball flowered dahlias (larger than 5 cms), not more than 5 blooms
– John & Mary Ireland
7. Two vases of different dahlias each containing 5 blooms
– Sue McDonald
8. Vase of cut flowers, 4 or more varieties, any foliage, arranged for all-round effect
– Pat Davis
9. Vase of 3 or more annuals (can be mixed)
– Vivian Fowler
10. Vase of mixed perennial flowers, exceeding those in other classes (foliage allowed) – Pat Davis

11. Vase of flowering stems of fuchsia, not more than 5 stems – Pat Davis
12. Vase of HT roses, not more than 4 stems – No entries
13. Vase containing 1 HT rose – Pat Davis – Best in Show
14. Vase of multiflora roses, not more than 3 stems
– Pat Davis
15. A table decoration, maximum length 25 cm – Pip Melotte
16. Vase of 3 hydrangea stems
– No first prize

Section B – Flowers and Vegetables mixed

17. Any exhibit of 3 different kinds of vegetables (garnishing allowed) and 3 containers of flowers, any 3 separate kinds, space not to exceed 60x60 cm
– Carol Martinez
18. Any kind of 1 vegetable and any kind of 1 flower – No entries

Special Entry

19. 'Harvest Goddess' = a display of home grown vegetables, fruits and flowers in any combination in a basket or suitable container. – Carol Martinez

Section C - Vegetables

20. 2 aubergines – Raj Patel

21. 9 French beans – Paula Alderson
22. 9 runner beans – Sarah Purcell
23. 9 of any other bean – Jo Eskdale
24. 3 beetroot, round or oval with 10 cm tops – Carol Sewell
25. 1 green cabbage, with at least 5 cm stalk – No entries
26. 1 red cabbage, with at least a 5 cm stalk – Vivian Fowler
27. 3 carrots, any one variety, with 10 cm tops – John & Mary Ireland
28. 1 cauliflower – No first prize
29. 2 cucumbers – Raj Patel
30. 1 fennel (Florence) – Raj Patel
31. 3 garlic bulbs – No first prize
32. 4 different herbs, in small bunches (not more than 15 cm) – Pip Melotte
33. A pot of one type of home grown annual herb – Paula Alderson
34. 1 marrow (less than 35 cm in length) any variety, any colour – Carol Martinez
35. 4 onions, dressed for presentation – Carol Sewell
36. 5 peppers, chilli – Vivian Fowler
37. 3 peppers, sweet (capsicum) – Siop Cooper
38. 5 potatoes, white, any variety – Vivian Fowler
39. 5 potatoes, coloured, any variety – John & Mary Ireland
40. 6 radishes, with tops and roots – No entries
41. 9 shallots, pickling - Raj Patel
42. 1 pumpkin, any variety – Carol Martinez
43. 1 squash (winter or summer) any one variety – Georgina O'Reilly
44. 2 sweetcorn – John & Mary Ireland – Best in Show
45. 3 tomatoes large-fruited ('Beefsteak'), with calyx, min diam. 7.5 cm – Siop Cooper
46. 6 tomatoes, medium-fruited, with calyx – Paula Alderson
47. 9 tomatoes, any colour, small fruited (cherry-type), with calyx, not exceeding 3.5 cm diam. – Paula Alderson
48. 6 tomatoes, plum-type, with calyx – Carol Martinez
49. 1 truss tomatoes, ripe or unripe - Raj Patel
50. 2 cougettes, any colour – Karen Bayless
51. A bunch of leaf vegetables – spinach, leaf beet, chard –

6 stalks – John & Mary Ireland

52. A display of 3 different seasonal vegetables that you like in a salad – Raj Patel

53. Any 1 vegetable not in section C above – John & Mary Ireland

54. Collection of vegetables and/or fruits of 5 different kinds, in a box or tray not to exceed 60x45 cm – Carol Martinez

55. Collection of vegetables of 3 different kinds, not more than 60 cm long – Carol Sewell

A veg too far....

56. The biggest marrow – Frank Bigglestone

57. The longest runner bean – Robert Linton

58. The heaviest pumpkin – Geoff Smith & Oliver Shehan

59. The largest diameter sunflower – Geoff Waterhouse

Section D - Fruit

60. 3 cooking apples, with stalks, any one variety – No first prize

61. 3 dessert apples, with stalks, any one variety – Ali Linton

62. Dish of 12 blackberries, with calyx – Ali Linton

63. Dish of 12 blueberries – Carol Martinez

64. 3 pears, with stalks, any one variety – Vivian Fowler

65. Dish of 12 raspberries, with calyx – Sue MacDonald

66. Dish of 12 of any hybrid berry, with calyx (e.g. boysenberry, loganberry) No entries

67. Exhibit of any other edible fruit – Robert Linton

Section E - Novices

68. 3 dahlias – No entries

69. Vase of mixed flowers – Charles Held

70. Dish of fruit, one kind, No entries

71. Dish of vegetables, one kind – Charles Held, Marjuska Kortelainen & Hilary Hall

72. A display of 3 different vegetables that you like in a salad – Marjuska Kortelainen

Section F – Children (under 14)

73. Funny animal made of anything grown – Noah Bayless

74. Colour picture of a vegetable or fruit – Isla O'Reilly

75. 6 fairy cakes – No entries

Section G – Cookery

- 76. Dish of pâté – No entries
- 77. 6 Sausage rolls – No entries
- 78. Glass jar of chutney – David Rossiter
- 79. Glass jar of pickled vegetables or piccalilli – David Rossiter
- 80. A seasonal savoury item of cookery – Vivien Fowler
- 81. Plain or wholemeal bread on a board – Ali Linton
- 82. Glass jar of jam – Carol Martinez
- 83. Glass jar of jelly – Ali Linton
- 84. A cheesecake – No entries
- 85. A ginger cake – Barbara McCall
- 86. An apple pie – No first prize
- 87. 6 fruit scones – No first prize
- 88. Homemade wine, cider or infused spirit – Pat Davis
- 89. Homemade fruit or vegetable juice – No entries

Competition judged by visitors to the Show

- 1. An allotment, gardening or horticulture related photo – Jenny Gorle
- 2. As above – entrants under 16 – No entries
- 3. A hand tied posy – Barbara Mc Call

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	13 September
AGM	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

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

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

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

patdark13@yahoo.co.uk

**Next Bulletin: Sunday 1st November
2014, by email, in the Store and on
both sites.**

Britain blooms as the village flower show returns

Handsome exhibits, floral frocks and geniality rekindle the spirit of prewar summers, writes Vita Sackville-West

In the summer days before the war, the village flower show, which would be better called a produce show, was quite a grand affair. There were two large marquees. The supper-dish for five people did not necessarily have to be meatless in 1939. The local nursery-men staged handsome exhibits,

Those good days disappeared for a time. The village could no longer afford marquees, and had to arrange its show more modestly, in any shelter it could get: the corrugated-iron shelter of the women's institute, or the parish room, or a barn borrowed from a farmer. It had to be staged somehow or somewhere, to keep the show going and prevent interest from dying out.

Now, better days are returning. Marquees have reappeared, and the big nurserymen of the county are again willing to show their wares. The sumptuous effect of the best box of vegetables again graces the trestle tables, and how magnificent they are, those mixed collections of red tomatoes, orange carrots, ivory parsnips, pale potatoes freshly washed in milk, jade-green lettuce, blood-red beetroot, emerald peas and marrows



Flower show fan: Vita Sackville-West

like stranded whales. How fine, indeed, in their assembly are the fruits of the earth displayed. Great hairy gooseberries; blackcurrants the size of marbles; raspberries like pink thimbles; and some soft peaches and brown figs.

How rural are the eggs, the bunches of herbs, the homemade cakes, the

jars of jam, the golden honey. How pretty the baskets of mixed flowers and how touching the jam-pots of wild-flowers and grasses collected by the children.

Everyone comes in clothes that seem to match the exhibits: flowered frocks, bright scarves and here and there a sun bonnet. The children have been scrubbed until their cheeks shine. There are some speeches and everybody says something amiable about everybody else: local feuds are forgotten for the day. There is no ill-feeling when the red, blue and green tickets meaning first, second and third prizes have been hopefully inspected on the cards. Someone is in charge of a gramophone and in the evening there may be some dancing in the field outside. The young moon hangs over the church tower and a

little breeze springs up to ruffle the leaves of the poplars.

I love the village flower show. I prefer it even to the village fete. This has a bank holiday tang about it, with a loudspeaker van blaring away and squalid litter left blowing about. What I like about the show is its complete lack of self-consciousness. Here is no organised entertainment; no folk-dancing at 5pm; no one selling raffle tickets for a bottle of whisky. The village show is honest-to-God.

Any gardener or countryman knows that hard digging and constant care are the only way to produce the prize-winning exhibits he puts on to the trestle tables at his annual local show, for the admiration and esteem of his neighbours in competition.

This is an edited extract