

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

May 2014

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Bluebells at Kew Gardens



Azaleas at Isabella Plantation



***For more information see
page 5***



Can you name this plant?

Chair's Report

Thank you to all those who helped collect the rents. If you have not yet paid please email/contact the Treasurer as soon as possible at: chrominska@fsmail.net or on 020 878 5083.

We are also updating all our records and asked you to check your contact details when you were paying your rent. If we missed you or if there are any changes during the year please let us know. We had an excellent response when we asked you to fill in the questionnaire about offering to help the Society – we will collate that information and you will hear from us soon.

There has been quite a large turnover of plot holders this year and I would like to welcome all new comers to our lovely allotments and hope you get as much pleasure from them as I do! We have several events and activities planned for the rest of the year – please make sure you read the bulletins and notice boards or check:
www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

regularly so you don't miss out.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me. If I can't help then I will certainly find someone who can!

Jackie Savage (Plot 74A Site 3),
jisavage@talktalk.net 07508
559134

Store report

We are pleased to say that **KINGS SEEDS** are proving to be a great hit in the Store. The most popular seed varieties, to name but a few,

are Beet (Bolthardy, Detroit Globe and Golden), Rainbow Chard, Borecole Nero di Toscana, Carrots – Early Nantes, Red Fire lettuce, Butler runner beans, Canadian Wonder dwarf beans, Tender and True parsnips, Honey Bear squash and the Spencer Waved mix of sweet peas. We look forward to seeing the results of your sowings in the form of entries in the Summer and Autumn Shows!

We have been talking to Les Day MD of Kings, who says that if you have problems with his seeds, or would like to discuss seed growing in general he is more than happy to hear from you. His email address is les.day@kingsseeds.com.

He gives **3 tips for seed growing:**

- **Use seed compost.**
- **Don't use old stored rain water from you water butt, it could contain pathogens. If you don't have fresh rain water use tap water.**
- **Don't sow direct into the soil until there have been 7 consecutive nights above 7 degrees.**

BY POPULAR DEMAND

We have in stock a trial supply of **Jiffy seed-pods** – they are great for sowing large seeds, for example any squash.

We have just taken delivery of some wonderful 4 metre wide “knitted” soft protective **netting** and we are selling it for just £2.20 per metre. Such a bargain as it will last for years!

SPECIAL REQUESTS

If there are any items that you would like us to stock please let us know.

Liz Chrominska and Jackie Savage

WILDLIFE ON ALLOTMENTS – FROGLIFE WORKSHOP



On Sunday 27th April Eddie Brede, a naturalist, ecologist, bee keeper, amphibian and reptile specialist, met with 10 plot holders for the Wildlife on Allotments talk. He introduced us to the amphibians and reptiles that were most likely to be found on allotment sites, how to recognise and differentiate them, their habits and the habitats needed for their sustainability. He discussed the common frog and the toad, both amphibians that need water for the breeding season, the grass snake and newts. We were notified that any findings of great crested newts (orange belly with black blotches) should be reported to the local authority as they are rare and it is illegal to disturb them or their habitats.

We were then set a challenge to work in groups to plan an amphibian and reptile-friendly plot.

This should include a range of features such as compost heaps for warmth and food, a shed to hide under and to provide suitable damp conditions, water with stepping in access, (even if this were a bowl sunk to soil level) a pile of rotting wood and twigs to harbour insects for food, wild flowers and an area of longer grass. Mushka, who has recently taken on a plot on site 2 had found common newts in just such a neglected area at the back of her plot and has reorganised the area to retain all of these features. There is a well established pond nearby.

See *“Making Hibernacula for Amphibians and Reptiles”* (attachment 1).

Eddie warned of the dangers to all wildlife of using insecticides including 'organic' slug pellets. The term organic in this sense was inaccurate he told us. Although he recognised the role of some insecticide use for commercial producers, he argued that it was unnecessary for allotment gardeners who could afford small losses and damage to their produce for the sake of sustaining our diminishing wildlife.

We all came away feeling we could do more for wildlife sustainability and pondering where we could allow that little patch of longer grass and planning where to site our rotting log pile.

- *If you missed this workshop you may be interested in attending others that Froglife run. Contact info@froglife.org.*
- *Download the Dragon Finder app on your mobile phone to*

identify and record reptiles and amphibians.

- *Froglife's newsletter "natterchat" is available to read in the Store.*

Georgina O'Reilly

Tell Eric Pickles that allotments must not be sold off!

Responsible department:
Department for Communities and Local Government

Eric Pickles, the Communities Secretary, is examining plans to free local authorities from a 103-year-old obligation to provide plots of public land for cultivation by gardeners. The proposals could see local authorities, many of them strapped for cash under government-imposed cuts, selling off allotment land for social housing or even for profit to major companies

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/61225>

SOME TRIPS BEING ORGANISED AND PLACES TO VISIT BEING RECOMMENDED

Visit to the Wandsworth Recycling Facility

Georgina has organised a tour of the Wandsworth Recycling Facility for Wednesday 11th June. There are only 10 places so if you would like to go please email Georgina at georgoreilly@yahoo.co.uk and she will give you the details and book you in.

Lecture at the Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road.

Do you mean Allotments?

Join author Margaret Willes to explore four centuries of the colourful and lively history of gardening and its role in everyday British life. Margaret will uncover for us stories of unknown individuals for whom gardens were a vital lifeline, used for sustenance and profit, despite often cramped and polluted conditions. This talk will reveal how lush gardens bloomed behind rough workers' cottagers and how horticultural miracles were performed in blackened yards.

13 May 2014 18.30-20.00

Tickets £15 Non-Friends, £10 Friends, £8 Students

Garden Museum
Lambeth Palace Rd, London SE1 7LB
Tel: 020 7401 8865 | Fax: 020 7401 8869

Twickenham Apiary Open Day: Saturday 7 June, 1-5 pm.

Cliff Pope, our resident beekeeper has asked me to raise your awareness about the Twickenham Apiary Open Day. See attachment 2 for details.

To get to the apiary by public transport, go on the mainline from Putney Station to Twickenham. Turn right out of the station, cross the road and keep left for a few minutes. The apiary is well signposted and this will be a most interesting trip.

Recommended Outings to Kew Gardens and Richmond Park's Isabella Plantation.

I have visited both Kew Gardens and Isabella Plantation this week and would highly recommend visits as the timing is perfect for seeing bluebells and azaleas.

There are carpets of bluebells at Kew and they are quite magnificent alongside swathes of cow parsley. Entry is expensive but you can have a wonderful day there if you go early. The azaleas are also lovely.

I saw the flowers on the front cover of the Bulletin and thought they were bluebells until I got close to them. Does anyone know what they are called?

Isabella Plantation is also worth a visit at the moment as the azaleas are a picture! **Pat Dark**

Malvern Show

Anthony Fitzsimmons has alerted me that Kristina, one of our members is part of a team designing and installing a contemplative 'quiet' garden, at the Malvern Show this year. For information on progress please go to:

<http://contemplativegardens.co.uk/>

Opportunity to get some lengths of timber

We have received the following email from a local resident:

I am a local resident. I have a large wood pile (timber for re-use) in my garden backing on to Putney Park Lane. I have sold my house and need to relinquish my unused timber. If you have, or know of any

allotment holders who could use some or all of this timber, I would be very happy to donate whatever may be required. The timber consists of mixed lengths, 8,10,12 foot and some shorter and various widths. Might be useful for raised beds or as part of a shed. If there is any interest from your members, inspection of what is available could of course be arranged.

My telephone number is 020 8788 7678

With regards, Elaine Fletcher
elainefletcher.no5@gmail.com

New Plot-holders and Members

Site 2. Georgina reported:

Plot 11b (2 rods) was Pat Logan now let to Elizabeth and Michael Bridge

Plot 33a (3.5 rods) was Marion Craib now let to Amy and Ian Clayton

Plot 14c (2 rods) new division was let to Pip Melotte, now let to Jo Eskdale

Plot 38c (2.5 rods) was Vicky and Martin Barnett now let to Mushka Kortelainen

Plot 38a (2.5 rods) was David Alcazar now let to Alan Thorte

Plot 41b (2.5 rods charged as 1.5 rods due to tree position) was Claire Earle now let to Anna Fernandez.

Site 3. Paula reported:

Plots 52b (3.5 rods) let to Matt Todman

Plot 112a (1.5 rods) This plot has been divided.

1 rod which is 112a has been let to David MacDonald as extra land so that he now has a plot of 3.5 rods
 $\frac{1}{2}$ rod has been added to plot 112b (Artan Deliallisi) who now has a 5 rods.

Plot 110a (3 rods) let to Vitali and Ella Malinovski

Plot 111c (2.5 rods) let to Marika and Michael Mosol

Plot 115b (2 rods) let to Heidi Green

Book Review: The Healing Hut

I wanted to draw your attention to this first novel by Neil Patrick, a journalist who has worked on gardening magazines and had an allotment most of his life. The story is about a man who has everything, until one evening his life implodes. His escape route takes him from sun-drenched Western Australia to grey old England and the bleak home he had put behind him.

There he unlocks the secrets his charismatic Welsh father hid in the allotment hut that was his den. A host of colourful characters lift his spirits and he becomes enlisted in the fight for the survival of the ancient allotments. There is an intriguing twist as the hero begins to believe again in love and life. If you like a good read and you love allotments then this is for you! I would be interested to know what you think and if you have any other books, fiction or non-fiction, that you would like to recommend to our members.

Jackie Savage

Memorabilia!

The circular (see attachment 3) sent out to members in 1934, was one of the papers and documents discovered in a shed near Croydon by the new purchaser and bought for the society by Jackie Savage.

It is interesting to see that things do not change a great deal – 80 years later some things are still topical.

The store has started selling seeds again – not in penny packets but a great range of King's seeds are available at a discounted price.

The demand for water was obviously an issue in 1934 and it remains so today. We now pay towards our water along with our rents – which should make us more prudent of its use to avoid the amount we pay going up next year. Back in 1934 the estate was still quite new and the garden society events were an integral part of the resident's calendar – note the extra activities at the show. I think there must have been a lot of pride (and perhaps expectation) taken in the appearance of the front gardens.

The allocation of housing was quite particular - many of the houses went to veterans of the 1st World War (Homes for Heroes). And of course the show was mentioned – next month I will show a schedule from 1925. Don't forget our show is Saturday 14th June.

Carol Martinez, Show Chair

May Recipe

A quick and delicious supper dish, using seasonal asparagus. With thanks to Delia Smith.

Alpine Eggs with Lancashire Cheese and Asparagus

4 large eggs

110g (4oz) Lancashire cheese, crumbled

350g asparagus, trimmed

25g butter

1 dessertsp. Chopped chives
salt and ground black pepper

Oven: preheat to gas mark 4 or, 180°C (350°F)

1. Grease a baking dish 20x15x5cm (8x6x2 inches).
2. Steam the asparagus for 3 mins. Then place in the baking dish.
3. Scatter over half the crumbled cheese, Carefully break the eggs onto the cheese and season well. Then sprinkle over the rest of the cheese, covering the eggs completely.
4. Dot with a few flecks of butter and bake, centre oven for 12-15 minutes, until cheese is melted and bubbling and the eggs are just set.
5. Sprinkle cut chives on top before serving.
6. Some good crusty fresh bread and a crisp green salad goes well with this dish.

Obituary for Beryl Larken

"I am very sad to announce the death of my next door neighbour and good friend Beryl Larken, at the age of 92.

Beryl was an extraordinary lady. She was a very knowledgeable gardener, and a florist who trained under Constance Spry and did the flowers for the Queen's Coronation. She introduced me to both Gardening and RGS, and kept me busy running down to the shop on Sunday mornings for supplies, She has allowed me to manage a veg plot in her large and delightful garden with her and for her for the last 10 years, which has been a delight and an honour.

As I am helping to clear out her veteran garden sheds, I find them festooned with awards from RGS Shows from seasons past.

Though she was blessed with her own garden and didn't have an allotment, she was a staunch supporter of the society over many years and was always excited by the Bulletin when I took it round."

Caroline Ridley

LIKE GARDENING? CARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE? HAVE 2 HOURS TO SPARE?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO PLANT UP A NEGLECTED FLOWER BED AT THE LOCAL ASHMEAD CARE CENTRE. THE FLOWER BED ADJOINS THE RESIDENTS' OUTSIDE SITTING AREA.

Ashmead is a purpose built care home with nursing that also provides care for frail older people and people who may have dementia. It is situated opposite Granard School.

If you are interested please email Georgina: georgoreilly@yahoo.co.uk and she will assemble a planting group for a convenient time in May.

Volunteers to date:
Georgina, Jackie and 2 Irishmen!

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
Do you mean allotments? (Garden Museum)	13 May
Twickenham Apiary Open Day	7 June 1-5
Recycling Visit	11 June
Summer Show	14 June
Autumn Show	13 September
AGM	26 Nov

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.

Additional opening times:
**Wednesdays 2-30 April 6.00 –
7.00 pm**

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.uk
Or leave a message in the Store or
email at
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
Comments and copy for the next
Bulletin, by 25 May 2014 please, to
Pat Dark (tel. 8789 7568) 27 St
Margarets Crescent, SW15 6HL.
patdark13@yahoo.co.uk

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

MAKING HIBERNACULA FOR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Create somewhere for animals to hide, hunt for food and hibernate.

Materials

- Rocks and bricks
- Stones and logs
- Compost
- Spades and gloves
- Safety boots
- Depending on the season, wildflower seeds or bulbs

What to do

Step 1: Choose a spot in the garden

Look for places that won't flood, that stay quiet and that aren't in sunlight all the time

Step 2: Dig a hole or make a pile

If the ground is wet, pile the materials on top of each other to create a heap.
If the ground is dry, dig a hole and fill it with the materials



Step 3: Cover with compost

Cover the pile or hole with a layer of compost or topsoil. You can also plant wildflower bulbs or seeds to help encourage bugs to visit the site.



Froglife is a UK wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - working with people, enhancing lives together for a healthier planet. Find out more about our education projects and activities at www.froglife.org

R.G.S.
April 2014



TWICKENHAM AND THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Open Day

Saturday 7th June 2014
1pm-5pm

**Come and learn about bees and beekeeping.
See bees at work in the observation hive.
Honey tasting and local honey for sale.
Enjoy tea and homemade cakes in the apiary garden.
Plant stall with great variety of bedding and shrubs
Tombola, Children's activities and much more.**

Entry Free

**THE APIARY, 41 WHITTON ROAD,
TWICKENHAM TW1 1BH
Close to Twickenham Station and
Heatham House**

**For all those keen to know more about beekeeping, there
will be a free introductory class at 5pm, subject to avail-
ability. Equipment will be provided.
All welcome.**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 296439

ROEBHAMPTON ESTATE GARDEN SOCIETY

17, Blenheim Road, S.W.15.
10th June, 1934.

Dear Sir, or Madam.

We are now in mid-season and this letter is written to give you some news of the progress of the work of the Society.

Many of you will remember that early in the year we put up seeds in penny packets. We sold nearly ten pounds worth of seed and from my observations in gardens and on the allotments the germination has been of a very high order. This venture is of twofold value. The Society gets a nice revenue and Members get good seed at half the cost. I mention it here as I want to get as much publicity for this venture as possible. If most people on the Estate bought their seed through us we should be able to earn a large proportion of our expenses and save your committee much anxiety in the ways and means of raising funds.

The allotment holders will be interested to learn that we have sent in a request to the London County Council for the installation of stand pipes on the allotments. The reply we received, though not a positive one, was certainly one which gives us some hope.

The time approaches for the garden competitions, the first being that of the Front Gardens. You have all received from the Estate Office particulars of this and we I hope you are getting ready. The first judging will take place at the end of June and the final early in July. No entry is needed, if you have a nice garden it will be seen and noted. Even if you are not aiming at competition standards you will. I am sure, keep your front garden in as neat and tidy a condition as possible.

The Back Gardens and Allotments competition will be judged round about 11th July. Do not forget to send in your entries to me by 30th June and if you have a nice garden enter it in the competition. It only costs one penny.

I now come to the Summer Show at the Huntingfield Schools on Saturday, 28th July. All exhibits must be staged by 11 o'clock on the morning of the Show but this should not deter you from exhibiting as the school will be open on Friday evening until dark for the reception of exhibits. We have been given an extra prize of a tea tray and this will be given to the lady with the best aggregate of points in the Ladies' Classes. There are more prizes than hitherto and newcomers are specially welcomed and catered for. Entries to me at PUTNEY PARK HOUSE, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of the Show week.

The Flower Show and Fete will be opened to the public at 3 o'clock and our Fete Committee have mapped out a very attractive afternoon's entertainment for all. Music most of the time with selected programmes at intervals, Childrens Fancy Dress Parade, Balloon Race, Concert by children and all the fun of the fair. Book the date. We want your support on this afternoon and evening and we intend to give you value for your money.

Yours truly,

F.J. Twelftree

Hon. Secretary.