

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

February 2015

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

***Happy New Year to all
Members and Plot-holders***



Seed Potatoes on Sale



Kings Seeds

The Store has been cleaned and is well stocked and looks very business-like so do come and buy the goods. See Barbara's report on p. 3.



Barbara, our Store Manager welcomes you all!

Sundays, 10.00 till noon, tea, coffee and homemade cake.

Advance Notice about 2015 Rents on P.2

**WISLEY trip: 22 April see p. 4
WANDSWORTH RECYCLING FACILITY: 3rd June at 10.00 am**

CHAIR'S REPORT

Happy New Year! 2015 has got off to a good start with brisk business in the Store especially for the seed potatoes. If, like me, you are wondering how you are going to fit into your plot all the produce you are planning to grow, just a reminder of the amended Rule that was agreed at the AGM in November. **If you would like additional land or to move plot you MUST put yourself on the Waiting List;** just let us know what your requirements are. A copy of the Waiting List is on the Store Notice board and is updated regularly.

Rule 3:

"Offering Plots to Let" Only Wandsworth residents over the age of 18 will be eligible for an allotment. 5 rods is the maximum holding per household. New tenants will usually be offered plots of 2 to 3.5 rods (inclusive). An existing tenant (whose name is on the Primary Waiting List) may be offered plots as additional land up to the maximum total of 5 rods per household. Only existing tenants will be offered plots of 4 rods or more. To take up a larger plot the tenant may need to move.

Two waiting lists will be kept: the Primary Waiting List and the Secondary Waiting List. The Primary Waiting List will be for potential tenants who want an allotment and existing tenants wanting more land or to move plots. Names will be added to the bottom in order of date of application. When at the top of the list the person will be contacted. The Secondary Waiting List is for those who have reached the top of the Primary Waiting List but who

are unable to take a plot at the time it is offered. It will be the responsibility of the person on the Secondary Waiting List to make contact (e.g. email root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk) when they are able to take on a plot.

*The document '**Objectives and Procedure on Offering Plots to Let**' complements Rule 3. It can be downloaded from the website or I can let you have a copy.*

I am delighted to say that we have several new volunteers for the coming year. If you too would like to help our Society in any way you will be most welcome! Just let me know what time you can offer and what you enjoy doing. Thank you.

Jackie Savage,
jisavage@talktalk.net
07508 559134

ADVANCED NOTICE – RENTS FOR 2015 – due in April

The Council has increased the allotment rents by approx. 4% (same % increase as last year).

The rent per rod per year will be as follows:

£21.10 Full rent

£17.00 Senior rent, aged over 65 on the day the rent is due, must provide evidence of age if recently turned 65

£16.20 Disabled plot holders rent, must provide evidence of disability

NEWS FROM THE STORE!

The Store is now open for business for 2015 and we are very well stocked with all your favourites and some new items! We are now selling a range of good quality tools: **secateurs at £6.00 a pair, loopers at £11.00 a pair and hand trowel and forks at £7.00 each!**

We are also stocking pop up, reusable, rubbish sacks in two sizes, great as they can be folded for easy storage.

Loose potatoes are now in stock and selling fast, and at the end of January we will be stocking onions and shallots too. Why not try our excellent new onion fertiliser, especially for developing strong bulbs and very inexpensive per kilo too.

The beautiful RGS Calendars have sold very well and we still have some in stock at a reduced price now of £2.00 each. Why not have one at home and one on the allotment? Great seasonal tips for each month!

This is the time of year to add soil additives to enhance the soil in readiness for the growing season, for example Rock Dust! Spring and autumn are the optimum times to add Rock Dust with its incredible range of minerals, essential for much used allotment soil and at a very reasonable price per kilo.

Spring Clean and Tidy Up!

On the 4th January, a band of Members and Committee Members wrapped up very warmly and came to the Store for a massive sort, clean and tidy up in readiness for a

very large delivery of new Stock in the following week and our first day of trading for 2015! It was very cold, but we soon warmed up reorganising stock, sweeping, dusting and washing down, and very smart it looks too! So an enormous thanks you to everyone who came that Sunday!

YOUR ALLOTMENT NEEDS YOU.....!

Well, of course, your allotment needs you but so does the **Store!** As we have increased our Stock enormously now, taking delivery of many bags of manure, composts and fertiliser is quite a headache! It is very physical and beyond some of us, I know. But we have certain Members who regularly volunteer, often very early in the morning to help unload lorries at both Site 3 and the Store and they deserve a huge thank you from us all for giving up their time! So **THANK YOU so much**, to Mike Ebberson, Artan, Greg Willcox and Dave McCall. Also, if you happen to see a delivery arriving please do get your wheelbarrow and give us a hand, Barry did last time and it really helped!

Remember, the Store is open every Sunday from 10 - 12 for all stock and tea, coffee, hot chocolate and homemade cakes!

Look forward to seeing you there!

Barbara McCall, Trading Secretary

WOOD CHIPS

Free but donations always welcome

BECOMING A CHARITY – UPDATE

We have now made considerable progress with our aims in setting up a Charity. We have had further encouraging discussions with Paul McCue and Jerry Birtles of Wandsworth Council about renewing our Lease on more favourable terms. We have spent a lot of time preparing our draft Application Form and Constitution that will be submitted to the Charities Commission once ratified by the Committees. I will update on progress again next month.

Jackie Savage

RGS WEBSITE

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk.

Here you will find, amongst other items, Diary Dates (RGS events as well as others in the area are listed here), the Store price list, Bulletins back dated for 3 years and Minutes of our monthly Committee meetings, AGM and EGM.

BASIC RULES FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL COHESION ON OUR ALLOTMENT SITES

The RGS has a set of rules to help plot-holders work together amicably in a safe environment.

These have been added to the notices section of the Bulletin. (see p.8). If you have any queries please contact your site secretary or Jackie.

WIMBLEDON AND PUTNEY COMMONS CONSERVATORS' ELECTION 2015

Those of you eligible to vote will shortly be receiving your ballot papers for the election on 25 February. If you look closely, you will see that I am standing for election. I am committed to the conservation of our open spaces and would be proud to serve the community in this way. I have the time and common sense to make a difference so please vote for me. Further information can be found on the website: wpcc.org.uk.

Thank you

Shirley Gillbe

Welcome to New Members and Plot-holders

Site 2

None this month

Site 3

Angela Phelan

George Phillips

Przemyslaw Sphif (known as Sam)

Gary Rose

VISITS: WISLEY

**I have booked an RGS visit to
WISLEY for Wednesday 22 April.**

As the RGS is an affiliated association we can take up to 50 members free of charge.

We usually organise lifts in cars and a garden tour. The tour is an optional extra at £3 per person.

Please let me know if you are interested to do the visit.

VISIT: WANDSWORTH RECYCLING FACILITY

A visit has been booked for Wednesday 3 June at 10.00 am. The visit will last about 2 hours and there will be stairs to climb. There is no cost but only 12 places. Please let me know if you are interested in this visit.

Pat Dark contact details at end of Bulletin

THE DOVER HOUSE ESTATE, PUTNEY: 'HERE COMES UNIFORM TOWN'

This article comes from a Journal 'Municipal Dreams', It was forwarded to me by a teacher at Granard School who was doing some research for a local history project at the school.

The article provides a background to the estate, when the LCC purchased the land from Dover House and Putney Park House and started building the estate in 1919.

Local residents raised concerns about the lack of transport and shopping facilities and that there was no health centre, Church or public house.

Initially, the estate housed overwhelmingly 'respectable' working class people who worked in public transport, police and the post office, hence the estate being called a 'Uniform Town'.

There are some lovely photos and a plan and the article mentions the allotments and shows an original poster for a show.

I hope you enjoy reading it.

<http://municipaldreams.wordpress.com/2014/06/10/the-dover-house-estate-putney-here-comes-uniform-town/>

LOCAL VEG BOX INITIATIVE

A group of local residents are looking to set up a social enterprise in Roehampton around sustainable food. They have been meeting for almost a year and have decided to try and launch a "Veg Box" scheme offering competitively priced local organic fruit and vegetables to the local community. The project is being supported by the Plunkett Foundation through a grant provided by Wandsworth Council, as part of the Roehampton Challenge.

While the scheme is not yet operational, the team are looking for local residents to fill in a survey aimed at understanding demand for such a scheme in the area. The survey is online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/57NDFKL>. They would welcome your help and it only takes five minutes to fill in.

RECYCLED GOODS

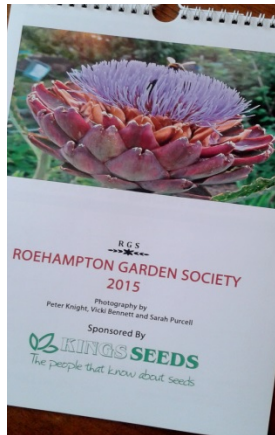
Greg, on Site 3 has a couple of Large Plastic Compost Bins and a small water butt that he wants to give away. If you are interested please contact him on

Tel: 0208 789 5933

Mob: 07990555957

SALE TIME!

2015 RGS CALENDARS
REDUCED TO £2 EACH



ON SALE AT THE STORE
OR call/text Jackie on 07508
559134

NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

<http://www.nsalg.org.uk>

I have just joined the NSALG (National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd) or the National Allotment Society for short! It costs £23 a year.

The website is worth a look and the benefits include, a free copy of Kitchen Garden Magazine, on joining; quarterly copies of the Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Magazine and free access to a horticultural adviser.

I have joined because I feel it is a good way to keep in touch with what is happening nationally. Allotments are always vulnerable in difficult economic times and we have seen the battle Watford have had with their council trying to evict them.

Pat Dark

A quote from Alexander Pope's translation of the Odyssey

Pat Heery's , brother Jack sent him this poem to encourage his efforts on his plot!

"Great is thy skill, O father!
great thy toil,
Thy careful hand is stamp'd on all
the soil,
Thy squadron'd vineyards well
thy art declare,
The olive green, blue fig, and
pendent pear;
And not one empty spot escapes
thy care."

and this remembrance of Ulysses' childhood perhaps foreshadows the future of your plot:

"Twelve pear-trees, bowing with
their pendent load,
And ten, that red with blushing
apples glow'd;
Full fifty purple figs; and many a
row
Of various vines that then began
to blow,
A future vintage! when the Hours
produce
Their latent buds, and Sol exalts
the juice."

(Ulysses on declaring himself to
Laertes) in Pope's translation - half
way through book XXIV:
(With acknowledgements to Homer
and to www.gutenberg.org)

FEBRUARY RECIPE

Quick Sausage Casserole with Savoy Cabbage Topping

Sausage Casserole

3 tablesp. Olive oil
150g streaky bacon
8 good Lincolnshire or Cumberland sausages
2 large onions, peeled and chopped
1 carrot, trimmed and sliced
1 stick celery, trimmed and sliced
2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
1 tablesp. Flour
1 x 400g tin lentils
1x400 tin chopped tomatoes
16 fl oz hot chicken stock
Bay leaf

Savoy cabbage topping

½ small Savoy cabbage, root removed and finely chopped
Small handful parsley
50g pine nuts, chopped
50g Parmesan cheese, finely grated
Clove garlic, chopped

3 slices bread, made into breadcrumbs
100g Parmesan, finely grated
1 lemon, grated zest only
Seasoning

1. For the casserole: Put the olive oil and chopped vegetables in a cast iron casserole (that can be used on the hob and in the oven), and fry for 5 minutes until softened. Remove the vegetables onto kitchen towel and fry the bacon until browned and crispy. Remove from pan. Then brown the sausages, turning so they are browned all over.

2. Remove the sausages, and then stir the flour into the remaining oil and brown. Pour in the chicken stock and whisk or stir with a wooden spoon until smooth and thickened.

3. Put sausages. Bacon & vegetables back into the pot and add the lentils and chopped tomatoes and bay leaf. Cook on the hob or in the oven uncovered for 15/20 minutes to reduce the liquid.

4. For the topping: Mix the finely chopped Savoy cabbage with the parsley, pine nuts, 50g Parmesan and Garlic. Sprinkle over the casserole.

5. Mix the breadcrumbs, 100g Parmesan and lemon zest and sprinkle over the Savoy cabbage mixture.

6. Bake at gas 4, 180° C for approx 15 minutes, until browned. Serve immediately with mashed potato.

MANURE

We are so fortunate to have these deliveries from time to time.

The manure deliveries can only continue if full amount is collected.

£1 per barrow load in the box provided please

NOTICES

RHS CONTACTS

**Site Manager: Shirley Gillbe;
Site 2 Allotment Secretary:
Georgina O'Reilly;
Site 3 Allotment Secretary: Helen
Finch.**

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.**

jisavage@talktalk.net or 07508 559134

**Comments, questions for Chair
and/or Committee via website:
root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk**

SECURITY

**If you see someone trespassing
or causing damage on Sites or in
an emergency phone 999 or text
phone 18000.**

DISCOUNTS

**10% discount when you show
your RGS membership card at:
Adrian Hall Garden Centre in
Sheen;
Capital Gardens, opposite
Wandsworth Prison**

www.vegetableseeds.com

**Recycle used cartridges in the
Store**

**The Cartridge People, give 10%
of the cost of your order back to
the Society when you buy from:
www.cartridgepeople.com/RaisingMoneyFor/Roehampton-GS**

**The Conservation Foundation
Tool Shed means and re-
furbishes old garden tools for
schools
www.conservationfoundation.co.uk**

**AUSTIN MOWERS repairs and
sells reconditioned mowers and
sharpen shears.
300 Garratt Lane, SW18 4EH
020 8874 4206
www.austinmowers.com
austinmowers@aol.com**

**THE STORE, is 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**

**NEXT BULLETIN: 1st March
2015, by email, in store and on
both sites.**

**Copy for next edition to Pat Dark
(020 8789 7568, 27 St Margarets
Crescent, Putney, London SW15
6HL or by email:
Patdark13@yahoo.co.uk by 25
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