

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

April/May 2017

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Spring on the allotment



CHAIRS REPORT

Site 3 improvements

Site 3 (Dover House Road) plot holders will have noticed the improvements to the communal area near the main gate.

Separate areas for manure and wood chip will stop them mixing and free up the path. The area to the left of the 2 store sheds is the new area for recycling allotment related items – but not rubbish!

PLEASE don't use the areas to dump rubbish. All rubbish must be taken off site or left on your plot until the November rubbish collection.

Website

We have a lovely new website www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk where you can find, amongst other things, lots of interesting horticultural articles, a searchable archive of bulletins and a place to look up the rules if you have a question about anything (e.g. keeping chickens or planting trees).

Charity/Lease renewal

We have now received a valuation of, and suggested rental for, our land. We have a few questions to sort out first with Wandsworth and then I will come back to you with the full proposal.

Thanks

Many thanks once again to all

the volunteers who give so much of their time so cheerfully!

Jackie Savage

07508 559134

root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

STORE REPORT

We are well into the sowing season and the Store has lots of items to get your plants off to a good start and help them grow.

We have a variety of soil improvers and fertilisers that we sell loose by the kilo making them very cost effective:

Growmore: one of the few non-organic fertiliser that we sell but which is very popular. It is made up of equal parts of nitrogen, phosphate and potash. It promotes root development, general growth and fruit/ flower production.

Bonemeal: supplies phosphate for good root development and some nitrogen for strong foliage. Apply under the roots when planting out, or fork in before planting over a larger area.

Fish, Blood and Bone: similar to Bonemeal, but also contains potassium for flower and fruit production. It makes a good dressing as well as a soil improver.

Groworganic: 100% concentrated shredded chicken manure that conditions the soil and helps to break down clay. It contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and can be used with lime-hating plants.

Seaweed Meal: made up of crushed and dried seaweed, it acts as a slow release fertiliser and soil conditioner, helping to build up the humus in the soil. It contains several useful nutrients including nitrogen, potassium, phosphate and magnesium. It is also great for lawns.

Calcified Seaweed: this is not seaweed but calcified cold water coral and coralline algae dredged from the sea off the French and English coasts. It can transfer nutrients directly to the root structures of plants and improve soil structure.

Poultry Manure Pellets: a useful source of nitrogen to promote green, leafy growth but is low in phosphorus and potassium so is not for all round use. The nutrients are released slowly as the soil warms up.

GroChar: this contains a blend of trace elements including manganese, copper, calcium, iron, zinc and sulphur as well as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Add to the bottom of the hole before planting or use as top dressing, lightly scratching into the soil. Used by

many professional organic growers and developed by the founder of Green and Black's Chocolate!

Comfrey liquid tonic: this is new to the Store and is a natural liquid feed for tomatoes, other fruit, flowers and vegetables. It is a rich source of potash, micronutrients, vitamins, minerals and growth promoting agents. Mix 25 ml of tonic to 1 litre of water.

We also sell **Maxicrop Original Seaweed plant food by the litre.** This can be applied as a root drench or a foliage spray and can be used through all stages of growing. We also sell Maxicrop Seaweed extract with tomato fertiliser by the litre that encourages healthier growth in tomato plants.

We now offer a variety of teas at the Cafe. These include Earl Grey, Green, Blackcurrant, Mint, Lemon Grass and Ginger teas. Do remember to bring your mugs back if you take them to your allotment.

Gill Tamsett
Trading Secretary

**REINSTATED COMMUNAL
HERB BED**

Many thanks to those of you who kindly donated to the reinstated herb bed on site 2. It is now well filled and looking promising. Georgina

WOOL COMPOST TRIAL

Georgina O'Reilly decided to trial one of the new products being stocked by the store, the wool seed compost, made from the wool of sheep farmed on the Lake District Fells.

Georgina says' "I used the Wool Seed Compost for small seeds such as chillies, tomatoes, aubergines and celeriac. The germination was as near 100% as I could tell. The seeds all flourished and grew at a good rate. The compost is friable to handle, is free draining and does not harden up when wet. Yes, it is expensive, but to give small seeds a good start I think it is worth the money."



Celeriac Boule de Marbre and Prinz 15 days after sowing in new Wool compost available from the store.



Chilli Apache 16 days after sowing in new Wool compost available from the store.



Tomato Sungold 13 days after sowing in new Wool compost available in the store



Aubergine Black Beauty 13 days after sowing in new Wool seed compost available from the store.

By popular demand we have re-instated the 20% discount offer on all Kings Seeds in the Store.

Kings seeds are the finest quality and have been tested for vigour, purity and germination. They also offer very good value for money (especially with our members' discount!)

If you are looking for organically sourced seed choose the Suffolk Herbs packets, also in stock. Any queries please contact Jackie on 07508 559134 or email at root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

SITE 3 NEEDS ADDITIONAL TOILET MONITORS

Additional Site 3 Toilet Monitors would be much appreciated. It only takes a few minutes every two or three days. If you would like to help please contact Vivien Fowler. Plot 66a.

e. vivienf@talk21.com And please state which month/s you would prefer.

Many thanks. Vivien

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

NATIONAL ALLOTMENT WEEK

14TH-20TH AUGUST

Theme 'Growing the Movement'

EARTHWORM WATCH

National Allotment Society members are invited to count earthworms and categorise soils across Britain to help scientists reveal relationships between earthworms, carbon and soil health. Find out more by reading their blog at [Earthworm Blog](#) and register at [Earthworm Experiment](#)

For more information look at the NSALG website:

www.nsalg.org

LOCAL COMMUNITY GARDENING



Introducing Putney Community Gardens

This fledgling organisation is a local initiative, based around a patchwork of green spaces across the Ashburton Estate, with a focus on connecting with nature, community and food.

It started out as collaboration between residents of the Ashburton estate and members of Putney Food Assembly, who were introduced via the local youth club. Both sides were interested in promoting local food sources, improved biodiversity, and community cohesion.

Following a consultation process with residents, 3 plots of land were allocated by the council for use by the group as well as the raised planters behind the Tildesley Road shops. Their aim is to bring the community closer together, encourage socializing, skill sharing and learning, along with

having a jolly good time outdoors!

Everyone is welcome from beginners to keen gardeners, meeting every Sunday from 4-6.00 pm.

Get the latest news on volunteering at:
<https://www.facebook.com/PutneyCommunityGardens/>

Or you can drop us an email for more information:

info@putneycommunitygardens.org

If you're on the waiting list for a plot at the allotment, this could be the perfect way to keep your fingers green!

PCG are also working with the London Sustainability Exchange on the "Pollinator Paths" project, searching for 15 households in Putney or Roehampton to host pollinator friendly plants and flowers. The goal of this project is to promote a patchwork of green spaces creating "stepping stones" for insects to travel and pollinate across a wider area. "Kits" of plants and how-to guides will be distributed to eager households and turn them into one of the many pollinator-friendly patches. An event to celebrate the project's launch and introduce PCG to the local community is being held as part of the Wandsworth Fringe -

Boyd's Court 4-6pm on
Saturday 13th May.

And lastly, members of Putney Community Gardens were grateful to get a tour of the RGS allotments on Sunday 12th March. The enjoyable morning was spent talking to incredibly friendly and knowledgeable gardeners and being treated with tea and cakes, a big thank you to our wonderful hosts Jackie and Georgina.

GROWHAMPTON

Allotments and a market at
Roehampton University.



Welcome to the Growhampton
Market on the beautiful grounds
of Roehampton University.

Growhampton is the
Roehampton Students' Union's
sustainability project and has
developed vibrant growing
spaces across The University of
Roehampton's beautiful campus
allowing students, staff and the
local community to reconnect
with how their food grows and
where it comes from. Fresh
produce from our growing
spaces is available for sale at
our weekly market day, as well
as delicious sourdough bread
baked by our local baker,
second hand clothing and more.

Come and visit us: Thursday 12-
2pm,

Digby Square, University of
Roehampton.

www.growhampton.com

THINGS TO DO

There are a number of activities on offer:

1. Lambeth Palace Gardens open for 2017
2. Pollinator Paths workshops
3. Annual visit to Wisley
4. Share Plant Sale
5. Doddington & Rollo Roof Garden

See information below.

Lambeth Palace Gardens opens to visitors for 2017

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is opening the gardens of Lambeth Palace on a regular monthly basis. Lambeth Palace has been the home to Archbishops of Canterbury for 800 years.

The gardens are the oldest continuously cultivated gardens in London, and will be open between 12.00 pm and 3.00 pm on the 1st Friday of the month between 7 April and 1st Sept.

The cost for entry is £5. There is no need to book.

The garden is used by the Archbishop and his family, staff and visitors and for charitable events.

Address: Lambeth Palace Gardens, London SE1 7EH

www.nineelmslondon.com

Could your home be a **POLLINATOR PATH?**



Do you have a balcony, window ledge or small plot?

Transform it into a pollinators' **paradise!**

For more information visit our facebook page or send us an email!



ANNUAL VISIT TO WISLEY

RGS is affiliated to the RHS and so we can take up to 55 members to visit RHS Wisley each year free of charge.

This year to date is Tuesday 18 July.

If you have transport we can meet you there or if you need a lift I can arrange this. We arrive about coffee time and spend a most enjoyable day in the gardens and usually come home laden with beautiful plants from the garden centre. There is also the opportunity to join a group tour (optional but costing £3) that lasts about an hour.

Please phone or email me (Pat Dark) if you would like to visit Wisley. Contact details at end of Bulletin.

Share Plant Sale & Healthy Living Community Day

Saturday 20 May 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Share provides training and employment support for disabled people.

They are kicking off their gardening season with a bumper plant sale, with a range of flowering, vegetables and herb plants all grown and nurtured in the Share Garden. There will also be healthy eats from the healthy living project and exercise workshops to focus

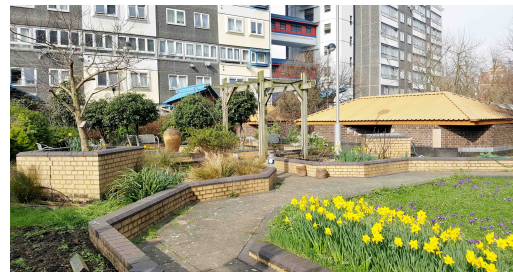
your inner zen.

To find out more about their work and to register, go to

www.sharecommunity.org.uk

Location: Share Garden, in the grounds of Springfield University, Hospital, London SW17 7DJ

DODDINGTON AND ROLLO COMMUNITY ROOF GARDEN



One Saturday morning in March a couple of us visited the Doddington and Rollo Community Roof Garden. It is lovely, sustainable and ecological garden in a most unlikely place – the entrance is behind Tesco's on Battersea Park Road SW11 5HD. Climb the stairs and there you are, a surprisingly large area of paradise amid the high rise! They grow fruit, flowers and vegetables that they share with their community and have regular cookery sessions.

The gardeners welcome visitors and are keen to encourage volunteers, with and without experience.

Opening times year round are Saturday's 10am to 1pm and Wednesdays 12:30pm to 3:30pm.



Open Sat 10am – 1pm and from March – September 4pm – 8pm. If you are interested in offering your support or finding out more please contact:

doddingtongarden@gmail.com

Sheffield University Allotment Project: MYHarvest

Di Appleyard, from Sheffield University has contacted RGS to see if any of our plot-holders would be interested in taking part in the research project they are doing.

The research is aiming to estimate the contribution people who grow their own fruit and vegetable crops are making to UK national food production by:

1. Contributing to a first national estimate of own-grown food production in the 21st century.
2. Helping us to understand how much allotment and garden space we need in the future to ensure sufficient access for the growing number of people in our cities and towns.

The National Allotment Society is supporting the research team.

For more information look at:

www.myharvest.org.uk

Twitter: @myharvestuk

Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/MYHarvestUK>

May Recipe

This is one of Gill Tamsitt's favourite recipes of the moment. The soup is a Jamie Oliver recipe, which he describes as "a fantastically simple asparagus soup, pureéd till it is silky smooth, it is always a winner. Eaten hot (or cold on really hot days with the help of a little lemon juice)." It will provide a very nutritious lunch or supper. Gill says she doesn't always bother with the poached egg! The soup also freezes well.

Asparagus Soup with Poached Egg on Toast



(Serves 8)

Ingredients

800 g asparagus, woody ends removed
Olive Oil
2 medium white onions, peeled and chopped
2 sticks of celery, trimmed and chopped
2 leeks, trimmed and chopped

2 litres organic vegetable or chicken stock
Sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper
10 small free-range eggs
8 slices of ciabatta bread
1 knob butter
Extra virgin olive oil

Method

1. Chop the tips off the asparagus and put aside for later. Roughly chop the asparagus stalks. Put a glug of olive oil into a large pan and heat; add the onions, celery and leeks and sauté for about 10 minutes, until softened. Add the chopped asparagus stalks and the stock and simmer for 20 minutes with the lid on.
2. Remove from the heat and liquidize. Season the soup and taste. Put the soup back on the heat and stir in the asparagus tips. Bring back to the boil and simmer for a few more minutes until they have softened.
3. Poach the eggs. Jamie does them all at once in a large shallow pan.
4. To serve dish the soup into bowls and serve with a slice of toasted, buttered ciabatta with a poached egg on top. Drizzle with olive oil.

RHS ideas – see archive/letter from Jackie

RHS Photo Competition and Changing Faces Project

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

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

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 or
07508 559134

THE CONSERVATION

FOUNDATION TOOL SHED Mend

and re-furbished old garden tools
For schools
www.conservationfoundation.co.uk
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

AUSTIN MOWERS

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

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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 teas, coffee and
homemade cake.

NEXT BULLETIN:

The next Bulletin by
Sunday 4 June 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 17 May
2017