

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

JUNE 2017

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

WANDSWORTH BEST PLOT



See page 4 for article on visit to Debbie Hardy's plot.



SUMMER SHOW

**3.00 PM, SATURDAY 24th JUNE
ST MARGARETS CHURCH HALL
PUTNEY PARK LANE**

**ENTRY FORMS AND SHOW
SCHEDULE TO DOWNLOAD, IN
THE STORE OR SITE BOXES**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-
PLEASE CONTACT CAROL
MARTINEZ**

**DONATIONS OF PLANTS,
CUTTINGS, PRODUCE,
PRESERVES, CAKES FOR THE
REFRESHMENTS, BOTTLES
AND GOODS FOR THE
TOMBOLA**

SEE PAGE 3 for show details

CHAIR'S REPORT

Please use our new website as a reference library. Among other useful information there is a very important ALLOTMENTS page that you can refer to when considering what you want to do with your plot. There you will find the PLOT HOLDER AGREEMENTS and DOCUMENTS TO READ. These include our STRUCTURES POLICY so you can work out what size shed / greenhouse / polytunnel you might have, as well as details on what you can grow (see PLANTING FRUIT TREES).

<http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/your-allotment/plotholder-agreements/>

If you don't have access to the Internet printed copies of any document are available. Until we are a Charity we still must follow rules set out by Enable / Wandsworth (see p7 for website).

We are currently negotiating the rent for our new 50-year Lease with the Council, which is, of course, still dependent on us becoming a Charity.

Wandsworth are planning a "Better Plots" event this July. This will be a new twist on the old "Best Plots" and be less of a competition and more of an opportunity to receive some advice. We will keep you posted as soon as we know more.

We are all looking forward to and planning for our Summer Show. Please see all the details in this Bulletin and on the website. See you on the 24 June!

Jackie

.07508 559134

Jackiesavage29@gmail.com

PEA NETTING WITH A TWIST



Gary's plot Site 3

STORE REPORT

This is the time of year when the battle against slugs is in full force. A little later than usual, perhaps, as the soil has been so dry.



We sell a number of products to deal with slugs in the Store. Our most popular are Advanced Slug Killer pellets. These are approved for organic use in the UK and are effective against snails and slugs on the surface of the soil. They remain effective after exposure to rain, watering and sunlight and no

interval is required between application and harvesting.

The pellets are based on ferric phosphate that is broken down by micro-organisms into iron and phosphate in the soil that are both beneficial for plant growth.

Due to this mode of action, they can be used around children, pets and wildlife. However, it is important NOT to exceed the application rate or frequency of use to avoid the infestation of a significant number. No more than 5g should be spread over a 1 square metre.

We also sell Grazers G2 Slug and Snail Repellent that is sprayed onto leaves and acts as a repellent.

We also sell copper tape and Doff slug pellets to help you deal with these little pests.

We have also recently introduced slug traps. These can be buried to soil level, leaving a 'lip' to keep out ground beetles. They are made of plastic and have a rainproof clip-on lid and include a lift-out 'strainer' to remove the dead slugs that should be done every 2-3 days. We sell bait separately to put in these traps, or you could use beer. Each trap protects about 5 square metres.

One of our plot holders has a friend who runs a packing business for works of art and has a variety of crates made of wood that can be used as containers or raised beds. We are looking to have some delivered to our Sites, so if you are interested, please

email me

on gilltamsett1@hotmail.com. They are free and arrive in a variety of shapes and sizes (unpainted), so you must specify the sort of size you are looking for, although it cannot be guaranteed that they would be exactly the size



Some examples of the crates



Creative ideas for using the crates

specified. More photographs can be seen on Martin Speed's Facebook account.

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

SUMMER SHOW

As many of you will know, the Roehampton Garden Society was founded in 1922, incorporating at that time the Roehampton Horticultural Society that, in turn, had been founded in 1873 and was the oldest horticultural society in London.

When I joined the RGS in the late 1990s I learned that the Society had held shows every year without interruption since 1947. I mention this because 2017 marks the 70th year of this achievement and I would therefore encourage as many of you as possible to support the shows this year in order to celebrate this milestone.

Our annual shows perform a very valuable function in our current high-speed, high-tech society. They provide a true sense of community spirit - a rare commodity in the metropolitan sprawl that is Greater London. It is a pleasure to see so many local residents arriving at the shows to enjoy the timeless pleasure of tea and homemade cakes and to witness their genuine admiration of the produce on display.

The Summer Show will be held on 24th June this year – a little later than usual which should mean that produce in allotments and gardens will have had an extra

week or two to develop into prize-winning specimens! There are many members who regularly exhibit and we remain very grateful for their continued support. But there are also many plot-holders and members of the RGS, both existing and new, who may not have considered competing in the annual shows and I would encourage you all to give it a try. The Novice Section of the Show Schedule has many classes for those of you who have never competed or who have never won a first prize, so please do take a look and choose at least one class to enter – you will be surprised what pleasure you will have in winning a prize.

If the produce and flower classes do not appeal, take a look at the Cookery Section of the Schedule where there are many opportunities to display your culinary skills.

Children are also encouraged to enter classes in their special section. Each year we are amazed by the variety and originality of entries by children of all ages. It is very gratifying to witness the interest which children are taking in the shows, particularly in the popular auction of produce where they are proving to be very enthusiastic and competitive bidders.

If you do not feel able to compete but would like to support the shows, we are also very grateful for home-made cakes for the tea stall, plants, garden products and home-made preserves for the produce stall or donations to the raffle or tombola. We also

welcome any help that can be given in setting-up on the Friday evening or helping to clear the Church Hall at the end of the show.

As you can see, there are many way in which to support the show and we very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in June as without you there would not be a show at all.

Mariangela Renshaw, Show Committee

WANDSWORTH BEST PLOT WINNER

Debbie Hardy has been recognised by Wandsworth as one of the best plot holders in the Borough so a small group from the RGS Committee went to Morden Allotments in New Malden, curious to see her plot. The site is next to a nursery and playing fields and is the most far flung of the allotment sites managed by Wandsworth. Debbie, who lives in Battersea, has had a plot here for over 35 years. Starting off with a shared plot, which she then took over, Debbie then took on adjoining land as it became vacant and she now has 10 rods. Debbie spends 2 whole days creating and maintaining her "model" plot. We were keen to find out how she manages it, despite living in Battersea and sometimes coming on her bike!

The beds are raised, in the true sense, being built up well above the level of the paths. This is partly from necessity as the site is low-lying, with a tendency to get

waterlogged, and there are drainage ditches to stop flooding. The soil texture is great - quite rich and fine with a thin mulch of the fibrous material from the surface of manure (well-composted over the autumn and winter) from the asparagus beds. These are treated with chicken manure and fish, blood and bone in the spring.

I was interested to learn that once the asparagus season is over Debbie uses the beds to grow a few tomato plants that at the same time deter asparagus beetle.

Spacing tends to be quite close - Hurst Greenshaft peas were growing in a tight grouping right next to some tall broad bean plants that seemed to be keeping each other upright. Debbie said that they didn't seem to mind being closer than the recommended distance.

Debbie likes to grow flowers among the vegetables. Some are rejects from pots at home; others include old flower bulbs, primula and pinks. There were some splendid wallflowers when we visited and poached eggplants buzzing with bees. There will be nigella (love-in-a-mist) corncockle, lupins and nasturtiums. Some are used as edging plants to attract the bees but there is also some companion planting such as French marigolds with Gardener's Delight tomatoes (pictured).

Lettuce and carrots were well ahead in terms of growth. The carrots sown in March already had impressive 20 cm tops and there were some fine-looking Rossa di

Trentino lettuce (pictured). Debbie sows a lot of seeds direct, into a trench of seed compost that she then covers with fine soil/seed compost. She uses enviromesh to protect carrots from carrot fly but also in a cold frame bed to protect against birds and the cold.

Sorrel, regular and red-veined, was growing in abundance along the edge of a bed. Culinary tip: add sorrel to a risotto at the last minute. We also liked the idea of half-burying a cut-off plastic bottle next to a courgette plant to make watering more targeted and leaving the earth around the plant dry, and thus less prone to slug attack!



Those who grow brassicas were impressed by the small net polytunnel over the cabbages and broccoli (pictured). It is, we were told, easy to remove. We went away inspired.

CAUTIONARY BEE STORY



I saw a lot of bees on my plot neighbour's compost bin yesterday. I could not call it a swarm, as the only swarm I have seen is in Richmond Park was where they hung in a huge black, swaying sack-like shape making an incredible buzzing noise. The bees on the plot were calm and business-like, buzzing around and settling on the compost bin.

The arrival of bees on an allotment site caused some excitement and consternation!

There was also some controversy as to whether they were bees or wasps!

A plotholder who has kept bees was consulted, also the Twickenham Bee-Keepers Association and Wandsworth Council (who will deal with wasps not bees at a cost of £68 and not refundable if they turn out to be bees). Then a photo was sent to the Wildlife Garden Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening who confirmed they were they are honeybees not wasps.

A member of the Twickenham Bee Keepers is coming to advise.

It is useful to have their contact details in case this happens again. 0208 568 2869. **Pat Dark**

Open Gardens Squares weekend- London wide event
Saturday 17 June & Sunday 18 June

See website for list of gardens open, tickets, self-guided walks and much more!

www.opensquares.org

Enable Leisure & Culture – new website

Enable, who manage leisure services (including allotments) for Wandsworth Borough Council have a new website. The information relating to allotments, including the letting agreement and current rules and policies, are at

<http://enablelc.org/allotments/>. A brief description and history for each site is listed on the green spaces page of the website, http://enablelc.org/green_spaces/allotments/.

PLAN AHEAD FOR MIDSUMMER PLANTING

Plotters often ask what they can sow from June onwards either to replace harvested crops or spring plantings that have failed, so here are a few suggestions to sow from midsummer onwards;

Beetroot sown directly in the soil in June will produce good-sized tender roots fairly quickly. Direct sowing is preferable, as beetroot seedlings dislike root disturbance.

Sprouting broccoli seeds can be sown where the plant is intended to grow, or in a seedbed for transplanting to their final position later in the year. Varieties are available that fill mature at various times.

Lettuce and other leafy salad greens can be sown in midsummer, but hot weather will encourage the crop to bolt.

Traditional varieties of **Florence fennel** are very prone to bolting, so a sowing later in the summer was often recommended. Although newer varieties claim resistance to bolting fennel is still best planted after midsummer.

Carrots can still be sown in June, and should grow away quickly to give a crop by October.

Although **pumpkins and winter squash** are usually planted in pots earlier in the year, they can be planted directly into the soil in June. Well-rotted manure or

mature compost should be added to the soil before planting.

Courgettes and marrow can be sown directly in the soil in June if you haven't raised plants in pots. Remember to leave plenty of space, as the plants will spread vigorously.

As with courgettes, ***cucumber*** seeds can be planted directly in the soil if you haven't started any plants off in pots earlier in the year.

Both ***swedes and turnips*** can be directly sown, but as members of the brassica family can be prone to cabbage root fly.

Oriental leaves such as pak choi, tatsoi and mizuna all grow well from a June sowing. You may need to protect these crops from birds.

French beans sown in June will germinate quickly in the warm temperatures, the crop should mature quickly. Other crops suitable for a June sowing include;

Kale

Chard

Radishes & spring onions

Spinach beet

From the Wandsworth Horticultural Association Spring 2017 Newsletter

THE RHS TOP TEN GARDEN PESTS

The Royal Horticultural Society has revealed its top ten list of

garden pests, based on inquiries from gardeners in 2016. After being knocked off the top spot in 2015, snails and slugs are back with a vengeance, reclaiming their position as the number one pest, following a record number of inquiries;

1	Slugs & snails	Active year round in mild & damp conditions
2	Vine weevil	A particular problem for plants grown in containers
3	Fuchsia gall mite	Distorts the young shoot tips of fuchsias
4	Glasshouse thrips	Previously affecting greenhouse plants, now appearing outside
5	Woolly aphid	Common on apples, pyracantha and cotoneaster
6	Tortrix moths	Binds leaves together with silky threads and feeds inside
7	Box tree moth	Caterpillars feed within webbing and can defoliate trees
8	Rosemary beetle	Adults and larvae feed on rosemary and related

		plants
9	Viburnum beetle	Larvae can cause severe defoliation
10	Ants	A nuisance rather than a damaging pest

***From the Wandsworth
Horticultural Association Spring
2017 Newsletter***

RHUBARB

A lot of us inherit our rhubarb from the previous plot holder, or possibly the one before that, as a healthy rhubarb plant can live for a good number of years. There's a good chance that the unknown variety on your plot is 'Victoria', as it's currently the most popular. It has thick red stems with green flecks, the flesh is also tinged red, and should start producing from late April through to May

Early varieties can get going in January. Another popular variety is 'Timperley Early', which was bred to be forced under a rhubarb pot. You may also see 'Champagne' which has delicate pink stems and again is very early and bred for forcing. There are many more to choose from. The Victorians loved rhubarb, and had a huge number of varieties to choose from. Nowadays we think of rhubarb as something tart, like green apples, but a 19th-century cook could have chosen varieties that tasted of cherry, greengages or

strawberries. Some of these older varieties are still available, such as 'Holstein Blood Red' or 'Early Albert'.

A rhubarb plant can reach two metres wide if happy and will grow on almost any type of soil as long as the drainage is good. It's a bit of a myth that rhubarb will grow in deep shade, as it's a woodland edge plant that needs some sun to give tasty stems. Be careful not to harvest all of the stems at once or you will exhaust the plant. It's a good idea to leave four or five stems from the very beginning.

A healthy plant will produce fleshy stems that are not hollow or split. The stems should be a good size as too many thin stems are a sign that the plant needs dividing. Older specimens get congested and this results in crowded growth and flowering. Ideally, plants should be divided every five years to avoid the stems becoming congested.

The best time to do this is in late autumn when the plant is dormant. Once divided and replanted you should avoid taking too many stems in the first year, as this may reduce the plants productivity in later years.

***From the Wandsworth
Horticultural Association Spring
2017 Newsletter***

JUNE RECIPE

Asparagus Mimosa Salad

Serves 4

6 eggs 500g asparagus
200g purple sprouting broccoli
½ shallot
2 tbsp. White wine vinegar
1 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 ripe avocado
Bunch of fresh dill or fennel tops,
roughly chopped
Zest of 1 unwaxed lemon

1. Boil the eggs for 7 minutes, then drain, crack shells and cool in cold water.
2. Wash the asparagus and broccoli. Take the tough ends off the asparagus and discard them (good for making stock!). Chop the asparagus stems into 1 cm rounds, stopping near the tips to keep them intact.
3. Chop the broccoli in the same way, leaving the florets.
4. Put the asparagus tips and broccoli florets into a large pan and cover with boiling water. Simmer for 3 minutes. Add the asparagus and broccoli rounds for the final minute.
5. Chop the shallot finely and put into a large mixing bowl with the vinegar, oil, mustard and a pinch of salt and black pepper and stir to combine.
6. Drain the vegetables and toss in the dressing.
7. Halve and stone the avocado and cut into chunks, add to the bowl and

mix in. Put vegetable into a serving dish.

8. Peel the eggs chop them up and arrange onto of the vegetables. Season the eggs.
9. Sprinkle the chopped dill or fennel on top and the zest of lemon. Some crème fraiche or Greek yoghurt goes well with the salad.

Welcome to new members

Site 2

Natalya Ribeaux
Simon & Trish Hill
Charlotte Lerche
Harriet Hobson
Florence Terry & Graham Scott
Karen David & Chris Rouse
Zosha & David Shepherd
Emma Blackwell
Ian Powsey

Site 3

Danuta Grabda
Neta Solanky
Barak Ulla
Laura John
James Burke
Marianna Pencharz
Helen Speedy
Gina Atsu
Gianni Caprari
Agnieszka Jakubik
Maria Bergardo Ortiz
Caroline Alexander

Thanks also to Georgina and Helen the site secretaries who must have spent hours of their time showing people plots.

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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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,
serving teas, coffee and
homemade cake.

NEXT BULLETIN:

The next Bulletin
Sunday 16 July 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 28
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