

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

September 2018

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk



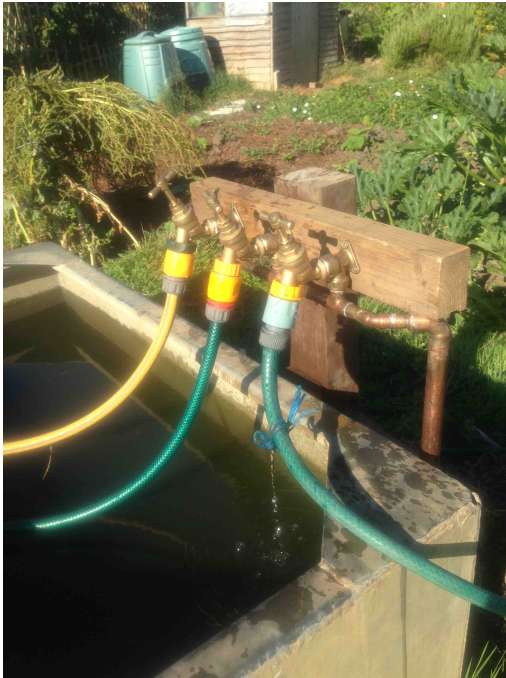
Mr Lui drying his tomatoes on the roof of his shed.

**AUTUMN SHOW
3.00PM ON SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HALL
PUTNEY PARK LANE**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE SHOW BY HELPING SET IT UP,
CLEARING UP, MAKING A CAKE, GIVING SOME BOTTLES
FOR THE TOMBOLA, PLANTS FOR THE PRODUCE STALL,
COMING ALONG AND HAVING A CUP OF TEA AND SLICE OF
CAKE.**

SEE YOU THERE!

CHAIR'S REPORT



We are delighted to have **major improvements to our water system on Site 3** that were falling apart with increasing frequency! Thanks to committee member Greg we now have new brass taps with non-return valves and back plates with robust supports on all our tanks. They are all fitted with stopcocks so that each tank can be turned off independently. RSL Services carried out the plumbing work and Greg fitted all the supports. We see this work as interim as we are still planning that we will eventually install a new pipe circuit and add more tanks, but we don't have sufficient funds at present. Such work would need a serious investment requiring grants and we would need to be a Charity to raise such a sum.

The Committee has been preparing **new agreements and policies** over the last couple of years. You will be familiar with several of them like the guidelines for erecting a structure, planting fruit trees and

letting plots, etc. They are now in use and are on our website <http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/your-allotment/plotholder-agreements/>. We plan to ratify them at the AGM on 18 October. The main document is the **Letting Agreement and Rules** that s based on our old Rules and the old Wandsworth Agreement (now defunct) and the new one that Enable use for the other allotment sites in Wandsworth. Some of the policies are in draft form, as there may be changes suggested by members and / or Enable. All comments and suggestions from members are welcome.

We also have a **Data Privacy Policy** that can be found along with the minutes of committee meetings. <http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/about-2/committee/>

If you don't have access to the Internet and would like printed copies of any of these they are available on request.

Committee member Patrick Crawford has offered to lead on a new approach to the formation of a **Charity and the Lease renewal** and he has enlisted the support of 2 of our members, both with relevant skills and experience. We hope that a change of faces and a new approach to this long running saga will prove successful.

I look forward to seeing you at the Show on 8th September!

Jackie 07508 559134
rgs.sw15@gmail.com

SHOW REPORT

After the 'Beast from the East' and then a heat wave followed by torrential rain, what have we got left growing to enter for the show? Personally, I think there will be some great sweet corn around. There is always something. I have seen some fantastic pumpkins on site 2 and there are two categories – a straightforward pumpkin entry and another for the heaviest pumpkin. Don't worry about saving it for harvesting for Halloween – they are ready to harvest for the show and will store until well after the end of October.

New in the vegetable category is a winter vegetable - do you have a lovely leek that is already fully grown, or a parsnip or maybe some sprouts like we saw in last year's show. You can also enter a pot of growing capsicums / sweet peppers - as the growing chilli plants have been so popular in previous shows.

New cookery categories are homemade seasonal soup, flapjacks of your choice and we have split the jam entries into soft fruit and stone fruit to make it easier for our cookery judge Helen to compare like for like.

So if you are inspired by the changes in the schedule, have a go at entering the show and join your fellow allotmenters in celebrating your harvest, and let the wider community share it as well.

We always need volunteers to help the evening before and on the day so if you can spare a couple of hours please get in touch via the email address.

See you at the show.

Carol Martinez - Joint Show Chair



STORE REPORT

We will be selling flower bulbs again this year. Daffodil and allium bulbs will be available at the Show on 8 September and then in the Store. The tulip bulbs are due in November for sale in the Store

We have ordered two varieties of each type of bulb:

Daffodils: plant by the end of September in half shade or full sun at least 10cm deep and space 10cm apart. Bulb size is 10cm. Both varieties are suitable for containers and make an excellent cut flower.

February Gold - this has a slightly reflecting golden orange trumpet and starts to flower in early March for about 4 weeks. Height is 50cm



Thalia - a beautiful multi-headed white variety that flowers mid-April. Height is 30cms.



Alliums: plant in September or October in half shade or full sun. Space 15cm apart at a depth of 3-4 times the size of the bulb. They are best left undisturbed to naturalise and multiply. Can be planted in containers.

Purple Sensation - this popular allium flowers May-June to a height of 75cm. It has tight fistled heads of vivid purple.



Azureum - this flowers June-July to a height of 60cm. It has vivid compact cornflower blue flower heads.



Tulips: Plant in November. Mix a little bit of numeral or super phosphate in the soil before planting 8-10cm deep and c.15cm apart. Bulb size is 11/12cm. China Pink - lily shaped with bright pink petals with a white base.

Height is 50-60cm and flowers in early May.



Queen of the Night - a deep velvet maroon variety. Height is 60cm and flowers mid-May.



These will be sold in bags of 5 bulbs at £1.50 per bag.

Following a request from one of our members, we now sell Sharp Sand in 5-kilo packets. Silver Sand is still sold loose as well as in 5-kilo packets.

As well as the Greasebands we sell for fruit trees, we are trialling Fruit Tree Grease that is brushed on and prevents wingless female moths from climbing trees to lay their eggs. A 200g tub costs £6.00.

Gill Tamsett
Trading Secretary

PLOT JOBS FOR SEPTEMBER

Deep-dig out perennial weeds such as bindweed. Keep weeding to prevent weeds seeding. Begin to add well-rotted manure to bare areas.

Empty the compost bin by bagging up compost from the bottom of the bin or heap. Store it ready for use next spring and start a new mix.

Spinach, coriander, rocket and parsley can all be sown until the middle of the month.

Sow fast-growing Oriental greens such as pak choi and mizuna.

Sow winter greens such as land cress, corn salad and hardy lettuce cultivars (including 'Arctic King' and 'Valdor') for spring picking. Sow kale for early spring harvesting and rocket for autumn harvesting.

Sow hardy annuals such as *calendula officianalis* in shallow drills for late spring flowering next year.

Sow green manures in vegetable beds that are to be left fallow for the winter. When dug in they conserve nutrients and improve soil texture.

Sow broad bean varieties such as Aquadulce or Masterpiece Green Longpod in late September for harvesting in late May, early June.

Pot up strawberry runners to make new plants for next summer or plant out new strawberries.

Plant out spring cabbage.

Plant overwintering onion sets.

Plant daffodil bulbs for early spring flowering.

Start planting trees at the end of the month while the soil is still warm.

Harvest maincrop potatoes. Check each tuber for disease or damage and do not store damaged tubers. Store in a cool, dry place. Let the tubers dry off before storing in jute, hessian or paper bags in a dark frost-free place.

Store onions that have been dried in nets in well-ventilated conditions.

Continue to harvest sweetcorn.

Cut herbs for drying and use throughout the winter.

Continue picking autumn raspberries and blackberries.

Continue harvesting apples and pears. Store in a cool, well-ventilated place. Black, scabby blotches, distortion and cracking on apples and pears indicate scab disease. Affected fruit will not store well but can be eaten now.

Leave autumn squashes to ripen on the plant as long as possible. Place fruit on a wooden board or tile to prevent soiling. Fruits are ready when richly coloured and ring hollow when tapped.

Protect leafy vegetable crops with bird netting.

Cut out the fruited canes of summer raspberries, blackberries, loganberries and tayberries. Leave the new green canes, as these will crop next year. Prune blackcurrants. After picking autumn-fruited raspberries, do not prune. Wait until late winter/ early

spring to cut all the canes down to ground level.

Keep leeks protected with insect mesh against leek mining fly and leek moth.

Ensure carrots are protected with insect mesh as carrot flies are most damaging in late summer and autumn.

Water plants in the morning to help prevent fungal diseases.

Continue to feed and water tomatoes. Cropping can continue well into the autumn.

Clean the greenhouse to reduce overwintering pests.

In the greenhouse sow herbs, salad leaves such as pea shoots, beetroot and chard for winter leaves.

In ponds, thin out oxygenating and floating plants. Leave debris at the side of the pond overnight so creatures can return to the water.

Apply grease bands to fruit trees at the end of the month to deter winter moth.

Do not compost blight-affected foliage or tubers of potatoes and tomato plants. Do not add rose leaves affected with black spot to the compost heap.

Check what produce you may have to enter in the Autumn Show on September 8th or donate to the produce stall.

SEPTEMBER RECIPES

Many thanks to Helen Finch & Gill Tamsett (with Richard Bainbridge) for recommending the following recipes.

SOUR CREAM AND RHUBARB SQUARES



Ingredients

100g butter – room temperature
75g golden caster sugar
100g mixed nuts, such as walnuts, brazil nuts, almonds and hazelnuts, roughly chopped (you can buy these as a mixed pack)
1 tsp ground cinnamon
250g dark muscovado sugar
1 large egg
225g plain flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 x 142ml cartons soured cream
300g rhubarb, cut into 1cm pieces

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C/gas 4/fan 160C. Line a 33 x 23 x 5cm baking tin with non-stick baking parchment (to cut in squares) or grease a pudding dish of similar size (pudding).

Topping: Melt 15g/1/2oz butter and stir into the caster sugar, nuts and cinnamon in a bowl. Set aside.

Cake; Cream rest of the butter with the muscovado sugar and egg, then stir in the flour, bicarbonate of soda, 1/2 tsp salt and the soured cream. Then the rhubarb.

Pour mixture into the prepared tin and sprinkle with the topping. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until a skewer

comes out clean. Serve immediately as a pudding, or leave to cool and cut into squares. Keeps for 4-5 days in an airtight tin.

Makes 15 square

TOMATO TART



Ingredients

1 pack of puff pastry
10 heritage tomatoes (various colours)
3 sprigs of thyme
Sea salt
White pepper
Olive oil
Salad leaves

Preheat oven to 185C/365F/gas 4. Line a baking tray with parchment paper; unroll the pastry on to the tray and score with a sharp knife in a criss-cross, leaving a 2cm border around the edge. Bring a large pan of water to the boil, and blanch the tomatoes for 20 seconds or until the skin starts to peel, then put them in ice-cold water to cool.

Once cooled, peel the skin off the tomatoes and slice them about 1cm thick, then arrange them on the pastry. Sprinkle the sprigs of thyme on top, season with salt and pepper then brush lightly with olive oil.

Place the tray into the oven and bake for 20 minutes until the pastry is golden brown. Remove from the oven and cool. Once cooled, slice your tart and serve with dressed salad leaves.

ANNUAL VISIT TO RHS WISLEY

The annual trip to Wisley took place on 23 July and around 16 members came along. The majority of us also went on an excellent tour of the grounds and finally visited to garden centre, coming home laden with plants (that was Carol and me anyway!).

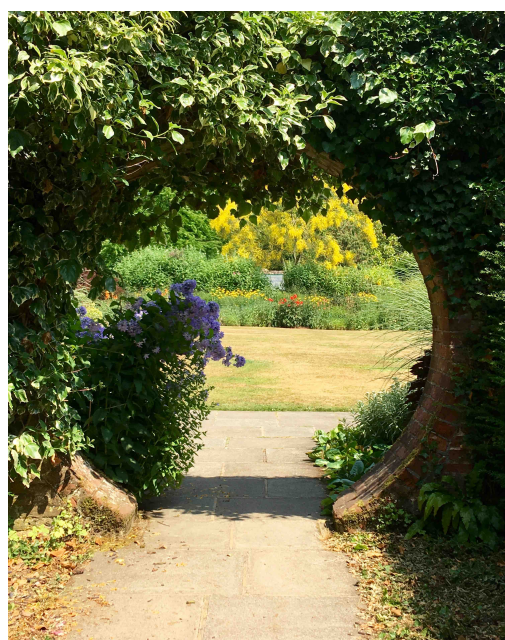
The three photos below show the group on the Wisley tour, the lovely sculptures of dandelion heads and the wonderful Wisley allottment.



In 2019, for a change, we plan to go to Wisley in March or April to see the Camillias and Hellibores. Watch the Bulletin for details.



***Also photos of a trip to
Great Comp Garden in Kent***



WELCOMING WILDLIFE ON OUR ALLOTMENTS

Below are some websites to look at to find out more about how to encourage insects onto our allotments. The payback to encouraging them is that they will help control pests and help pollinate your plants.



www.welcomewildlife.com

This site shows you how to develop an insect friendly garden or allotment, has information on the different insects and how to build an insect house.

www.carrotopsallotment.com

An excellent site with photos and details of the top 10 beneficial insects for your garden or allotment.

Also a good piece on reducing plastic consumption on the allotment.

www.edenproject.com

Shows you what materials you need and how to build an insect house in early autumn ready for hibernation in the winter.

There is, of course, lots of information about the Eden project and visiting.

www.bbcwildlife.org.uk

With the Wildlife Trust more instructions for building a simple bug hotel.

www.gardenersworld.com

How to make a bug box.

COMBATTING SLUGS

Slugs are one of my nightmares! My neighbour often goes up to her allotment late at night and has picked up to 100 slugs in an hour! Urr! That is one way of trying to control them. I cut an article out of The Guardian a while ago but feel it has some useful information.

There are some warnings!

1. Using slug pellets will reduce slug predators.
2. Don't use salt, it will kill the plants.
3. Seashells have sharp edges but do not decay so can be a nuisance when weeding.
4. No single thing does the trick!

Try the following:

1. Found out what sort of slugs you are dealing with i.e. the garden slug attacks everything that resembles an herbaceous plant whilst the large black slug prefers rotting matter.

2. Introduce and encourage predators(see also www.carrotopsallotment.com)-

- Hedgehogs (I wrote about these recently).

- Beetles (particularly Carab beetles, live under stones and in coarse grass or put some straw in an upside down plastic box.

- Centipedes (not millepedes as they will eat your seedlings). They

live in leaf litter, under stones, in rotting wood

3. Grow plants they don't like! Lawn camomile and Raj swears by Lavender.

4. Kill the slugs you catch! Humanely? Catch them with a trap beer, (ales and Guinness are best), grapefruit halves, flower pots, cardboard or anything dark and moist will attract them. But then you have to kill them! Drown them in a jar of water with the lid on or use a sharp knife to behead them.

5. Control your borders (my preference)
- Use copper strips as slugs don't crawl over copper. Pennies around seedlings, stripped electric cable or you buy copper strips.
- Eggshells, must be clean with the inner membrane removed. Good when new but don't last.
- Raj sprinkles lavender cutting as he says they deter slugs and Artan uses sharp sand around his seedlings.

All I can say "is the best of luck!"

Pat Dark

RHS

Grass Roots Magazine – climate change special

Do look at the link below to see the RHS community magazine. You can also access old copies and see some interesting community developments plus news about London National Park City.

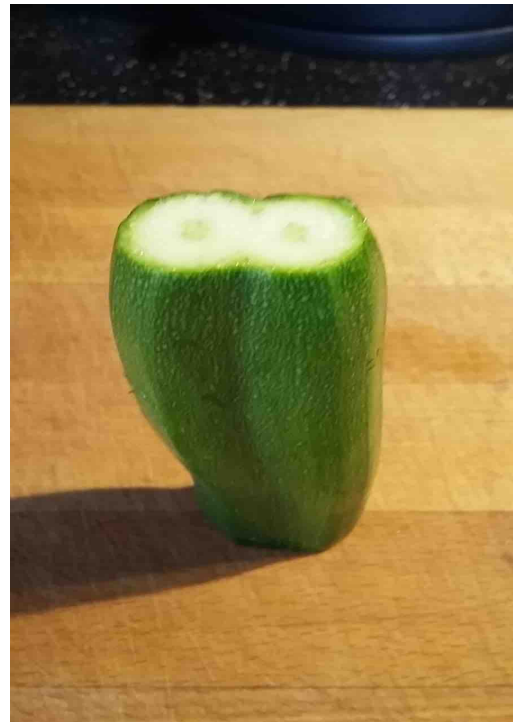
Available at:

www.rhs.org.uk

CO-JOINED TWINS!

Carol Martinez sent me the following photos and said

"I don't know what was happening in June, under Gemini, but I had 2 sets of co-joined twins".



NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Show: 8 September 2018
AGM: 18 October 2018,
Roehampton Cricket Club Pavilion,
Telegraph Road.

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

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 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
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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 7 October 2018
by email, in store and on both sites.
Copy for next edition to Pat Dark
email to: patdark13@yahoo.co.uk
by 24 September.