

# ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

## MONTHLY BULLETIN

March 2017

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



## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

I hope you are looking forward to the growing season as much as I am this year. Let's hope for a warm spring and no further freezing cold spells. We will turn the water back on as soon as we are sure no frosts are forecast.

### **Membership fees**

The committee has agreed to update the membership fee structure. All **main plot holders** (one name per plot) must be Full Members. Any named **plot holder partners** may choose to be Full or Associate members. A named plot holder partner is the only person who can take over the plot if the main plot holder quits after at least one year of satisfactory cultivation. **Members without plots** and those on the **waiting list** can choose Full or Associate membership. (It is not necessary to be a member to be on the waiting list, but it is encouraged)

As from 1 April this year the annual fees will be £5 for Full or Associate membership. **Associate members will not have full voting rights, but this will be ratified at the next AGM.**

### **Charity/Lease renewal**

As an update on the continuing work to become a Charity with a long lease on our allotment land, we are now waiting to hear from Wandsworth Council who have instructed their property consultants to value the land. We have put forward a case (based on the Barnet precedent) for a peppercorn rent.

**Jackie Savage, 07508 559134,  
[root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk)**

## **PLOT INSPECTIONS**

Plot inspections will take place in March. Plot holders are reminded that the Wandsworth 'The Letting Agreement' states 'The tenant undertakes to maintain a satisfactory level of cultivation'. This will be interpreted that plots will be cleared and ready for cultivation before rent can be taken in April. If there are personal reasons why you are not able to have your plot prepared, you need to contact your Site Secretary (Helen Finch site 3 and Georgina O'Reilly site 2) as soon as possible, and explain your circumstances and provide a date when you will be able to start your cultivation.

**We now have the new rents per rod from Enable/Wandsworth.**

**There is an increase of approx 3% from last year.**

**Standard rate: £22.20  
Over 65: £18  
Disabled: £17**

***Spring is coming and the grass will be growing!*** There is a lightweight easy-to-operate strimmer to hire in the store on site 2. £2.00 a session. Battery lasts 20 mins. Long grass needs to be cut with shears first, Ideal for dry grass. Book on [root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

**Donations of herbs and cuttings for the Communal Herb Bed:** Cuttings & plants to be left labeled near the bed.



## STORE REPORT

We thought you would appreciate seeing photographs of some of the new items that we have in the Store.

We have recently started to stock Showa gardening gloves in a variety of sizes. These gloves fit closely over the hand so you can still feel what you are doing whilst still giving a good level of protection. You can also put them in the washing machine. These are the only gardening gloves I now use. I have 2 pairs, one ready for use and one in the wash. They cost £6 per pair.



We now have a potting trowel as well as our standard trowels and forks. This is ideal for planting out seedlings with its pointed design. It also has measurement markings on it so you can see the depth of the hole for planting. It costs £8.



To help with planting out we have biodegradable peat pots which you can plant directly into the soil and not disturb the roots of your seedlings. These are sold in a pack of 12 or individually.



The wool seed compost is selling well. This is made from the wool of sheep farmed on the Lake District Fells. More will be ordered if this interest continues.



We now have a Library section in the Store and members are encouraged to bring their unwanted allotment gardening and cookery books for others to take home and enjoy in return for a donation. There are also some reference books, so if you have an allotment query, select a book from the Library, look up your particular query and read about it over tea and a slice of cake.

**Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary**

**Stop press: Georgina is trying the wool compost to plant seeds and will write a critique for next month's Bulletin.**

## **KINGS SEEDS**

The display stand was looking depleted towards the end of 2016. This was because quite a few packets went back to Kings, having reached their sow-by-date, after which seeds are less viable. When the Kings seed representative came to collect the expired packets

he said that there were likely to be shortages of peas, sweet peas and beans because of crop failures and advised stocking up on favourite varieties to avoid disappointment.

Over recent weeks, I have been ordering seeds to fill the gaps. Kings have been unable to supply some varieties of peas and beans, including *White Lady Runner Beans*. This variety is productive due to its white flowers being less prone to being picked by birds. *Moonlight* might be a good substitute if *White Lady* continues to be unavailable.

As well as popular seed varieties, I have ordered some exciting new varieties that are on offer. Watch out for the following:

***Basil British* and *Courgette British Summertime*** (British varieties) specially suited to our climatic conditions. British Basil was bred for growing outdoors. It is robust, with bright green leaves and an intensive flavour.

***Spinach: Trombone F1*** that is slow to bolt. It is slow growing but can be sown early and late in season and is resistant to mildew.

***Sweet Corn: Earlibird F1***: a breakthrough variety for early, high quality cobs with supper sweet kernels. This is the earliest cropping sweet corn in Europe and gluten-free.

***Yellow Chilli Trinidad Perfume***, without heat but with an authentic Habanero flavour.

***Tomato Fandango F1***: produces heavy crops of deep red fruit with a good flavour that can weigh as



much as 5 oz each. It is ideal for growing outdoors as it is blight tolerant and resistant to *fusarium* and *verticillium* wilt.

### ***Why not try growing something you have not grown before?***

Swedes are remarkably easy to grow – sow in modules in May and transplant when large enough. Harvest through autumn/early winter. Try **Swede: Ruby** – a dark purple-skinned with yellow flesh and a good flavour. It has an RHS AGM (Award of Garden Merit).

The Kings website gives sowing and growing instructions for each variety, handy tips and nutritional values.

[www.kingsseeds.com](http://www.kingsseeds.com)

Browsing the various seed catalogues, I noticed that Kings list a wider range of seeds than most other companies and offer very good value for money, for example on **Cobra: French Climbing Beans**, **Cucumber: La Diva** and **Spring Onion: White Lisbon**.

Feedback and suggestions on seeds you would like to try are always welcome. Flowers, apart from sweet peas, nasturtiums and sunflowers have not proved popular in the past but I am happy to order flower varieties if there is anything that you think we should stock, that you have had success with or would like to try out.

Happy sowing and growing!  
**Liz Crominska**



20% discount on all Kings seeds in the Store!

### **GROW TO EAT SHOW 19 MARCH 2017 AT RHS WISLEY**



The National Vegetable Society is holding its 'Grow to Eat' Show 19 March 12.30 – 4pm at Hillside Events Centre, RHS Wisley. Booking is not required and free to all after garden entry

## **MARCH RECIPE**

Georgina O'Reilly supplied the recipe. Georgina has made the cake for the store Sunday morning café and the recipe has been requested by several customers. Thanks to 'The Museum of Garden History Garden Cafe Recipes'.

### **CHOCOLATE & BEETROOT CAKE**

Makes one 21cm/ 8" cake tin (greased and lined with baking parchment)

175g beetroot  
200g plain flour  
100g cocoa powder  
1 heaped teaspoon baking powder  
250g caster sugar  
3 free range eggs  
4 tablespoons hot strong coffee  
200g butter  
100g dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids)  
Crème fraiche and poppy seeds to serve

Preheat oven to 180c/Gas mark 4

1 Cook the beetroot, whole and unpeeled, in boiling water for between 30-40 minutes or until knifepoint tender. Drain and cool under cold running water. Blitz to a rough purée. Grate if you haven't got a food processor!  
2. Melt the chocolate in a glass bowl over a pan of simmering water being careful not to stir. When the chocolate looks almost melted, add the hot coffee and stir at once.  
3. Cut the butter into small pieces- the smaller the better and add to the melted chocolate. Dip the butter underneath the chocolate as best you can with a spoon and

leave to soften.

4. Sift together the flour, baking powder and cocoa.

5. Separate the eggs, placing the whites in a mixing bowl. Beat the yolks together.

6. Working quickly but gently, remove the bowl of chocolate from the heat and stir until the butter has melted into the chocolate completely. Leave for a few minutes to cool a little before adding the beaten egg yolks.

Quickly beat the mixture together, and then fold in the beetroot.

7. Whisk the egg whites until stiff, then fold in the sugar. Firmly but tenderly fold this mixture into the chocolate, using a large metal spoon, in a figure of eight motion. Take care not to over mix.

8. Fold in the flour, cocoa and baking powder. Transfer quickly to the prepared cake tin and put in the oven, turning the heat down immediately to 160c/Gas mark 3.

9. Bake for 40 minutes. The rim of the cake will feel spongy, while the centre should still have a slight wobble when shaken.

10. Leave to cool (it will sink a little in the centre) loosening the edges with a palette knife after half an hour or so. Leave in the tin until completely cold.

11. Cut into thick slices and serve with crème fraiche and a sprinkling of poppy seeds.

### **CHISWICK HOUSE EVENT**

Camellia Show 2017 – Chiswick House camellias growing in their beautiful conservatory from 3 March to 2 April.

[www.chgt.org.uk](http://www.chgt.org.uk)



## **NOTICES**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Summer Show: 24 June 2017  
Autumn Show: 9 September 2017  
AGM: Wednesday 15 November 2017

### **RGS ADDRESS AND POST BOX**

Fixed to the gate at site 2, The Pleasance. The address is:  
Roehampton Garden Society The Pleasance Allotments The Pleasance  
London SW15 5HF  
Website:  
[www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk](http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

### **RHS CONTACTS**

Committee Chair: Jackie Savage,  
Site 2 Allotment Secretary:  
Georgina O'Reilly;  
Site 3 Allotment Secretary: Helen Finch.  
Site Manager: Shirley Gillbe;  
Comments, questions for Chair and/or Committee via website:  
[root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

### **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.*  
[jackiesavage29@gmail.com](mailto:jackiesavage29@gmail.com) or  
07508 559134

### **THE CONSERVATION**

#### **FOUNDATION TOOL SHED Mend**

and re-furbished old garden tools for schools  
[www.conservationfoundation.co.uk](http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk)  
[www.vegetableseeds.com](http://www.vegetableseeds.com)

### **DISCOUNTS**

#### **Adrian Hall, East Sheen**

On presentation of your RGS membership card you will receive 10% discount on horticultural goods that you take away with you, not on delivered items.

#### **Neal's, Heathfield Road, SW18 3HR (opposite Wandsworth Prison)**

Register for their loyalty card, as an RGS member by showing your membership card, giving your name, email address, post-code. A 7% retrospective discount on goods purchased, which can be redeemed at the time of the next purchase (like a Nectar card). The amount of discount is recorded as 'points' on the card and shown on each till receipt. £5.00 worth of points is put on your card as a thank you when you register. If you are over 50, and a loyalty card member, you will receive 10% discount on Wednesdays.

### **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](http://www.cartridgepeople.com/RaisingMoneyFor/Roehampton-GS)**

### **AUSTIN MOWERS**

Repairs and sells reconditioned mowers and sharpen shears. 300 Garratt Lane, SW18 4EH 020 8874 4206 [www.austinmowers.com](http://www.austinmowers.com)  
[austinmowers@aol.com](mailto:austinmowers@aol.com)

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391 Upper Richmond Road West,  
East Sheen, SW14 7NX Tel: 0208  
392 2233

**SECURITY**

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

**NEW DAWN GARDENS**

Artan Deliallisi, one of our plot  
holders, offers regular or casual  
maintenance for gardens. He will  
repair or build fences, gates,  
sheds, paving, walls and arches.  
07411 288485  
artandeliailisi@gmail.com

**MANTRA LANDSCAPES**

Grounds maintenance specialists'  
www.mantralandscapes.com  
Alexander Barrington Thompson-  
Byer  
Tel: +44 (0)7985 463 283

**FREE HORSE MANURE**

Ridgway Stables in Wimbledon  
(next to Swan Pub on the corner of  
Hillside and Ridgway) have a  
constant supply of free horse  
manure available.

The manure is bagged up and  
gardeners are welcome to collect  
between 8am -5pm, 7 days a week.  
They will also deliver manure in  
larger loads (approx 60 bags) to  
allotments in the area, on  
Saturdays.

Please call Julia on 020 8946 7400  
if you are interested.

**CAPITAL GROWTH**

Capital Growth is the largest food  
growing network in London. It was  
set up initially as a partnership  
initiative between London Food  
Link, the Mayor of London, and the  
Local Food Fund and helped create  
2012 new community food-growing  
spaces across London by the end  
of 2012.

You may be interested in their  
courses and voluntary work  
opportunities. See what they are  
doing and sign up for their  
newsletter at  
www.capitalgrowth.org

**Volunteer gardeners needed**

Volunteers are needed to help in  
the large and beautiful gardens at  
Mount Court which is a retirement  
home in Weimar Road, Putney  
SW15 1SJ. If you are interested  
please phone Maggie on 07549  
279 215.

**THE STORE**

Store open on Sunday mornings  
between 10 -12.00 noon. Café,  
also serving tea, coffee and  
homemade cake.

**NEXT BULLETIN:**

The next Bulletin by  
Sunday 2 April 2017  
by email, in store and on both sites.  
Copy for next edition to Pat Dark  
(020 8789 7568, 27 St Margaret's  
Crescent, Putney, London SW15  
6HL or by email to:  
patdark13@yahoo.co.uk by 16  
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