

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

December 2017

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk





Site 2 bonfire

Front cover: Bonfire Party on Site 3



RGS Committee Members

CHAIR'S REPORT



Members enjoying the AGM



Pat Davis being presented with flowers by Liz Chrominska

We were delighted that around 50 people attended the AGM and prize giving and the social afterwards.

This year the reports from the committee officers were circulated before and at the meeting and just highlights presented. The full proceedings will be on the web site shortly.

We have had another busy and interesting year, with two very successful shows, bonfire nights, events and trips. The store has gone from strength to strength, our finances are in good shape and applications to the waiting list remain steady.

Much energy has been spent trying to agree a lease with Wandsworth that will meet the requirements of

the Charity Commission. Thanks go to Anthony Fitzsimmons and the Rt Honorable Justine Greening for their continued support in this matter. If we can achieve a 50-year lease with peppercorn rent then we can really move ahead with improvements to both sites and with facilities that the community can enjoy.

During these years, with Charitable Status in mind, we have worked on becoming a more integrated part of our Community. We now work with local schools, mainly Paddock who have an allotment plot, and making connections and sharing information with Putney Community Gardens, Community Orchards, Growhampton (Roehampton University) and other local community gardens. We support the Putney Society and Dover House Residents and their popular Table Top Sale on the Pleasance in June. Our Bulletin goes to all these organisations and we disseminate their news too.

In May this year we launched our lovely new website, designed by plot holder member Jean Crawford, who now keeps it up to date. So special thanks to Jean and to Vicki Bennett for her advice and some of the gorgeous images.

We introduced a new membership fee structure in April with the rent collections. Full membership is £5 per year and you can only be a full member if you are a plot holder. All other members are Associate Members (£2.50 per year).

A priority is to get a new water ring and tanks on Site 3. Thanks to Robert Linton who is currently getting advice and estimates for this work.

Finally I would like to propose that we add 5 new Life Members in recognition of the length of their service. Georgina O'Reilly is standing down after many years as Site 2 Secretary to be replaced by

Mariangela Renshaw, and I also propose Raj Patel, Shirley Gillbe and Pip Melotte. The 5th person is Helen Saberi who is not a plot holder but is a local cookery writer who comes along and judges the cookery for us at the Shows. The membership voted and agreed unanimously.

Pat Davis was presented with a bunch of flowers and thanked for all the years she has run the refreshments at the Shows and AGM.

The new committee was elected:

Jackie Savage – Chair & Website Editor
Carol Martinez – Vice Chair/Chair of Show
Janis Humberstone – Treasurer
Alison Linton – Minutes/Membership Secretary
Mariangela Renshaw – Site 2 Allotment Secretary/Co-chair of Show
Helen Finch – Site 3 Allotment Secretary
Pat Dark – Bulletin Editor
Gill Tamsett – Trading Secretary
Liz Chromimska – Store
Greg Wilcox –Store
Mike Cooper – Security
Georgina O'Reilly
Vivien Fowler
Patrick Crawford
Elaine Barnwell

Shirley Gillbe – Site Manager for Enable (WBC) (non-voting position)

President: The Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP

Vice Presidents: Judith Glaysher, Derrick Radcliffe, Alan Rake, Paula Alderson, Sheila Konig and George Scandrett.

Life Members: Pat Burke, Pat Davis, Shirley Gillbe, John Horrocks, Janet Long, Pip Melotte, Georgina O'Reilly, Raj Patel, Helen Saberi and David Rossiter.

Counsellor Ian Lewer kindly stepped in to present the prizes. A list of winners can be found on page 9 and there is a separate sheet of photos. Many thanks to Robert Linton, for taking such lovely photos, at very short notice.

I would like to wish you all seasons' greetings and a very happy and peaceful new year.

Jackie Savage, 07508 559134, jackiesavage29@gmail.com

STORE REPORT

Twice a year Jackie and I visit Provender Nurseries, a very well run wholesale nursery, in Swanley, Kent for their Allotment Event where they offer discounts on their products. It is a good place to source items for the Store (the Ballerina tulip bulbs came from there) and to try new products.

One of these new products is Fast Grow, a natural seaweed plant fertiliser sourced, blended, processed and pelleted in Ireland. You can dig it in, apply as a top dressing or mix with compost and is claimed to increase yields by up to 40%. It is not cheap at £1.50 a kilo (we are selling it loose) but

may prove to produce excellent results. It would be good to hear your feedback. For more information visit link below:

<http://www.fastgrowfertiliser.com/our-products/>

We received a request to stock mushroom growing kits.



Chestnut Mushroom kit

Having researched this, it was decided not to sell these in the Store as we could not be sure how well they would sell and their shelf life. However, mushroom kits went on sale from 31st October in the Dobie's catalogue where RGS members can receive a 15% discount. They sell 6 varieties that can be found on page 37 of the 2018 brochure that is available in the Store. You can watch a video on how to grow them on the Dobie's website, link below. (but do remember to place any orders by using the order form that is also available in the Store).

<http://www.dobies.co.uk/Garden/Vegetables/Vegetable+Seeds/Mushroom+Plug+and+Kits/Mus>

[hroom+Windowsill+Kit+-+Chestnut 232460.htm#232460](http://www.dobies.co.uk/Garden/Windowsill+Kit+-+Chestnut+232460.htm#232460)

[http://www.dobies.co.uk/Garden/Gift+Ideas/All+Gift+Ideas/View+All+Gifts/Mushroom+Window+sill+Kit+-+White+Button 241408.htm#241408](http://www.dobies.co.uk/Garden/Gift+Ideas/All+Gift+Ideas/View+All+Gifts/Mushroom+Window+sill+Kit+-+White+Button+241408.htm#241408)

10th December is the last Sunday that the Store is open in 2017 and it reopens on 7 January 2018.

We have just received a delivery so it will be fully stocked for the New Year.

Gill Tamsett
Trading Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS TO RAJ



Raj entered some of his produce in the RHS Wisley late autumn show and got a 2nd prize for his cherry tomatoes, a 3rd prizes for his sweet peppers and chilli peppers. Well-done Raj!

Pat Dark

WINTER PLOT JOBS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December

- Clear away any remaining plant debris from plots and compost if disease-free.
- Earth up and check stakes on Brussels sprouts and other tall brassicas to prevent wind rock.
- Prune grape vines before the end of the month, when dormant, to avoid sap bleeding.
- Continue to plant fruit trees and bushes if soil is not frozen.
- Divide and replant rhubarb.
- Ventilate green houses on mild days to reduce diseases.
- Plant blackcurrants 5cm below the soil to encourage new shoots.
- Your last opportunities - 3 and 10 December - to shop for seeds in the Store for stocking fillers - sweet peas and herbs etc.
- Protect autumn-sown broad beans with cloches during extended periods of frost.
- For early tender stems, 'force' rhubarb by covering crowns with a dark-coloured bucket.
- Plant fruit trees trained as cordons or espaliers to make good use of limited space. Check RGS website for guidance on permitted trees.

- Plant blueberries in pots of ericaceous compost. (*Ericaceous compost available in store*)

January

- As crops are harvested clear debris and cover cleared soil with weed suppressant.
- Prune overgrown blackcurrant bushes- remove a third of the oldest stems to ground level.
- Prune freestanding apples and pears, maintaining an open centre. Do not remove more than 20% of the crown in one winter
- Sow broad beans (Karmazyn), aubergines (Black Beauty, Long Purple and Pinstripe), mixed spicy salad leaves or Mizuna and tomatoes (Akron is a new variety and remarkable for its high yields and sweet taste or Fandango which has good blight resistance) on windowsills
- Sow lettuces, radishes, salad onions, and spinach on windowsills. (*All seeds available in store*) Grow on in greenhouse and plant out late Feb under fleece or cloches. (*Fleece for sale in store*)
- Apply winter washes to fruit trees to control overwintering pests. (*Winter wash available in store*)
- Prune gooseberries, redcurrants by removing

dead wood and low-lying shoots. Shorten branch tips by one quarter, cutting to an outward facing bud. Prune all side-shoots back to one to three buds from their bases.

- Start 'chitting' tubers of early potatoes, Swift, second earlies, Pink Fir and Kestrel, in trays in a cool, light, frost-free location. Start chitting salad potatoes, Charlotte and main crop, Picasso as ready. *(All varieties available in store from January)*
- Sow broad beans in pots under cover.
- Sow winter salads in a greenhouse or windowsill.
- Bring potted runners of strawberries under glass for forcing.
- Sow sweet peas now and those sown in autumn can be potted on. Place on a sunny windowsill, in a cold frame or greenhouse. *(Sweet peas available in store)*
- Pinch out tips of autumn grown sweet peas after four pairs of leaves have developed or at 3.5 cms.
- Plan a crop system for vegetables- leaving a minimum of two years before replanting crops in the same place.
- Open greenhouse vents on mild days.

Michael Gove backs total ban on insect-harming pesticides to save bees.

Conservation groups have applauded Michael Gove for his decisive move to reverse the UK's position on neonicotinoid pesticides.

He is supporting a total ban on the bee-harming pesticides and said he wanted decisions to be informed by rigorous scientific research.

Unfortunately, it seems that many farmers still support pesticide use.

Pat Dark (sources, New Statesman, The Guardian)

Tackling slugs and snails

Early results from RHS research, supported by BASF, into slug and snail control has found 'organic' pellets are almost as effective as synthetic controls. The study continues for another year.

www.rhs.org.uk/gastropodresearchproject

The Garden, August 2017

Welcome to new plot-holders and members

Site 2
Ray and Genevieve Guy

Next Bulletin 4 February 2017

DECEMBER RECIPE

One of my neighbours has a very prolific Persimmon tree in her garden and kindly gave me some. You can puree them if they are very ripe and they are delicious on top of Greek yogurt or ice-cream.

Here is another successful recipe I have tried from the allrecipes web site.

Spiced Persimmon Cake

300g-persimmon pulp
1 teasp. bicarb.
110g butter, softened
200g-castor sugar
250g sifted plain flour
2 teasp, baking powder
pinch salt
½ teasp. ground cinnamon
½ teasp. ground nutmeg
½ teasp. ground cloves
60g chopped pecans or walnuts
finely grated zest of an orange and lemon
icing sugar to finish

1. Preheat oven to 180 C/Gas Mark 4. Grease, line and flour a 20cm square cake tin.
2. Puree the pulp in a blender and add the bicarb. and pulse till combined.
3. In a large bowl cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the

persimmon puree to the creamed mixture. Sift in the flour, salt, baking powder and spices and fold into the mixture.

4. Stir in the nuts and zest of orange and lemon.
5. Put the cake mixture into the prepared tin.
6. Bake at 180 C/Gas Mark 4 for 40-45 minutes, or until the skewer when inserted in the middle come out clean.
7. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes and then tin out of the tin.
8. Dust with icing sugar and serve warm with Greek Yoghourt or serve cold.

Winter Mash with a difference!

To mashed potato add some cooked mashed swede or parsnips or celeriac or sweet potato, in the same proportion.

Soften with some butter, and or soured cream and salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Further flavour with some creamed horseradish or mustard - Dijon or grained.

Enjoy with a roast or casserole.

Show Awards 2017

Special Awards for the Summer Show

The Roehampton Estate Challenge Cup (presented by Douglas Overall)

– The best vegetable in the summer show – Vivien Fowler (Endive)

The Hugh & Lady Linstead Centenary Cup– The most points for vegetables in the summer show – Sue & David McDonald

The Davis Memorial Cup – The best exhibit for 1 vegetable/1 fruit/1 flower – Mariangela Renshaw

The Lady Hudson Cup - The best rose in the summer show – Ruth Barnwell

The Dr Howard Coulthard Cup - The best bowl of roses arranged for all round effect – Mariangela Renshaw (2nd)

The Lady Corry Cup - The best vase of multiflora roses – Mariangela Renshaw (2nd)

The A Norman Rogers Challenge Cup - The best vase of cut flowers, 3 or more kinds – Mariangela Renshaw

The Barbara Dacie Cup - The best flower display in a goblet – Vivien Fowler

The Summer Cookery Cup – The highest number of points in Section F – Ruth Barnwell

The WTF Iles Memorial Cup– The novice with most points in the summer show – Jean & Patrick Crawford

Special Awards for the Autumn Show

The Reta Challenge Cup – The best vegetable in the autumn show – Vivien Fowler (red cabbage)

The Hugh & Marie Jenkins Trophy – The most points for vegetables in autumn show – Raj Patel

Dr Miguel Lacroze Cup – The best Harvest Collection – B19 – Artan Delialissi

The Tommie Noon Cup – The best exhibit in class C54 – 5 different vegetables/fruit - Carol Martinez

The Barnes & Mortlake Herald Challenge Cup – The best exhibit of dahlias – Mariangela Renshaw

The Jack Hawkins Challenge Cup – The best vase of 4 different types of flower (A10) – Mariangela Renshaw

The Ben Dandey Memorial Cup – The best vase of roses in the autumn show, either HT or multiflora – Derrick Ratcliffe

The Autumn Cookery Cup (Ladies Cup) – The exhibitor gaining the highest number of points in Section G – Ali & Robert Linton

The Percy Barnes Memorial Cup – The novice with most points in the autumn show – K David and C Rowse

Annual Awards

The Reverend PG Wallis Cup – The most points for fruit in both shows – Sue & David McDonald

The JHP Higgins Cup – The exhibitor gaining the most points in horticultural classes but not successful in winning a major horticultural award – Georgina O'Reilly

The Banksian Medal – The exhibitor with most prize money in horticultural sections of both shows – (This cannot be won by the same person within 3 years) – Mariangela Renshaw

The Rita Noon Cup – The most points in the children's classes in both shows – Callum Lodge

The RGS Challenge/Paula Alderson Memorial Cup – For the best-kept allotment - Artan Delialissi

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 Garrett Lane, SW18 4EH 020 8874 4206 www.austinmowers.com
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, serving teas, coffee and homemade cake.

NEXT BULLETIN:

The next Bulletin,
Sunday 4 February 2018
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 January 2018.