

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

March 2018

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Hampton Court Kitchen Garden



RENT COLLECTION

Rent and fee invoices were sent out by email or post to all members at the end of February, THEY ARE DUE BY 31 MARCH AT THE LATEST.

DETAILS OF HOW TO PAY ARE ON THE INVOICE.

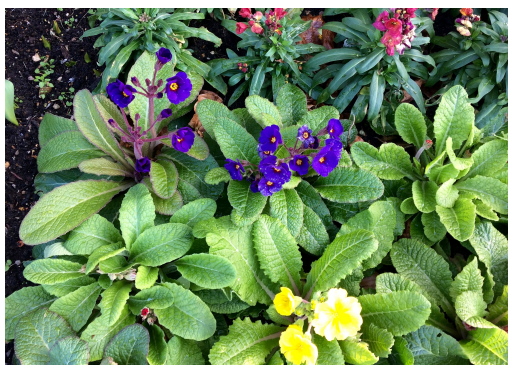
If you have not received your invoice, would like to give up your plot or have any questions please contact us as soon as possible.



STORE OPENINGS ON SATURDAYS IN MARCH AND APRIL

The store will be open on Saturdays from 9 - 11 for a trial period in March and April this year. It will NOT be open on Wednesday evenings.

The SUNDAY OPENING HOURS OF 10 - 12 REMAIN UNCHANGED.



***Annual Trip to Wisley
Monday 23 July –see p 8.***

See page 7 for more.....

CHAIR'S REPORT MARCH 2018

Please take a look at our much admired website

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk from time to time. You will find all the Bulletins and Diary Dates as well as helpful advice. There are also the minutes from the monthly committee meetings so you can read about the work that we are doing and let us have your ideas and suggestions.

Store – SATURDAY OPENINGS!

We have decided to **open the store on Saturdays (from 9 -11) in March and April** this year as well as on Sundays (from 10 – 12) as usual. We hope this will allow those of you who cannot come on Sundays will be able to come on a Saturday and benefit from the wide range of horticultural goods offered there. (We will **not** be open on Wednesday evenings in April as we did in the past.)

Projects

The committee has been looking into 2 major improvement projects. The first is to evaluate whether we need to replace or repair the Store structure on Site 2 and the second is to obtain estimates for the renewal of the water system on site 3.

Rents and Membership Fees

These are due by end of March and you should have received your Invoice by now. (If you haven't, please let me know as soon as possible.) Details of how to pay are on the Invoice.

Charity/Lease renewal

Justine Greening (our local MP and President) has convened a meeting

scheduled for 21 March between us (RGS) and the Council, which she will attend, to discuss a way forward. We need to have a Lease that the Charities Commission will accept. If that is unachievable then we will have to look at alternative ways forward.

Jackie Savage

07508 559134

root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

PLOT JOBS FOR MARCH

- Continue soil preparation by hoeing to suppress early weeds and cover with black landscape fabric/ weed suppressant or a thick layer of composted stable manure to warm the soil. Top- dress overwintering vegetables with a general fertilizer.
- Apply a general fertilizer to all areas required for early crops.
- To lessen the impact of brassica club root, raise the soil pH by adding lime to brassica beds. Some club root resistant varieties are available in store, e.g. *Brussels sprouts Crispus*, *Cabbage Kilaton*.
- Sow outdoors early cultivars of beetroot, broad beans, peas, early cultivars of lettuce, radish, early spinach, parsnips and turnips. *Seeds available in store*.
- Towards the end of the month early varieties of carrot can be sown. Sow

indoors or in the greenhouse
Brussels sprouts, cabbage,
celery, celeriac, early leeks
and tomatoes, cucumbers,
courgettes, peppers and
chillies. *Seeds available in
store.*

- Start herbs from seed. Sow dill, fennel, parsley and sorrel in plots to transplant later. *Herb seeds available in store.*
- Watch out for signs of damping off in seedlings and be careful not to overwater.
- Prune blueberries.
- Direct plant shallots and onion sets.
- By the end of March, if the weather is warming, plant first early potatoes when the shoots are 2cms long
- Plant asparagus crowns.
- Prepare trenches for runner beans with well-rotted manure and shredded paper at the base.
- Clean greenhouse panes to maximise light levels.
- Children can sow Candytuft, *available in store.*

STORE REPORT

There are lots of items that we sell in the Store to help you with the jobs on your allotment this month.

There are 1m x 10m rolls of Weed Suppressant at £7.50 per roll. This has a weight of 100g per square metre which makes this strong enough to act as a good ground cover that will last for several

years. We will be ordering more in March.

We have several choices of general fertilisers to apply now which are sold loose:

Growmore (£1.00 per kilo) is a popular non-organic fertiliser. Apply every 4-6 weeks throughout the growing season from February to the end of October. Use as a top dressing, or as a base dressing, working it into the soil. During dry weather water before and after application.

Bonemeal (£1.00 per kilo). Fork into the soil before planting or apply under roots when planting out.

Fish, Blood and Bone (£1.00 per kilo). Apply as a top dressing to the soil surface and fork in well.

Seaweed Meal (£2.00 per kilo). Sprinkle onto your beds before planting or when plants need a boost. Add a few handfuls to your compost heap to add minerals and boost microorganisms. You can also add a handful to potting soil before planting seeds or when potting on.

Chicken Manure Pellets (£1.00 per kilo or £6.00 for an 8 kilo bucket). Apply in Spring as a base fertiliser when preparing your beds for planting. Apply an additional feed 3-4 weeks after planting.

Onion Fertiliser (£1.50 per kilo). Apply to your onions 3 weeks after planting and then continue with applications every 3-4 weeks.

Lime (£0.50 per kilo). Apply 4-6 weeks in Spring before planting brassicas.

Enviromesh. This is sold by the metre (£4.00 per metre, 3.6 m

wide). We are investigating stocking this in ready cut packs of differing lengths.

The Store will be open on Saturday's between 9 -11 am from 3 March to 28 April. Cake will only be available on Sunday's but you will be able to have a cup of tea or coffee.

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

CALLING ALL CHILDREN GARDENERS!



Download from
Dreamstime.com
For non-commercial use only. For publishing purposes only.

Vegetables

ss, Fine Curled- good in
,
umber, Mini Munch-
t in pots as slugs love
n then transplant
uce, Red salad Bowl-
t in the ground
uce, Green Salad Bowl-
t in the ground
is Oregon Sugar Pod-
be sown in the ground
npkin Hundredweight-
t off in a pot then best in
ground

ash, Turks Turban- start
on in a pot then best in the
ground

- Tomato Gigantomo- start off in a seed tray or pot then best in the ground
- Tomato Tumbling Tom- start off in a pot, then best in the ground
- Dwarf beans- coming soon, can be sown in the ground
- Dwarf broad bean, The Sutton- can be direct sown now.

In the store we have lots of seeds that are easy to grow at home or on your family allotment. You can also enter your flowers and vegetables in our summer or autumn shows and maybe get a prize! Here are some easy to grow seeds that you might like to try.

Flowers

- Calendula Art Shades mixed – good in pots

**GETTING MORE OUT OF
YOUR ALLOTMENT PLOT:
Report from the
Enable/Wandsworth share and
learn session on 4 February at
Naturescope on Wandsworth
Common for all Wandsworth plot
holders.**

The emphasis was on how an assessment (as part of the annual assessment scheme for awarding certificates of achievement also known as the Best Plot Competition) can help allotmenters get the most out of their plots.

Paul Ellis Howe, who has judged plots on the Wandsworth sites over the last 4 years, spoke about the relevance of the guidelines for assessment which were drawn up to encourage best allotment practice. The guidelines, covering all aspects of good allotment practice, can be used by all as checklist, regardless of their interest in being formally assessed. Paul suggested that the criteria on the score sheet might be adapted for each site. For Roehampton Allotments it might be appropriate to change the maximum marks for evidence of crops grown for summer and autumn supplies and for autumn and summer supplies so that the marks reflect the reality. Most people seem to grow for summer and autumn supplies. A copy of the guidelines and score sheet can be found on the RGS website.

Paul talked about the site in Redbridge where he has a 10-rod plot and is one of 170 potholders, each with a 10-rod plot. There are monthly plot inspections to ensure that plots are being cultivated and if

there are signs that a plot is being neglected the plot holder has a month to put things right otherwise the plot is let to the next person on the waiting list. It is very much a case of use it or lose it.

One tip I picked up from the session was on preparing an area for growing potatoes. Spread rotted or semi-rotted compost over the designated area in February or early March. By the time the potatoes are planted the compost will have broken down further and will continue to do so as the potatoes grow in this enriched medium.

As for what will happen in 2018, assessments will take place in mid-July and plot holders will be asked to nominate their plots/to agree to their plots being nominated. If you are interested in having your plot assessed it is never too early to start thinking about what you might do to make your plot the best it can be.

Liz Smart

**STEEP DECLINE IN
BUMBLEBEES LINKED TO
FUNGICIDES**

A new American study has identified common fungicides as the strongest factor linked to the steep decline in bumblebees. This surprising result has alarmed bee experts because fungicides target mould and mildews, not insects. The study was been reported in a number of scientific journals including the Royal Society.

Scientists have previously studied insecticides, such as

neonicotinoids, that are now nearly banned by the EU.

A spokesman for the conservation charity Buglife, said that the way humans are managing landscapes is putting huge pressure on bees.

Pat Dark

NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

It is worth looking at the National Allotment Society website. Below are some tips for supporting wildlife and ensuring a balanced ecosystem that will reduce pests and diseases and increase productivity on the allotment. Also a list of leaflets that can be downloaded from their website

Tips for a wildlife friendly plot

- Reduce or eliminate use of chemicals, use companion planting and physical removal to combat pests such as aphids, slugs and sawfly
- Create habitats for wildlife; bee-boxes, hedgehog homes, log and stone piles for invertebrates, toads and slow worms who will also inhabit a compost heap
- Plant late, mid-season and early blooming nectar rich flowers to attract pollinators and beneficial insects all year round
- Make a pond, keep it ice free in winter by floating a ball on the top and ensure that it is

safe for other plot-holders' children

- Feed birds through the winter and supply nesting boxes

NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY LEAFLETS

The National Allotment Society has produced a series of leaflets to support wildlife that can be clicked on and downloaded.

- [Honeybees and wild pollinators](#)
- [Water use on allotments](#)
- [Keeping hens and rabbits on allotments](#)
- [Clearing an overgrown plot](#)
- [Compost, bonfires and waste disposal](#)
- [Creating a new allotment site](#)
- [Flooding on the allotment and in the garden](#)
- [Obtaining an allotment and what you can expect](#)
- [Planning out and designing an allotment plot](#)
- [What is Devolved Management](#)
- [What can your plot do for Wildlife](#)
- [Health and Safety on Allotments](#)
- [Promotion and Publicity for Allotment Associations](#)
- [Toilet Options for Allotment Associations](#)
- [Children on the Plot](#)

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/allotment-info/wildlife-gardening-on-allotments/>

Pat Dark

**Welcome to new plot-holders
and members
Site 2: Grania Windsor-Clive**

HAMPTON COURT KITCHEN GARDEN

Hampton Court kitchen garden was first established for the court of William 111(1689-1702) and Mary 11 (1689-1694) to provide fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs for the royal family. There was a huge variety of exotic fruit and vegetables grown, some in hot houses and fruit trees against a specially built hollow brick wall to keep the trees warm.



There were six of these kitchen gardens.

The court left Hampton Court in 1760 and the gardens declined, being used by a commercial grower in the 1840's and then turned to lawn and ornamental gardens in the 1920's.

Six years of refurbishment began in 2008 and one kitchen garden was opened by the Countess of Wessex in 2014.

The gardens have been laid out in the pattern depicted by John Rocques in 1736 and are growing

many varieties from the 18/19th century.

There is free entry to the kitchen garden.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

GARDEN MUSEUM

18 April – 22 July 2018

**Cedric Morris: Artist Plantsman
Paintings of Flowers and
Gardens**



Cedric Morris painted portraits, still-life and landscapes as well as being a plant breeder.

Flower Fairies

August 2018 – September 2018

Featuring some of Cicely Mary Baker's best loved flower fairies designs.

Humphrey Repton

October 2018 – February 2019

Plant Fair

28 April 2018, 10.00am – 6.00pm

Annual plant fair brings together some of the best nurseries from across Britain.

Garden Museum

5 Lambeth Palace

Road, London SE1 7LB

gardenmuseum.org.uk

Annual Trip to Wisley
Monday 23 July

Roehampton Garden Society is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society, so we can get members in free, once a year. Schools will have broken up so parents might like to bring their children. A number of us take cars so we will be able to arrange some lifts. Please email me if you are interested in coming. Also if you need a lift or if you could offer lifts and would like to join a garden tour (cost £3)

Pat Dark

patdark13@yahoo.co.uk

MARCH RECIPE

Root Vegetable Cous Cous

1 tablesp. olive oil
1 medium onion
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. ground coriander
1 tsp turmeric
¼ tsp. chilli powder
1 dessertsp. plain flour
¾ litre vegetable stock
1 large carrot
1 parsnop
1 sweet potato
small swede
½ cauliflower
200g tin of chopped tomatoes
200g tinned chickpeas
fresh coriander
1 tablesp. runny honey
salt and pepper
Harissa paste

1. Wash, peel and chop the vegetables into even sized pieces.
2. Heat the oil in a pan and saute the onion till softened.
3. Add the flour, then the stock, stirring all the time until it comes to the boil.
4. Lower heat and add the chopped parsnip and carrots and cook for 10 minutes, then add the sweet potato and cook for another 5 minutes. Lastly add the cauliflower and cook for a further 5 minutes.
5. Add the tomatoes and chickpeas, honey and seasoning. Cook over a gentle heat until warmed through.
6. Taste to adjust the seasoning. Then sprinkle chopped coriander over to serve.
7. Serve with cous cous.

NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Show: 16 June 2018
Autumn Show: 8 September 2018
AGM: Wednesday 14 November 2018

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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Professional & Reliable Service
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Keys Cut

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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

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 April 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 14
March 2018.