

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

June 2018

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk



JEAN & PATRICK CRAWFORD'S FANTASTIC FOXGLOVES

EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR!

SHARE COMMUNITY PLANT SALE: SATURDAY 2ND JUNE (see page 2 advert)

OPEN SQUARES WEEKEND: 9-10 JUNE (see P8)

SUMMER SHOW: SATURDAY 16 JUNE (see page 6 and if you call help email rqs.sw15@gmail.com for a place)

RHS Q&A: FRIDAY 2ND JUNE (see p 4 and email rqs.sw15@gmail.com or call Elaine on 07914 764091)

WISLEY TRIP: MONDAY 23 JULY (to book a place email patdark13@yahoo.co.uk or phone 020 8789 7568)

PLANT SALE AND HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY DAY

SATURDAY 2ND JUNE 2018, 10AM TO 4PM
SUPPORTED BY THE TOOTING BUSINESS NETWORK



PLANTS FOR SALE
STREET FOOD
POP-UP CAFE
FREE EXERCISE WORKSHOPS
HEALTHY LIVING STALLS
FREE CYCLING WITH
 **bikeworks**
CAPPELLA SINGING FROM
Treblemakers



AT SHARE GARDEN,
IN THE GROUNDS OF
SPRINGFIELD UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL, 61 GLENBURNIE
ROAD, TOOTING, LONDON
SW17 7DJ. NEXT TO
BUILDING 15

WWW.SHARECOMMUNITY.ORG.UK

Share is a registered charity that provides training and employment support for disabled adults

CHAIR'S REPORT

As usual June is all about our wonderful **Summer Show on Saturday 16 June**, please see the articles and show schedule for more details.

This year we have an extra special event in June as we are hosting a Q & A session with a team of **RHS experts on Friday 22 June from 7.30 to 9.30pm**. Please read the separate article for more information and email rqs.sw15@gmail.com soon to reserve your place, as space is limited.

We have just started to bring a small group of children from Granard Primary School to the allotments on Monday afternoons. If you see us there please give us a cheery hello and the children would love to hear you talk about what you are growing on your plot.

We are in renewed negotiations about the new Lease and whether we can become a Charity.

Finally, a heartfelt appeal from the Site Secretaries; please make sure your plot is clearly labelled. Large plastic labels with sticky numbers and letters are available free from the store, but it is much better to make your own!

Jackie Savage
07508 559134
rqs.sw15@gmail.com

**GARDEN HELP
NEEDED.
OFF DOVER HOUSE
ROAD.
TEL:0208 878 3986
Malina**

PLOT NUMBERING

Please ensure your plot is clearly numbered and the label is not hidden under some plants!

You can make your own; have a look round and you will see some lovely creative designs or you could buy one in slate or metal from a garden centre. Make sure it is large enough for the number to be seen clearly from the side path and it doesn't fade. You could also paint the number onto your shed.

Failing that, we have large white plastic ones with stick on numbers and letters that you can collect free in the Store. These will last you for several years.

THE SUMMER SHOW

The Beast from the East in March and a heat wave in April wreaked havoc on our crops – some didn't get started, others were late and then brought on too quickly. But on Saturday 16th June the Summer Show will go on with whatever we manage to harvest. I don't expect there will be any problems with the rhubarb though!

There are some new categories to look out for – in the flower section we have added:

A display of white, pink and blue flowers, any mix, can be 1 colour or all. Foliage allowed, excludes roses.

And

A miniature arrangement in a vessel measuring no more than 5 x 5 cm, e.g. an egg cup.

I look forward to the imagination running riot with both of these.

In the cookery section, we have added:

My 'favourite teatime treat'. Can be savoury or sweet, not mixed, on a plate no larger than 20cm.
And

A summer pudding.

Once again, our cookery judge will be food historian and writer Helen Saberi who has just published a book 'Teatimes, A World Tour' and the new cookery category was her idea. She is very generously donating a copy of the book that, for this show only, will be awarded to the 'Best item of cookery'. She also hopes to be at the show to sell signed copies.

We always encourage novices to have a go at showing what they have grown. On the website, and available on the day there will be a list of guidelines on presenting everything at its best. There will also be show veterans on hand to advise on numbers of exhibits and to ensure that something has not been cut off your vegetable or flower that shouldn't have been.

Instead of a tombola for children we are going to have a change with a lucky dip – everyone will win a prize. The adult / bottle tombola will still be featured.

The produce stall will have an array of seedlings and plants and surplus crops plus homemade jams. For those who cannot get there on Sunday mornings we will be selling selected items from the store.

Of course, we will still have our tea and homemade cakes – but we

won't be able to do that without your generous help and donations.

If you can help to transport the tables from the store on the Friday evening, or can help on the day or bake a cake for the refreshments stall, can donate items for the raffle or bottle tombola or have surplus seedlings or produce please contact me through rgs.sw15@gmail.com

Carol Martinez, Joint Show Chair

***RHS Q&A EVENING
FRIDAY 22ND JUNE 2018
ROEHAMPTON CRICKET
CLUB, PUTNEY HEATH***

***THE RHS FRUIT,
VEGETABLE AND HERB
TEAM HAVE KINDLY
AGREED TO COME ALONG
FOR THEIR VERY OWN
RGS QUESTION TIME***

The team, David Alison, Jim Arbury, Nick Dunn, Andy Hughes, Barry Newman, will discuss all aspects of crop production, cultivation techniques, varietal choice, pest/disease control and more.

The Q&A starts at 7.30pm, but the venue will be open from 6.45pm and has a bar where you can buy drinks and socialise.

Please register interest, as numbers are limited.

rgs.sw15@gmail.com

Or

Call Elaine on 07914

764091 (leave message or text if no answer

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 (an assessment scheme originally run by Wandsworth Council for the awarding of certificates) which were drawn up to encourage good allotment practice. The guidelines cover all aspects of plot cultivation and can be used as a checklist, regardless of your interest in having your plots formally assessed. Paul Ellis-Howe, who has been assessing plots on the allotment sites in Wandsworth for the last 4 years, will do so again in 2018. He is always happy to meet plot-holders.

The guidelines and score sheet for the award of certificates of Endeavour, Merit and Excellence can be found on the Roehampton Allotments website www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk in a new section "Better Plotting" which will cover various aspects of plot cultivation, such as companion planting, and have links to sources of useful information on other websites.

The emphasis this year is on how an assessment of a plot can help the owner get the most out of it. So do not be shy but seriously consider putting your plot forward to be scored against the various assessment criteria. The score sheet has been adapted to reflect the reality that most plot holders on Sites 2 and 3 grow for summer and autumn supplies rather than for autumn and winter supplies.

The timetable for 2018 is:

Early June plot holders will be asked to nominate their plots or to agree to their plots being nominated for assessment.

By 30 June nominations from Sites 2 and 3 of Roehampton Allotments will be sent to enable leisure and culture.

16 July assessments will take place, starting at 8 am. You will have the opportunity to meet Paul, the assessor if your plot is one of those selected for assessment.

Watch out an email calling for self-nominations from both sites.

Elizabeth Smart

PLOT JOBS FOR JUNE

Continue to hand-weed or hoe regularly to keep on top of weeds. Dig deep to remove highly invasive bindweed as it appears.

Continue to mow or clip grass paths weekly.

If you have sown green manure, dig it in this month to fix the nitrogen in the soil.

Water potatoes well, for good-sized tubers and reduced problems with scab. (Remember to target-water, not spray, to avoid water wastage.) First, second and salad potatoes may be ready for harvesting. Tubers should be ready when plants begin to flower.

Water tomatoes regularly and evenly. Uneven watering can cause cracked fruit and blossom end rot. Regularly pinch out side-shoots on cordon tomatoes and tie in plants to supports.

Feed every 10-14 days with a liquid fertilizer, changing to a high potash

fertilizer once the first fruits begin to set.

Plant out sweet corn 16" apart in blocks, not rows, to aid wind pollination.

Continue planting out or direct-sow runner and French beans.

Direct-sow courgettes.

Sow radicchio in drills for autumn salad leaves.

Sow fennel and oriental greens such as mizuna and pak choi. June sowings reduce the risk of bolting.

Successionally, sow salads, rocket and basil etc every two to three weeks for continuous picking.

Make a late sowing of peas for an autumn crop.

Quick-germinating annuals, such as cosmos, that attract insect pollinators can still be sown. Sow wallflowers for next year.

Quick-maturing radishes or salad leaf crops can be sown between brassica rows. Ensure netting on brassicas is bird-proof.

Sow overwintering carrots such as Autumn King or Chantenay. Cover with insect-proof mesh to prevent carrot root fly.

Transplant pencil-thick leeks now into 6" deep holes. Cover with insect-proof mesh to prevent leek moth damage.

Plant out pumpkins, squashes in well-manured ground. Plant out outdoor cucumbers and peppers. Protect with fleece on cold nights.

In the greenhouse ensure adequate shading. Check

nighttime temperatures and close door on cold nights.

On hot days keep greenhouse temperatures down by using maximum ventilation and damp down greenhouse floors to increase humidity.

Keep fruit bushes well watered. (Target-water, not spray, to avoid water wastage.) Protect soft fruit from bird attack by netting securely and tie in new raspberry and blackberry canes.

Continue to check for sawfly larvae on gooseberries. Hand pick off.

On plum trees, after the 'June drop' of excess developing fruits, thin the fruits to prevent over laden branches breaking.

Continue to regularly harvest established asparagus – mid April to mid June. If asparagus growth is weak, apply a general fertilizer of fish, blood and bone.

And finally... please nurture and save any surplus seedlings and plants to donate to the produce stall at the Summer Show on Saturday 16th June.

All seeds are available in the Store.

WELCOME TO NEW PLOT-HOLDERS AND MEMBERS

Site 2:
Stephen O'Kelly

Site 3:
Urlene Adams
Rachel May

STORE REPORT

We are now well into the growing season and we have lots of products in the Store to support this.

Slugs are very much around and there are several products available to deal with these.

Slug Gone Wool Pellets (£5.00 for a 3.5 litre bag) have proved popular since we introduced them to the Store a couple of years ago and provide a natural, safe and organic way of deflecting slugs and snails from your plants.



The pellets are composed of 100% natural ingredients including phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium. The pellets should be placed around the plants in a 6"- 8" diameter collar with the pellets touching and then watered well to ensure that the 2 pellets bind together. When slugs climb onto this barrier it irritates the slug's foot and causes it to go elsewhere. This barrier will stay in place for up to 12 months and will slowly biodegrade and break down.

Other products to deal with slugs are the Advanced Slug Killer Pellets (£6.00 for 575ml), Slug Stop Non-Toxic Granules (£4.50 for a 3 kilo box) and

Grazers Slug Snail Spray (£8.50).

We recently had a large delivery of 6' and 8' canes. Our supplier advised us that there has been a run on canes this season so it is good that we have these in stock as the next delivery is not due from China until the end of July.

Clover introduced a new packaging design for their Multi-Purpose Compost this spring. It is very colourful.



Our suppliers sent us a larger size with our last order than our usual one. These are 75 litres (£5.00). Our usual size is 60 litres (£4.50). It would be interesting to hear which is preferred as we can order either size in the future.

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

**ANNUAL TRIP TO RHS
WISLEY, Monday 23 July**

Once a year the RGS, as an affiliated member of the RHS gets its members into Wisley free of charge. This year we are going on 23 July. You can join a tour of Wisley Gardens for £3. There are refreshment facilities, a shop and an excellent garden centre. It is a lovely day out!

Contact Pat Dark if you would like to go. It is free and lifts can be arranged.

**ROEHAMPTON GARDEN
SOCIETY WEBSITE**

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

**DO LOOK AT RGS'S NEW
WEBSITE!**

There is an interesting section on organic gardening which includes ways to improve the soil, encouraging beneficial insects to manage pests, companion planting to attract pollinators and ways to conserve water

The basic philosophy of organic gardening is 'feed the soil, not the plant'....Joy Larkom

Some other useful websites if you are interested in organic gardening are:

www.gardening-naturally.com -

www.nsalg.org.uk

www.rhs.org.uk - advice on organic gardening

www.neseed.com - organic seeds

www.gardenorganic.org.uk - lots of good advice to get you going and opportunity to join and attend their courses and events

www.bbc.co.uk - gardening guide on organic gardening

www.planetnatural.com - advice and organic gardening supplies

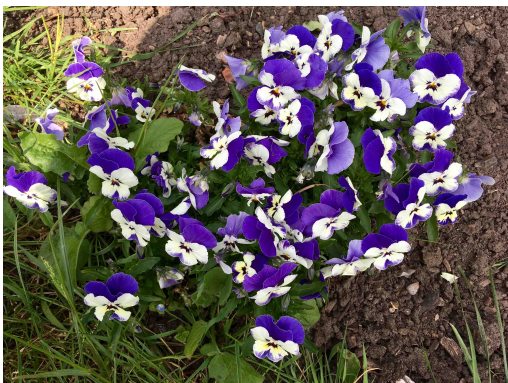
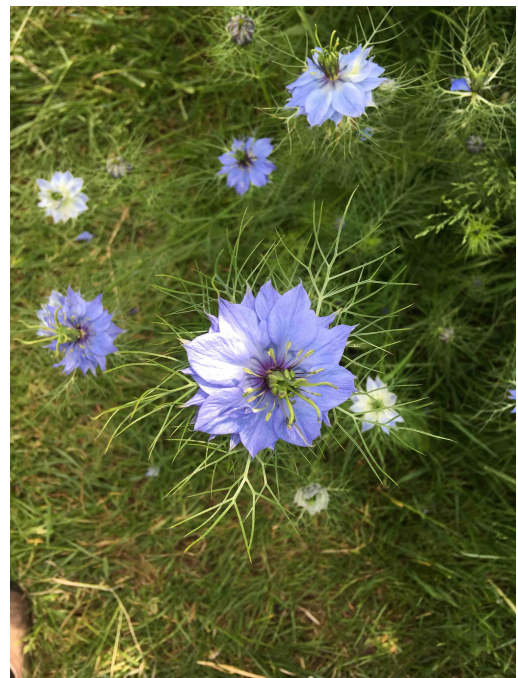
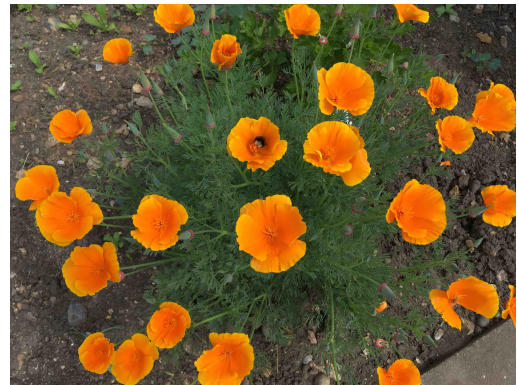
www.goodhousekeeping.com - how to start an organic garden in 9 easy steps

**START IN THE RGS STORE
– OPEN ON SUNDAY
MORNINGS BETWEEN 10-
12.00 NOON. COFFEE
AND CAKE AVAILABLE
WHILE YOU SHOP!**

**LONDON'S OPEN
SQUARES WEEKEND
9-10 JUNE**

www.opensquares.org - for tickets and information about open squares and events taking place.

ALLOTMENT IMAGES



COURGETTE AND CARROT SOUP (2 elegant servings)

Simple, quick, no fat - unless you add sour cream at the end - the whizzed up courgette gives body and creaminess.

2 courgettes (1 green/pale green/striped and 1 yellow)
1 medium carrot
1 or 2 cloves new garlic
600 ml chicken or vegetable stock
Cumin + turmeric: a large pinch of each
Chopped coriander, parsley or dill to serve
+ Spoon of sour cream per bowl

Chop half the carrots and courgettes into chunks and add to simmering stock with garlic and spices and cook.

Cut the remaining carrots and courgettes into thin slices and add to vegetables in the saucepan when they are almost soft. The slices should be kept just tender.

Remove cooked vegetables, leaving slices behind, and blitz either in a blender or with a hand whizzer. Return to saucepan.

Reheat to a gentle boil and turn off.

Serve, dividing up sliced vegetables so that there are slices of each colour and they float atop, with the chosen herb and sour cream, if wanted.

***Many thanks to Liz and Alan
Smart for this recipe.***

RGS AGM

Please note that the date of the AGM is Thursday 18 October and it will take place in the Roehampton Cricket Club Pavilion, Telegraph Road.

NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Show: 16 June 2018

Q & A session with a team of **RHS experts on Friday 22 June from 7.30 to 9.30pm**

Wisley Trip: 23 July 2018

Autumn Show: 8 September 2018

AGM: 18 October 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
(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:
rgs.sw15@gmail.com

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

PLOT NUMBERING

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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,
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

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

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 July 2018
by email, in store and on both sites.
Copy for next edition to Pat Dark
email to: patdark13@yahoo.co.uk
by 22 June 2018.