

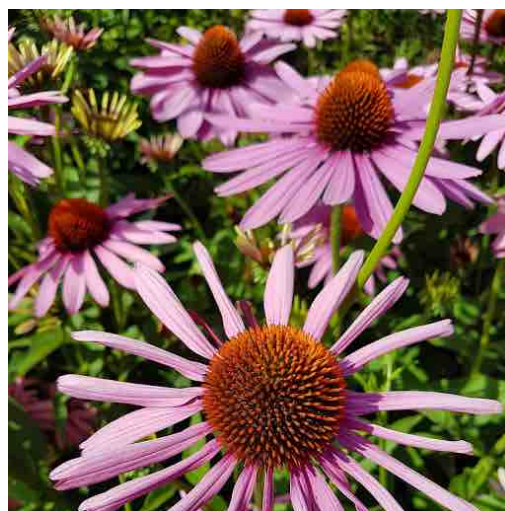
# **ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 1873

## **MONTHLY BULLETIN**

September 2017

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



Some lovely images of the Wisley visit, with thanks to Rosemary Borkowska.

Also, see page 7.

There will be a box in the Store for donations for the Tombola, bottles, jars and unwanted gifts.

**AUTUM SHOW, 3.00PM,  
SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER AT  
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH  
HALL.**

**HELP NEEDED – SETTING UP  
AND CLEARING AWAY AND  
FOR CAKES, PRODUCE, ETC.  
SEE PAGE 4.**

## **CHAIRS REPORT**

As Chair of the RGS I was invited to a "Horticultural Community Lunch" at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show on the Press day (3 July). I took Georgina O'Reilly (site 2 secretary) as my guest and we had an excellent lunch and day out.

We were fortunate to meet some of the Show Judges and other members of allotment sites so we could share information and discuss common issues. It was an inspiring show and we particularly liked the schools' "Bug Tower" and the 2017 plant of the year "Mulberry Bush".



Bug Towers



Mulberry

There is no news on the renewal of our Lease, which is "stuck" with Wandsworth Council. The proposal was not presented to members at the end of July as intended because there were problems arranging for the right people to meet. I have asked our President Rt Hon Justine Greening if she might be able to help move things along.

I hope you have all had a good summer and have lots of exhibits for our Show on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept – see you there!

**Jackie Savage 07508 559134**

## **STORE REPORT**

We are trialling selling flower bulbs this autumn. These will be initially sold at the Show on 9 September and then in the Store on Sunday mornings. We will have the following varieties:

Tête-à-Tête daffodils are short with multiple flowers on each stem and are ideal for pots and gardens.



There will also be a selection of mixed narcissus bulbs. These have small flowers with single or double petals and will make an excellent



cut flower as they are highly scented and long flowering.

These are for planting between September and December for flowering in March to April.

We will also be selling a variety of bulbs chosen to attract bees and butterflies. These include Alliums, Anemones, Crocuses and Muscari. These are for planting between September and December for flowering in May to June.

We will have 2 varieties of Onion Sets this year for planting mid-September to mid-October:

Senshyu is globe-shaped, straw-coloured and of excellent quality. Red Winter is pinky red with crisp, sweet flesh.

Both are for planting mid-September to mid-October for harvesting in July.

We have 4 varieties of Garlic in the Store this year, 2 of which can be planted in the spring:

Caulk (hardneck) is a new variety developed from Eastern European purple garlic types. It grows well in the UK climate, has large cloves and peels easily. It should be planted in the autumn or up until the end of January and harvested in June.

Elephant Garlic has a warm, mild flavour and is increasingly popular with garlic-loving cooks. It can grow to 150 mm across and can weigh over a kilo!

Carcassonne Wight (hardback) is pink, cloved with a great strength of flavour and a superior bouquet. Probably brought to Carcassonne by pilgrims travelling to Compostela from the East. It can be planted up

to February and harvested in June-July.

Extra Early Solent Wight (soft neck) originates from China and was developed in France. It has a crisp, fresh flavour and has great keeping qualities. It can be planted in the autumn or the spring.

Seeds to sow now are:



Arctic King is a hardy butterhead lettuce that produces bright green heads in the spring following sowing in August-September.

Caraflex F1 is a Hispi type of Cabbage but with longer pointed heads. It should be sown under glass in October and transplanted outside in the spring.

Winter Giant Spinach has large green leaves with good flavour and is very hardy. Sow July through to September.

White Icicle Radish is, as their name suggests, the shape of icicles. The white flesh is crisp and mild. They should be planted by September and are very quick to grow.

Do come to the Show to have a look at the bulbs, or come to the Store between 10am to 12 noon on Sunday's. We also sell onion fertiliser loose to get your onions off to a good start.

***Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary***

## **AUTUMN SHOW – SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

As I am writing this article the rain is pouring past my window and it is hard to believe that it is still summer. However, we have had periods of very hot weather as well as periods of rain, a combination that is ideal for growing fruit, flowers and vegetables. I am therefore confident that all of you with plots and/or gardens will have some great produce to enter into the **Autumn Show that is being held on Saturday 9 September.**

The two shows which the Roehampton Garden Society holds each year have proved to be a great success, not only with members of the Society but also with local residents. But these shows rely heavily on volunteers as well as exhibitors and we remain very grateful to all those who continue to give their support each year. There are many ways in which you can get involved in the shows if you have not had the opportunity to do so before. We are always very grateful for donations to the tombola (any unwanted gifts for example), to the produce stall that can also include homemade jams and preserves as well as plants, fruit, vegetables and flowers. These donations can be left at the Store during the run-up to the Show or brought to St Margaret's Church Hall that morning. If you would prefer to be more actively involved, then please come along to the Store on Site 2 on Friday evening, 8 September, to lend a hand with transporting items from the Store to the Church Hall and helping to set them up for the

Show. This is always a fun time and many hands make light work.

The teas and homemade cakes always prove to be a great success as can be witnessed by how quickly the cakes disappear on the day! If anyone is willing to make a cake for the tea stall would you very kindly let us know or just bring the cake along on the morning of the Show when it will be gratefully received.

But, of course, there would not be a show without any exhibitors and I would really encourage anyone who has not exhibited before to consider entering the Novice classes. The September Show falls at a time of the year when the growing season is at its most productive giving most people the opportunity to enter at least one of the classes. We are also delighted to see new exhibitors and if you are unsure or slightly daunted at the prospect, there are many seasoned exhibitors available to give help and advice if needed.

The Show Sub-Committee is anxious to keep the Shows as dynamic and diverse as possible but we are also very grateful for any ideas for improvements or enhancements for the future. So please do let us know if you have any suggestions as we would be very glad to consider them.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the show, either as visitors or as exhibitors and in the meantime, happy gardening.

***Mariangela Renshaw***



**Erratum:** I would like to correct a mistake I made in the Show Report in the July Bulletin. I wrongly said that there were no entries in the Novice Classes as for some reason I had failed to see that Jean and Patrick Crawford had indeed entered these classes and been awarded a first prize. Many apologies to them both for this oversight and belated congratulations.

**Mariangela Renshaw**

## **BEST PLOT COMPETITION 2017**

The results of the Best Plot Competition (BPC) have now been announced. Roehampton Allotments entered 13 plots from Site 2 and 22 from Site 3, a total of 35 plots out of a total of 85 entries Borough-wide. The overall winner was Debbie Hardy, whose plot a group from the RGS Committee visited in May (see June Bulletin). However our two Sites did well in the competition, with the best of our plots taking 4th, 5th and 6th places and featuring in the new "Outstanding" category. Also 5 plots from each site were in the "Excellent" group, that is, no mean achievement. Thank you to everyone who took part and well done.

Wandsworth (now known as **Enable Leisure And Culture**) is giving some thought as to how to run a Borough-wide competition that brings all sites together and is relevant and interesting to more people, but getting away from the competition aspect. It seems that many people are not interested in competing and some sites do not

take part in the competition, presumably for this reason. On the other hand, getting an assessment from an experienced judge is highly valued.

The question is how to organise a plot competition that is not about competing but about improvement - a "better plot" competition perhaps. ENABLE would be interested to hear how plotholders would like to see such a competition run. It may be that you are happy with the current arrangements but have ideas on how more people could be involved and might benefit. **If so, please contact Liz Smart (echrominska@yahoo.com or 020 8878 5083).**

## **THE SHREDDER ON SITE 2**

(The Pleasance), which is available for all plot holders, has been out of use due to misuse. It is now fixed. Please read these instructions carefully before using – see below.

### **The RGS Shredder**

For plot holders convenience the RGS provides a good quality shredder that is housed in the small shed to the right of the store. It can be accessed by the same key that opens the gates. It is very important that users follow these instructions when using the shredder.

**Incorrect use of the shredder has previously caused the machine to fail.**

### **What is the shredder useful for?**

The shredder is useful for shredding dead or pruned material that can then be used as a mulch

around plants or adding as bulk to compost heaps at the same time as saving car trips to the dump.

### **What can be shredded?**

Any dead or pruned plant material that is not more than a little finger thick.

### **What cannot be shredded?**

Wet or matted plant material, woody stems thicker than a little finger. If you are not sure your material is suitable DON'T SHRED IT!

### **What causes the shredder to fail?**

Allow small amounts of material to feed through before adding more.  
Overloading the machine or pushing a batch of material through before the previous batch has cleared will cause a jam.

### **What should I do if the machine ceases to work or jams?**

Remove plug from wall socket.  
Unscrew the two large bolts on the front of the machine and remove all debris.

***Any problems contact Georgina  
07468539 or via  
root@roehampton.co.uk***

## ***HEDGEHOGS ARE BACK!***

I am delighted to report that a hedgehog (or 2!) has been seen on Site 3 (Dover House Road) this summer. I am told this is the first sighting of one of these delightful animals on our plots in many years. Last Autumn we distributed many leaflets (and there are more in the Store) from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society which advise

on how to create a wild life garden and warned us about checking the pile before lighting a bonfire or when strimming. If anyone would like further information their website is [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk). Please try and avoid the use of pesticides and slug pellets; we stock good alternatives in the Store.



At least two site 3 plot holders have taken up the challenge seriously, which may be why we have hedgehog sightings again. See the photos of Hog Manor (showing a hand made one) and of Hedgehog Estates (which can be bought at [Arkwildlife.co.uk](http://Arkwildlife.co.uk) or some local garden centres). One of our plot holders has set up a wildlife camera to capture some action, but so far only a fox has shown interest. Will keep you posted!

***Jackie***



## **WISLEY VISIT**

Sixteen people went to Wisley this year and, as usual, the sun shined for us. Most of us visited the allotment area where we envied the quality of their plants.

Liz was taken with beetroot.



I really liked the Cosmos division between beds.



We all had a splendid day and came home laden with plants from the garden centre.

## **ZINNIA DISPLAY AT WISLEY**



2017 has been declared the Year of the Zinnia by Fleuroselect, an international organisation of breeders, producers and distributors of ornamental plants.



The RHS has been working with Fleuroselect to promote this bee-friendly, colourful and long-lasting plant in the UK and in its Wisley trial beds are nearly 150 cultivars of Zinnia. The zinnias in this stunning display are being assessed to give



the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) to cultivars meeting the criteria.



Zinnias are native to scrub and meadowland in Mexico, Central and South America. These annual plants, which grow from 30-100cm, are easy to grow and great plants for a sunny site, attracting bees and butterflies and will do well even in poorer soils. They make vibrant cut flowers.

**Liz Chrominska**

### **GOOD BUGS ON ALLOTMENTS**

In the June Bulletin I wrote about the bees setting up home in my neighbours' compost bin. They caused a bit of panic at the time but really did not cause any problems and have now moved on. We thought it might be useful to highlight some of the bugs we should be encouraging to our allotments.

Starting with ladybirds – my neighbour found the larva on some weeds (whilst weeding). The other is larva transitioning into ladybird.



The others worth highlighting are rose chafer and shield beetles.

**Pat Dark**

### **COMMUNITY GARDENS, COMMUNITY ORCHARDS..... AND BEES!**

**The Putney Society are organising a special themed evening on Monday 25 September at 7.30pm at the Community Church, Werter Road, (opposite Sainsburys), Putney**

RGS members are invited!

The Putney Society and the Dover House Estate Residents Association are working together to plant, next November, a community orchard on one of the greens on the Dover House Road, Putney.

So, to help us all to know more about community gardens, community orchards and bees, this meeting has an array of speakers who are practitioners in the field.

Martin Cobley, of the Wendelsworth Residents' Association, will tell us all about the community garden created in 2011 and the community orchard planted in 2016 on the Wendelsworth Estate, in the heart of Wandsworth - off Garratt Lane. How were they achieved? How are they progressing?

Rowan Salim leads the Putney Community Gardeners group who have been creating community gardens on the Ashburton Estate, Putney with great enthusiasm - and with help from the Roehampton Garden Society. How are they getting on?

A speaker from the charity, The Bee Friendly Trust, will tell us about the importance of bees to us all and the Trust's efforts to create gardens to help the bee community. Have you seen their raised planter beds on the station platforms in Barnes, Putney and elsewhere? Popular with bees!

Keen gardeners will not want to miss this meeting. All are welcome.

**John Horrocks**

**Putney Society Open Spaces  
Panel Convener**

## **AN ALLOTMENT BY THE SEA**

My daughter lives in Southsea and has just got her first allotment, on a big site of over 500 allotments, but divided into three sites, Hope Cottage, Milton Place and Eastney Lake.



The pictures above show their store, stock and a view from the site. Below, an impressive allotment.



The allotments are very busy, whenever you go. Many people spend their whole day there and have facilities to enable them to do that.

Below is a link to their website, which is worth a look. They also have hedgehogs on their allotments and have some photos in their Gallery of some of wildlife.

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

## **SEPTEMBER RECIPE**

Fennel and Potato Gratin (serves 4-6)

50g butter, plus extra for greasing the dish

3 large fennel bulbs

3 onions

600g potatoes, peeled

2 cloves garlic, crushed or chopped finely

50g Parmesan cheese, grated

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/Gas 6. Butter a 23cm x 30cm dish.
2. Trim the tops from the fennel and cut in half through the root, then cut each half lengthways into three wedges. Cut the onions into six wedges in a similar way.
3. Cut the potatoes into wedges the same size as the fennel wedges.
4. Boil the fennel and onions in a large pan of salted water for about five minutes, then add the potatoes and boil for a further five minutes, or until potatoes and fennel are just tender. Then drain into a colander.
5. Put 50g butter and the garlic into the same large pan, over a low heat until melted. Return the vegetables and toss until lightly coated with the butter, then tip into the ovenproof dish. Sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese.
6. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until brown and piping hot.
7. Serve as a supper dish with a green salad or runner beans or as a vegetable with baked chops or fish.



## **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 Garrett 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  
artandeliallisi@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 1 October 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 12  
September 2017