

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

September 2014

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Autumn Show

**Saturday
13 September,
3.00 pm at
St Margaret's Church Hall**

**SHOW SCHEDULES AND
ENTRY FORMS ATTACHED**

**Volunteers are needed to
help set up the Show from
5.00 pm at the Store on
Friday 12 September and
then at the Hall.**

**Donations of produce,
preserves, and items for
the tombola, cakes and
biscuits for the
refreshments also needed.**

**Contact: Carol Martinez at
root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk**

**Please enter or help as
this is a most enjoyable
event and raises funds for
the society.**

**Bring your friends and
family for tea and
homemade cake!**

IMAGES OF AUTUMN

Dalias



Beans



Leaves



Apples and Pears



Pumpkin



Autumn Show

Just when we thought we were having a great summer the weather changed and went cold on us. Perhaps it has slowed down the spurt that everything took on and will ensure there is still something to enter in the Autumn Show that will take place on Saturday 13th September.

At the last show there were not many novice entries. Anyone reading this who has previously entered as a novice but did not win a first prize can, under the rules, enter again as a novice. Read what the experts say in the attached article from the RHS on tips for entering local shows – they apply to everyone.

We have some new categories to enter – the competition basket was taken out recently but they always looked lovely so we have made it an entry instead. A Harvest Collection can include any combination of home grown fruits, vegetables and flowers and the winning entry will be awarded a cup at the AGM.

We are also going for the biggest, longest, heaviest and largest – to find out what for read the schedule and see if yours might be.

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am writing this on a rain soaked Bank Holiday – but we have had a fruitful summer so let's just hope we get some sunshine before our Autumn Show on Sat 13th September and we can admire the harvest from our allotments while enjoying the delicious teas.

After the holidays and the Show, the Sub Committee working on the application to become a Charity will get back to work. I will report on our next steps in the October Bulletin.

I look forward to seeing you at the Show.

Jackie Savage, 07508 559134

As usual we ask for your help in making the show successful by doing what you can to help move tables, make cakes, donate homemade goods and surplus plants for the produce stall and a bottle for the tombola.....oh and do remember to come along and have a great afternoon.

Carol Martinez, Show Chair

Winter Cultivation

An efficient plot will have some cultivation over the winter. Ideal crops to have over-wintering – apart from your brassicas – are broad beans, onions and garlic.

Broad bean seeds from King's are available in the store already and we will soon be receiving a delivery of onions for autumn planting. There will be a choice of Winter Red and Shakespeare (White), once again they will be sold individually and by the kilo.

In October we will receive delivery of 4 different types of garlic. These will be sold by the bulb that will normally have 12 – 15 cloves, each of which will develop into a bulb. Plant in early December and they will be ready to harvest in May and June.

Carol Martinez, Show Chair

Sacred Heart School Visit the Allotments

On a sunny 20th June Georgina O'Reilly and Barbara McCall led a gardening workshop for 12 members of the Sacred Heart School Gardening Club. Following a preliminary meeting with their teacher, Bridget Hornblow, a visit was planned that focused on

identifying nearly 30 types of fruit and vegetable plants and considering which part of the plant was edible. Children then dug potatoes and harvested strawberries and finally had a snack of strawberries and chocolate biscuits in the store.

Below is a letter received from one of the pupils on the trip.

Dear Georgina,

Thank you for letting us visit your allotment for the afternoon. I enjoyed picking the strawberries and the raspberries they tasted delicious. I learnt about the shield bug and how it got its name. We saw lots of fruit and vegetables and were told how to grow them. I would be extremely happy to visit again.
love from
Halima

38 Degrees have protected the Bees again

In the May 2013 Bulletin I wrote about the lobby of Parliament to encourage them to sign up to a EU ban on use of insecticides that are harming bees. 2,625,966 people signed the petition that was handed into Downing Street.

The Government did not sign up but the EU did so there was a ban. However *Syngenta, the manufacturer of the insecticide* made an application for its use in Britain.

On 3 July *Syngenta* withdrew their controversial application to allow

their banned bee-killer pesticides back on UK fields, after an effective Campaign led by 38 Degrees. Their press release stated that:

“Owen Paterson, the environment minister, sided with Syngenta. But the decision was deemed so toxic that it was brought all the way up to the Prime Minister and his cabinet to discuss.

The day before the big meeting, the huge people-powered petition signed by over 200,000 of us was delivered to the PM’s desk. And on the morning of the meeting, hundreds of us swarmed on Downing St to confront the ministers as they arrived. Dressed as bee-keepers, bees and pesticides, and with a host of other campaign organisations we chanted at the top of our voices and left the ministers in no doubt that we expected them to put our bees before Syngenta’s profits.

And it worked! The government stalled and didn’t announce a decision, forcing Syngenta to back down.”

If you would like to read more click on the following:

<http://www.farmersguardian.com/home/arable/syngenta-withdraws-neonicotinoid-emergency-use-application/65807.article>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-27980344>

<https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/pages/david-cameron-uphold-the-european-ban#petition>

St Margaret's Church Christmas Fair, Saturday 22nd November

The Church is raising funds to enable them to carry out an overhaul on the church roof. They always give part of the monies raised at the fair to Wandsworth Welcare.

Allan Fuller Estate Agents have kindly agreed to sponsor them by putting up boards advertising the fair. They wonder if you would consider putting a board up outside your home to help raise some funds.

They have not been given confirmed dates but believe that boards will go up 2 weeks/10 days prior to the fair and come down the Monday after the fair.

Please contact Helen Hargreaves the Church Office Manager if you are able to help. 020 8789 5932 or stmargaret@btinternet.com.

Welcome to the following new plot-holders and members and site news

Site 2

Elizabeth Martin

Site 3

Claire Mantle and husband

The perimeter fence on Site 2 that had fallen down has been replaced with a robust 6' fence.

September Recipe

This is a seasonal recipe using up the courgettes and tomatoes. The quantity will serve 2 as main course or 4 as a starter

Courgette and Tomato au gratin

4 medium courgettes, sliced
1 onion
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 large tomatoes, peeled and sliced
A large clove of garlic
A level teaspoon freshly chopped oregano
4 level tablespoons of Parmesan cheese
125g (4 oz) cheddar cheese

Oven at Gas 5 or 400°C

1. Pour boiling water over the tomatoes and leave for a few minutes so the skins can be removed easily.
2. Sauté the onion and garlic then brown the courgettes.
3. Meanwhile drain the tomatoes and put into cold water so you can handle the tomatoes to remove the skins.
4. Grease an ovenproof dish and then layer in the courgettes, onion, garlic, oregano, Parmesan cheese and tomatoes.
5. Sprinkle the grated cheddar on top.
6. Bake for 25/30 minutes till golden and serve with crusty bread and a green salad.

The Store

Congratulations need to go to the Store Committee, who has done a wonderful job in revamping the Store. It is now a light and pleasant space and extremely well stocked.

Even so, I know they would welcome suggestions for other favourite products.

The café area is a huge bonus.

Thanks also to the team of volunteers who help staff the Store and the cooks who make the homemade cakes.

Do drop in on a Sunday morning to browse and buy products, enjoy some coffee and cake and catch up on the gardening magazines and next year's brochures.

Contributions to the Bulletin

I would love to have contributions for the Bulletin!

For example:

- Favourite recipes
- Photographs of produce you are proud of (the pictures in this edition are of my beans and apples and pears!) or a part of your allotment, or a seasonal theme
- A story about the development of your allotment – a new member recently dug up a bath!
- A history of the allotments.
- New websites
- Items that will be of interest to RGS members
- Garden stockists you value
- Etc. etc.

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 26 September 2014
please, to Pat Dark (tel. 8789 7568)
27 St Margarets Crescent, SW15
6HL.
patdark13@yahoo.co.uk

**Next Bulletin: Sunday 5 October
2014, by email, in the Store and on
both sites.**