

**ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 1873

**MONTHLY BULLETIN**

November 2017

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

**AGM**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm start  
Wednesday 15 November 2017  
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HALL**

***Drinks and crisps on arrival  
Reports and Elections  
Prize-giving***

***Social with drinks and refreshments***



**Summer memories!**



How to recycle those old jeans - seen at Fulham Palace Allotments – thanks to Georgina O'Reilly!

***PLOT INSPECTIONS: Expect to see at this time of year -  
Plots that have been tidied up for the winter,  
Weeds being under control and not likely to invade any neighbouring  
plots,  
That surrounding paths are nor obstructed and are well maintained.***

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

November is always a busy month for the RGS. Not only are we putting our plots to bed for the winter and we have a few events to attend.

### **Bonfires.**

We are having 2 Bonfires to which all are invited. There will be a "family party" on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November on site 3 and then on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> there will also be a bonfire on Site 2. Both fires will be lit at dusk. If you decide to have a small bonfire on your plot you may light it on that weekend ONLY, you must attend it all times with a connected water hose to hand and the bonfire must be fully extinguished before you leave the site.

### **Annual General Meeting and Committee Elections**

The AGM will be held at St Margaret's Church on Wednesday 15 November. Doors will open at 7pm and then, after some light refreshments, we will start the business followed by the presentation of Cups (hopefully by our President, the Hon Justine Greening MP) and the offer of more substantial refreshments and a chance to chat to committee members and your fellow plot holders. We are planning to keep the committee reports shorter this year, so we have more time to socialise. Full committee reports will be sent out before the meeting.

### **Committee**

Most of the current **committee** have agreed to stand again at the elections, but we always welcome

new faces and talents so please let me know before 12 November if you would like to discuss what is involved and/or be nominated. If you have any matters that you would like to add to the Agenda I will also need those before 12 November.

### **Cups**

All **Cups** should be cleaned and returned to the store by Sunday 12 November at the latest. If you can't get to the store please contact me to arrange an alternative.

### **Becoming a Charity / Lease negotiations update:**

I am dismayed by the length of time all this has taken, as I am sure you are. It seems to me that we are constantly going over old ground with the Council. I cannot thank Anthony Fitzsimmons enough for his support and advice, without which I would have thrown in the towel long ago! I hope I can be more optimistic at the AGM!

### **Important dates in November**

Other dates to remember this month are the **Plot Inspections** and the **annual collection of rubbish** organised by Wandsworth Council. Please keep all rubbish on your plot until we let you have the date for the rubbish collection. Thank you.

**Jackie Savage**

[Jackiesavage29@gmail.com](mailto:Jackiesavage29@gmail.com)

**07508 559134**

## **STORE REPORT**

As you put your allotments to bed for the winter, there are products in the Store that help.

As you throw new matter into your compost bins, think of sprinkling Garotta (2-3 tablespoons per square metre) between layers. Garotta is made of natural materials chosen to improve the structure of home-produced garden compost. It provides food to promote bacterial growth that encourages the temperature in the compost heap to rise, kill off weeds and hastens the composting process. We sell it in 1 kilo packets or loose in the Store.

To protect your plants over winter, we sell fleece for the cold and black netting to protect them from birds. Both are sold by the metre.

For your fruit trees, there are Boltac Grease bands that provide protection from winter moth, caterpillars and other crawling pests. These are suitable for organic gardening. Simply tie around the trees in autumn and again in spring. Winter Tree Wash is a completely natural product that removes insect debris, dust and wax which insects use to secure their eggs. It will control most insects and eradicates bugs as well as eggs, preventing infestation when the growing

season begins. Apply between October and December and then again in late March. 10 ml of product should be mixed with 90ml of water and applied using a spray.

New items to the Store include, weed suppressant sold in 1 x 10 metre rolls, training wires, good for training blackberry bushes and fruit trees, and, following a request, waterproof gloves in smaller sizes.

The new seed catalogues are arriving. 20% discount on Kings Seeds, and we are members of the Allotment and Garden Council (AGC) with Dobies which gives 50% discount on seeds and 10 % on other items. Postage is £1.99 for seeds, onions, garlic, shallots and mushrooms and £4.99 on other items. Orders up to 2 kg are sent by Royal Mail and anything else by courier. It is important that you fill in the forms available in the Store, as these are relevant to our arrangement with Dobies. You cannot order on the Internet. If you do telephone Dobies, state that you are a member of the AGC or they will ask you for a number which we do not have. This refers to another scheme where discounts are not guaranteed.

Carolus main crop potatoes are on order.

**Gill Tamsett, Trading  
Secretary**

## **ROEHAMPTON ALLOTMENTS: 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 ploholders 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](mailto:echrominska@yahoo.com) or 020 8878 5083).

**Liz Chrominska**

## **NEW REGULAR FEATURE**

We very grateful to Georgina O'Reilly who will be doing a regular feature in the Bulletin each month on plot jobs for the month.

## **WINTER PLOT JOBS FOR NOVEMBER**



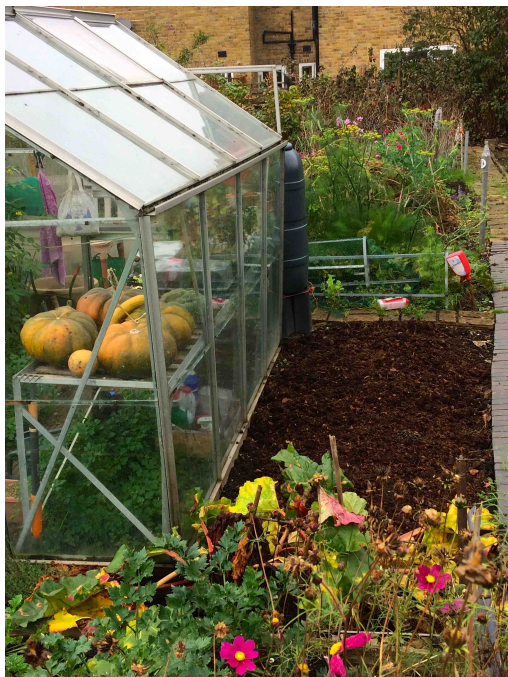
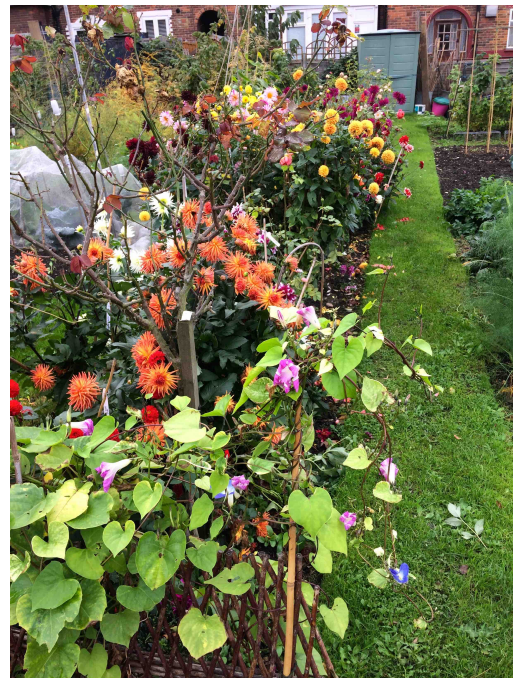
### **November**

- Continue to clear all plant debris from plots. Do not add blighted tomatoes to your compost, but burn or take to the dump.
- Tidy up and re-cut grass path edges where the grass

has encroached on your plot.

- Empty compost heaps and use the well-rotted dark crumbly material.
- Apply a 5cm layer of well-rotted compost or manure to bare plots or cover bare areas with brown cardboard weighed down with damp grass clippings. (*Country Natural rotted stable manure available in store*)
- Add layers of the un-composted stable manure from the piles to your compost heaps and spread thinly on bare soil to rot down over winter.
- Prepare a winter compost trench for next season's moisture loving plants such as sweet peas, runner beans or squashes. Dig a trench a spade deep and fill with kitchen vegetable waste covering each additional layer with soil.
- Continue to sow overwintering broad beans. (*Available in store- Aquadulce, The Sutton and De Monica and the organic Super Aquadulce*)
- Sow hardy peas (*Available in store-Var. Serge*) either straight into the ground under fleece or 3 to a 9" pot to be planted out when the roots reach the bottom.
- Sow peas for pea shoots in a box or gutter in the green house or windowsill for salad or risotto at Christmas time. (*Available in store- var. Serge*)
- Sow boxes of cut-and-come-again salads in the green house or a sheltered spot covered with fleece. (*Fleece for sale in store*)
- Finish planting onion sets and garlic. (*Varieties- Senshyu Yellow and Winter Red onions and Caulk White and Elephant garlic. Carcassone may be planted from November to January. All available in store*)
- Order bare root trees now for the best selection.
- Fix grease bands to fruit trees to protect against winter moth. (*Grease bands available in store*)
- Start winter pruning of apples and pears.
- Keep overwintering brassicas covered with netting to prevent pigeon damage. (*Netting available in store*)
- Stake tall brassicas against wind damage.
- Sow green manures early in the month such as grazing rye. (*Green manures available in store*)
- Start to harvest winter cabbage, Brussels sprouts and leeks. Wait until after frosts for parsnips as they will be sweeter.
- Clean the greenhouse to maximise light levels and before the water is turned off in December.

Beds being prepared for winter



## ***ANN BRODIE, VICAR AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH MOVES ON***

Ann is taking a year out to think about what she wants to do next. Being a Vicar is a busy life, with regular services to manage as well as christenings, weddings and funerals and visits her parishioners. Her last service was on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, and she finishes at the end of October.

Ann has been in the parish for 12 years, coming as a Curate, then Priest-in-Charge, then as Vicar of St Margaret's Church.

## ***WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND PLOT-HOLDERS***

Site 2:  
Samantha & John Draddy

She has played an important role in the community, liaising closely with Granard Primary School, Falcon Girls School and Greenmead and running carol services and Easter events for them. She has also chaired 'Churches Together' that brought the churches in Putney and

Roehampton together to facilitate joint events.

We thank her for all she has done for the parish and local community and wish her every happiness and a good rest!

**Pat Dark**

**THREE WEBSITES OF ORGANISATIONS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO YOU.**

**Allotments Regeneration Initiative (ARI)**

Supports and develops allotments regeneration and the creation of brand new allotment sites in the UK.

[www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)  
[ari@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:ari@farmgarden.org.uk)  
Tel. (0117) 963 1551

**Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG)**

Supports, represents and promotes community-managed farms and gardens across the UK.

[www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)  
[admin@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:admin@farmgarden.org.uk) Tel. (0117) 923 1800

**Garden Organic**

Organic gardening.

Tel: (024) 7630 3517  
[enquiry@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@gardenorganic.org.uk)  
[www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk)

**OBITUARY**

I am sad to tell you that John Pretty has died. A local man, John lived in Dover House Road and had a plot on Site 3 for

about 40 years. John and Mary (his widow) were well known in the area for their friendship and charity work. John was a keen gardener and very knowledgeable about fruit and pruning, among other things. He was often on his plot and, in his later years, he loved to sit in his greenhouse.

He will be sadly missed.

**Jackie Savage**

**NOVEMBER RECIPE**

**Blackberry Coulis**

250g blackberries  
50g golden caster sugar  
½ tsp vanilla extract

1. Put blackberries and sugar in a pan with 100ml of water. Bring to the boil, and then simmer for 5 minutes until fruit is soft, stir in vanilla and cool a little.
2. Tip the contents of the pan into a blender or food processor and whizz to a purée, then strain through a sieve, using a wooden spoon.
3. The mixture will keep for 3 days in an airtight container in the fridge or for 3 months in the freezer.
4. *Delicious over ice cream or pancakes.*



## **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)

**YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH**  
**Professional & Reliable Service**  
Complete Security Specialists  
**Keys Cut**  
**Lock & Safes Emergency**  
**Locksmith Security Gates &**  
**Grilles Alarms**

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](http://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 3 December 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 15  
November 2017.