

# **ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 1873

## **MONTHLY BULLETIN**

April 2018

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



**GARY'S DAFFODIL HILL**

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **Events**

We have a few events planned this year that I hope you will be able to attend. Apart from our Shows in June and September, the highlights will be a talk from London Wildlife Trust about hedgehogs this month and a Question and Answer session with four Royal Horticultural Society specialists on a Friday evening in June. All details in Bulletins, on website and on notice boards. Please sign up promptly for the hedgehogs and the Q & A session so we have a good idea of numbers.

There will also be the annual trip to Wisley in July in the school holidays and children will be most welcome.

If you have any suggestions for further events to add to our busy calendar please let me know.

### **Rents and Fees**

All rents and fees should be paid by now and thank you to those who were prompt. The preparation of invoices and the collecting of rents is extremely time consuming and all carried out voluntarily, so co-operation from members is always appreciated.

### **Saturday Store Openings**

I hope you are finding it useful for the store to be open on Saturdays from 9 -11 as well as Sundays from 10 – 12 in March and April. If this is a success we will repeat it next year – again with willing volunteers! Let us know what you think.

### **Shredder**

Many thanks to John for sorting out the shredder, and for demonstrating how to use it. This was despite the freezing weather. If

you missed the occasion please let me know and I will arrange for you to receive “training” – which you must have before you are allowed to use it.

### **Charity/Lease renewal**

We have now had the meeting with council officers, which was arranged and attended by Justine Greening (our local MP and President). The sticking points, mainly to do with the degree of council control, are still not going away and Justine has agreed to try and work on them with us. We have now been working on this proposal to become a Charity and secure a long-term peppercorn lease for over 4 years and we feel that we should not give up after all the hard work and time that has been given to this. We are confident that it is not a “lost cause”, so please bear with us.

**Jackie Savage**  
**07508 559134**

## **STORE REPORT**

We have some new items in the Store:

**Potato Fertiliser**, sold loose at £1 per kilo. This provides a balanced and slow release of nutrients to promote potato harvests. Apply at the time of planting at 70 grams per square metre and reapply 4-6 weeks later.

**Potting Grit and Silver Sand** in small bags for convenience. A 5-kilo bag of Silver Sand is £2 and Potting Grit is £2.50. These are still sold loose at 25p per kilo.

If you are looking to plant out or replenish the soil around blueberries, we currently have **Ericaceous Compost** in 2 sizes: the 40-litre size is £4 and the 75-litre size is £6.

**Agralan Enviromesh** is now available in ready-cut packs in the following sizes: 1.83 X 3m at £11 and 2.6 X 5m at £20. We still have some ready-cut **Wondermesh** in a variety of lengths.

For your seeds, we have a **variety of seed composts** to choose from. We also sell **Root Trainers** at £5.50 that are excellent for seedlings with long root systems. There are also **small Square Peat Pots** at 15p each.

If you are looking to check the pH of your soil, **Soil pH Meters** are £8. Trugs are in stock at £6 each. There is a good selection of secateurs, hand trowels, forks and gardening gloves to choose from to get ready for the new planting season.

**Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary**

## **BETTER PLOTTING**



To get the most out of your Allotment Plot you might like to refer to the guidelines for

assessment of plots entered for the Best Plot competition which were drawn up to encourage best allotment practice. The guidelines cover all aspects of good allotment practice and can be used as a checklist, regardless of your interest in having your plots formally assessed by a judge appointed by Wandsworth/Enable.

The guidelines and score sheet for the award of certificates can now be found on the Roehampton Allotments website [www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk](http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk) In a new section "Better Plotting".

The score sheet has been adapted to reflect the reality that most plotholders on Sites 2 and 3 grow for summer and autumn supplies rather than for autumn and winter supplies.

This year assessments will take place in mid-July and sometime in late May/early June plot holders will be asked to nominate their plots/to agree to their plots being nominated for assessment.

**Liz Smart**

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

Site 2  
Terry Johnson  
Site 3  
Bernadette Brewster  
Lorna Roberts

## ***SITE 3 SECRETARY ROLE TO BE SPLIT***

The committee is very pleased to announce that Vivien Fowler has agreed to share the role of Site Secretary on site 3 with Helen Finch. Vivien will take on the plots on the periphery of site 3, that is plots numbered 50 to 99 inclusive and Helen will continue to look after the plots in the middle of the site, numbered 100 to 127. Each of the Site Secretaries will be responsible for lettings, relinquishing of plots, permission for structures and fruit trees and will be on the plot inspection team. Any issues of security or maintenance should be reported to one of the Site Secretaries. Phone numbers under next item. You also can find Vivien on her plot which is number 66A quite near the Toilet Hut and Helen has plot 69 which is the first one you come to on the left hand side when entering the site from Dover House Road.

***Helen Finch, site 3 secretary***

## ***APRIL/MAY PLOT INSPECTIONS***



To ensure plots are all cultivated there will be a full plot inspection at

the end of April or beginning of May.

At this time of year plots should be largely, if not wholly, under cultivation. Paths between plots should be well maintained and safe to negotiate. Crops must be kept well clear of neighbouring plots and weeds should be well under control.

If you have personal reasons for not being able to work your plot resulting in under cultivation, please contact your site manager via [root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk](mailto:root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk) or phone as soon as possible. Site secretaries are:

Site 3 plots 50 to 99: Vivian Fowler, 07525 143265

Site 3 plots 100 to 127: Helen Finch, 07736 422373

Site 2: Mariangela Renshaw: 07770 968895

## ***NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK: 30 April to 6 May.***

National Gardening Week was launched by the RHS seven years ago and aims to become the country's biggest celebration of gardening.

The 2018 theme is about sharing your passion for plants. At the four RHS Gardens there will be opportunity to take part in activities and events to inspire and help gardeners. There will also be lots of plants to buy.

[www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk](http://www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk)

## **PLOT JOBS FOR APRIL**

### **PREPARE FOR APRIL PLOT INSPECTIONS - SEE NOTICES**

- Draw up soil around the base of peas and broad beans to support them and increase the rooting area.
- Plant early potatoes when chits are 2cms long.
- Earth up early potatoes when they have made 8" growth.
- Second early and maincrop potatoes should be sown by the end of the month.
- Clean greenhouse glass to improve light levels.
- On sunny days ventilate the green house by morning opening and close late afternoon to conserve the heat.
- Avoid damping off in seedlings with good ventilation and not overwatering.
- Make a late sowing of broad beans and sow early peas.
- Make succession sowings of beetroot, Swiss chard, lettuce, radish, summer spinach, spring onions, parsnips and turnips.
- Sow early varieties of carrot when the ground has warmed up.
- Sow indoors or in the greenhouse Brussels sprouts, cabbage, early leeks, cucumbers, courgettes and peppers and sweet corn. *Seeds available in store.*
- Once tomatoes have their first true leaves, plant them deeply into individual pots
- Sow tomatoes for outdoors.
- Water crops regularly in dry weather.
- As weather warms make an early sowing of climbing or dwarf beans to transplant next month. Root-trainers available in the Store are ideal.
- At the end of the month sow tender vegetables indoors, such as runner beans, squash and pumpkins.
- Sow herbs, dill, fennel and parsley from seed.
- Harvest rhubarb by pulling a few stalks at a time. Put the leaves on the compost heap.
- Plant out autumn-sown sweet peas or direct sow outdoors.
- Finish planting shallots. *Available in store.*
- Plant soft-neck garlic.
- Plant up new asparagus and globe artichoke beds.
- The first cutting of asparagus is traditionally made after St George's Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> April and the last cutting on the longest day, 22<sup>nd</sup> June.
- Weed 'defensively'; remove weeds before they flower to avoid seeding.
- Cover radishes and turnips with horticultural fleece to protect against flea beetle.

- Watch out for early aphid attacks. Quick action by manually removing these or hard- spraying with water can reduce likelihood of damaging infestations.
- Feed roses with rose feed.
- Once leaf buds open, start formative pruning of plum and cherry trees.
- Use fleece to protect blossom of trees such as pears if frost is forecast.
- Sow annuals to attract pollinating insects such as Nigella, single flowered marigolds, Comos, Caliphonian poppies, oregano and thyme.
- Keep grass paths manageable by regular cutting. (A strimmer is available to borrow in the store. Charge £1.00. Contact root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk to book. Lawnmowers, fee to borrow, are stored in the toilets on both sites.)

## ***GARDENING FOR DISABLED TRUST***

It is 50 years since the *Gardening for Disabled Trust* was established.

The Trust aims to help disabled people bring bloom and blossom to their gardens and give them a sense of independence, purpose and well-being.

Look at the website below for some gardening tips from Alan Titchmarsh and to donate to a very practical cause.

[www.gardeningfordisabledtrust.org.uk](http://www.gardeningfordisabledtrust.org.uk)

## ***THE BENEFITS OF GARDENING***



The Kings Fund, funded by the National Garden Scheme (NGS) have produced a report on Gardens and Health.

The report states that: 'The mental health benefits of gardening are broad and diverse. Studies have shown significant reductions in depression and anxiety, improved social functioning and wider effects, including opportunities for vocational development'.

The NHS and doctors are beginning to refer patients to non-clinical community services that includes gardening.

[www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/field/field\\_publication\\_file?Gardens\\_and\\_health.pdf](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/field/field_publication_file?Gardens_and_health.pdf)

## **EVENTS/DIARY DATES**

### **1. HEDGEHOG TALK** by the London Wildlife Trust

Sunday 22 April 1pm in the Store

The talk will cover hedgehog ecology and how to encourage hedgehogs and take part in a survey.

Reserve your place by emailing

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

### **2. RGS SUMMER SHOW**

Saturday 16 June

### **3. ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Fruit, Vegetable and Herb Committee visit.**

Friday evening 22 June.

Question and answer session - venue to be confirmed

### **4. BETTER PLOTS COMPETITION**

Mid July (details will follow)

### **5. ANNUAL TRIP TO WISLEY GARDENS**

Monday 23 July

Reserve your place by emailing [patdark13yahoo.co.uk](mailto:patdark13yahoo.co.uk)

### **6. RGS AUTUMN SHOW**

Saturday 8 September

## **YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN:**

Putney Community Gardens are starting a free Gardening Course to be held at Boyd's Court, SW15 3DD on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 10-12. The course starts on 18th March.

If you are interested email [info@putneycommunitygardens.org](mailto:info@putneycommunitygardens.org)

## **BUTTERFLY FRIENDLY PLANTING**

To encourage butterflies in your garden you need to grow the right flowers from March until October.

Flowers to grow in winter

Clematis cirrhosa

Crocus species, winter flowering

Eranthis hyemalis or winter aconite

Galanthus nivalis or Snowdrops

Helleborus species and hybrids

Mahonia species

Full list:

[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

Other ways to help butterflies

1. Leave fallen fruit under fruit trees as red admiral and painted lady will feed on them.
2. Avoid the use of pesticides, where possible.
3. Plant larval food plants such as cabbage and other brassica, nasturtium, currants, docks and sorrels.



***A reminder of conditions 2 weeks ago!***

## ***“PLOT 29” BOOK REVIEW***

I would like to recommend a wonderful book “*Plot 29*” by the journalist and food writer, Allan Jenkins, which is half memoir, half thoughtful gardener’s diary. This is a moving account of mental trauma told through the author’s encounters with nature.

*Plot 29* is the shared London allotment where for 10 years, the author has been growing an array of biodynamic flowers and vegetables. In his daily life, Jenkins lives with a sense of hurt and loss from a childhood he feels he can never put behind him. *Plot 29*, by contrast, presents him with more consoling and immediate problems such as pigeons, weeds and snails.

Jenkins’s “birth mother” was a cafe waitress in Plymouth, who had numerous children by different men. Jenkins spent his early years in care, in Plymouth children’s homes, with various foster families and occasionally back with his mother before being permanently fostered along with his brother Christopher by a forty something childless couple, Lilian and Dudley Drabble, in a house in rural Devon.

But the allotment plot, for the author (and so many of us), is never just about gardening. While ordering seed packets of broad beans and snow peas he is jolted back to unpleasant memories. In the soft morning light of *Plot 29*, he talks us through the horrors that drive him there and in particular his relationship with his brother, who flourished less with his foster parents than Allan did.

I was fortunate to hear Allan Jenkins talking about his book earlier this year at the Garden Museum. He is as charismatic a speaker as he is a writer. This book is informative about biodynamic gardening and it gives fostered children a much-needed voice.

***Jackie Savage (with thanks to the Guardian)***

## ***APRIL RECIPE***

Many thanks to Emma Blackwell

### ***PARSNIP SOUP***

3 tbsp butter (or mix of oil and butter)

1 onion chopped

675g parsnips diced

1 tsp ground coriander

1/2 tsp ground cumin

1/2 tsp turmeric

1/4 tsp chilli powder

150ml single cream

1.2L chicken or vegetable stock

1 clove garlic cut into strips  
(optional)

2 tsp yellow/brown mustard seeds  
(optional)

Tbsp oil

Fry onions until softened, then add parsnips and spices. Fry for 2-5 mins gently. Add chicken stock. Simmer for 30 mins or so until tender, blitz and return to heat and add the cream

In frying pan add oil and fry garlic and mustard seeds until garlic is browned and seeds are popping. Drizzle this oil combination over the soup when serving

## **NOTICES**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Hedgehog Talk: 22 April 2018  
Summer Show: 16 June 2018  
RHS Talk: 22 June 2018  
Wisley Trip: 23 July 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](http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

### **RHS CONTACTS**

Committee Chair: Jackie Savage  
(07508 559134);  
Site 2 Allotment Secretary  
Mariangela Renshaw  
(07770 968895)  
Site 3 Allotment Secretaries: Helen Finch (07736 422373) and Vivian Fowler (07525 143265).  
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](mailto:artandeliallisi@gmail.com)

**MANTRA LANDSCAPES**

Grounds maintenance specialists' [www.mantralandscapes.com](http://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](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 6 May 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](mailto:patdark13@yahoo.co.uk) by 27 April 2018.