

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

March 2019

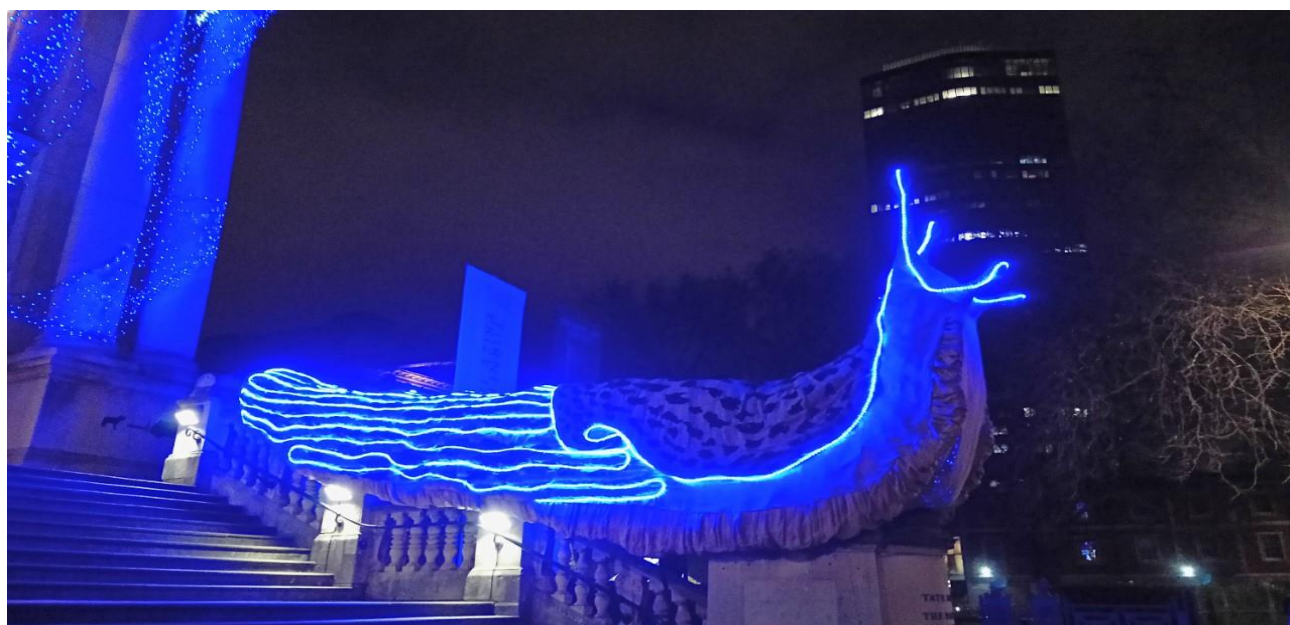
www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk



Cookmaid with still-life of Vegetables and Fruit, Nathaniel Bacon 1620.

When we saw this at Tate Britain my daughter said, “oh look Mum, it’s you when you come back from the allotment”. I wish.

All the produce was grown in England. The artist lived in Suffolk where he was reportedly very good at growing melons.



This wonderful creature was also at Tate Britain. The leopard slug was shown with blue lights to represent the slime emitted when they mate at night time. Uuurrghhh.

CHAIR'S REPORT

At the time of writing this report the sun is shining and it feels like spring. I hope you all have had the opportunity to be out on your plot enjoying this wonderful February weather – nothing like it!

So, what have we been up to since the last Bulletin? Well, the lease negotiating grinds on and we hope we will win the argument and get a good long lease as well as the resources to get the leaking store roof fixed at the very least. Patrick Crawford and Alan Strowger are doing an excellent job of negotiating with the Council, but these things do take time.

A sub-committee has been busy clarifying the Appeals Procedure. Appeals come up from time to time and often must be dealt with within a fairly tight time frame with a bespoke sub-committee, so it became clear that it was very important that we have a well-defined procedure to ensure everything was done correctly and systematically. We are very nearly there and once it is fully agreed with the committee it will be published on our website.

Which takes me neatly on to the website. Jean Crawford is reviewing how it can best be presented to make it as user-friendly as possible. It is a website that the RGS can justly be proud of, but it is indicative of how fortunate we are that volunteers such as Jean are willing to look critically at their work and are always striving to improve whichever area they are volunteering in.

When you read this report, I hope the weather hasn't taken too much of a turn for the worse and that you will

continue to enjoy being at your allotment.

Helen Finch, Chair

Seeds to Sow Now

The Kings Seeds listed are in store now, these are just some examples of the 200 varieties on offer. 20% discount for members.

Always read the packet and watch the weather!

AUBERGINES (indoors) In store: Long Purple, Pinstripe, Jack Pot & Black Beauty. **DON'T FORGET THE SPECIAL AUBERGINE CUP THIS YEAR**

BROAD BEANS (outdoors) In store: De Monica, Karmazyn, Masterpiece Green & The Sutton

BROKALI (indoors) In Store: Atlantis

BRUSSELS SPROUTS (indoors) In store: Crispus (club root resistant), Darkmar, Flower Sprout Petit Posi (Kalettes)

HERBS (indoors) In store: Basils many varieties, Chives plain and garlic, Coriander, Dill, Parsley, Purslane, Thyme, Rocket (wild and salad)

BEETROOT (outdoors) In store: Barbabietola di Chioggia, Boldor, Bolthardy (earliest), Cylindra

BEET, LEAF (outdoors) In store: Bright Yellow, Rainbow Chard, Perpetual Spinach

CABBAGE (outdoors) In store: Caraflex, Kalibos, Kilaton (Club Root Resistant)

CARROT (outdoors) In store:
Amsterdam Forcing, Early Nantes,
Chantenay Red Cored

CAULIFLOWER (outdoors) In store:
Clapton (Club root resistant), Autumn
Giant, Boris

CELERIAC (indoors) In store: Prinz

CHICORY (outdoors) In store: Palla
Rossa, Rossa di Treviso

COURGETTE (indoors) In store:
Defender, Floridor, Tondo di Nizza,
Nero di Milano

CRESS (indoors) In store: Fine Curled,
Sprint

CUCUMBER (indoors) In store: Mini
Munch, Marketmore, Telegraph
Improved

ENDIVE (outdoors) In store: Pancalieri

KALE (outdoors) In store: Dwarf
Green, Nero di Toscana, Cottagers
(Heritage variety)

KHOL RABI (outdoors) In store:
Purple Delicacy

LEEK (outdoors) In store: Below Zero,
Musselburgh, Blue Solaise

LETTUCE (outdoors) In store: All year
round, Little Gem, Mixed Leaves,
Salad Bowl

OKRA (indoors) In store: Clemsons
Spineless

PARSNIP (outdoors) In store:
Gladiator

PEA (outdoors) In store: Shelling:
Early Onward, Hurst Greenshaft,
Kelvedon Wonder

Sugar snap & Mangetout: Oregon
Sugar Pod, Delikett, Purple Magnolia

Pea Shoots: Serge

**PEPPER, SWEET AND
CHILLI** (indoors. Chillies need 21
degrees to germinate.) In
store: **Sweet Peppers:** Kubista, Long
Red Marconi, Lunch Box Mix &
Mavras. **Chillies:** Apache, Basket of
Fire, Early Jalapeno, Habanero
Orange, Hungarian Hot Wax &
Trinidad Perfume

POTATOES Start planting early
varieties when the weather is warming.
(5 varieties available in store)

RADISH (outdoors) In store: Cherry
Belle, French Breakfast, China Rose

SPINACH (outdoors) In store:
Amazon, Trombone & Matador

SPRING ONION (outdoors) In store:
White Lisbon, Ishikura

TOMATO (indoors) In store: Mountain
Magic (blight resistant), Akron,
Alicante, Black Russian, Fandango,
Gardeners' Delight, Gigantomo,
Golden Sunrise, Ildo, Megabyte,
Shirley, Sungold & Tigerella)

TURNIP (outdoors) In store: Milan
Purple Top

FLOWERS: Sow hardy annuals for
companion planting such as calendula
and tagetes indoors for earlier blooms.
(In store: Durango Mixed, Naughty
Marietta & Starfire)

**Don't forget when you are potting
up your seedlings there are lots of
plastic pots of all sizes available in
the recycling box next to the store
on site 2.**

STORE REPORT

March is when soil preparation really begins, as outlined in the article on plot jobs for this month found online, and there are several items for sale in the store to support this.

Black fabric Weed Suppressant is sold in 1m X 10m rolls for £7.50 per roll. It has a weight of 100g per square metre which is strong enough to successfully suppress weeds.

For your fruit trees and bushes, Growmore and Fish, Blood and Bone are sold loose.

Growmore is a non-organic general use fertiliser which can be applied now and every 4-6 weeks throughout the growing season to the end of October. Use as a top dressing, or as a base dressing, working it into the soil.

Fish, Blood and Bone and Pelleted Poultry Manure are organic products to apply now for summer growing. Pelleted Poultry Manure is sold loose and also in convenient 7 kilo buckets.

To avoid brassica club root, Lime and Calcified Seaweed are sold loose. Apply in Spring to raise the soil pH before planting brassicas.

By selling these fertilisers loose, our members can buy these items much more cheaply than in garden centres. Do bring your own containers to fill up with your chosen fertilisers. We are trying to minimise the use of plastic and this will help to do this. We are also trialling compostable bags for bagging up these loose products.

We have a good selection of seed and cutting composts. We have increased the size of the order of the Gro-Sure

Seed and Cutting Compost as this proved very popular last year. This is sold in easy to carry 10 litre bags. We also have John Innes Seed Compost and also Dalefoot Wool Compost for Seeds. The Dalefoot compost has increased significantly in price this year. Although a discount has been arranged with our supplier, it will now cost £8.50 for a 12-litre bag. However, we are now selling this loose at £1.00 per kilo.

Vermiculite is also sold loose to sprinkle over your seeds/seedlings to help reduce 'damping off'.

Hopefully these products will get your plants off to a successful growing season.

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

PLOT JOBS FOR THIS MONTH

Plot Jobs advice for March and April can be found on our website at <http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/category/plotjobsbymonth/>

There is a very useful information sheet on the different types of fertiliser sold in the store.

<http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/growing-things/fertilisers/>

Fertiliser information is also printed and available in the store.

Saturday Store Opening

Following last year's trial of opening on Saturday mornings during March and April, the Store will be open again for 6 weeks from 23 March to 27 April for one hour between 11am and 12 noon. This gives members who have other commitments on Sunday mornings to buy products from the Store when preparing their plots for the summer growing season.

SHOWS UPDATE:

The Summer Show – New Variety will be held on either Sunday 9th or 16th June. It will be held on site 2 between 13.00 and 17.00. There will be fewer categories for entry, but all the seasonal fruits, vegetables and flowers will be there. It will be a community event and we will ask that you bring something nice along to put on the buffet table. We also plan to hold a 'Cake Off' that will be judged by the visitors to the show – before we cut them up and eat them with tea. There will be a play area and activities arranged for children.

So please put these dates in your diary (we will confirm which it is soon) and come along to have a jolly good time getting to know your allotment neighbours in the sunshine.

Carol Martinez – Joint Show Chair

Welcome to new plot-holders:

Site 3

Lee and Sharmila Bane

Lewis Gates

Louise Davies

Michelle Howie

Member's Annual Trip to RHS Wisley

The Roehampton Garden Society is affiliated with the Royal Horticultural Society, so we are able to arrange a trip to beautiful Wisley for **free** for members of the RGS. This year we have decided to make the trip coincide with the annual Wisley Spring Plant Fair on **Friday, March 22nd**. Along with their visit to the gardens, participants will have the opportunity to check out a wide range of spring

plants available for purchase from 30 specialists' nurseries, many of which have won an RHS Award of Garden Merit.

Although the trip is free of charge, we will need to obtain tickets in advance, so please let us know if you are able to come by the **15th March**, and also if you will need a lift or can provide a lift for someone else.

Please reply to Brenna Lattimore at brennalattimore@gmail.com

Update from Putney Community Gardens



Wahoo! 🥳 We've got our seeds sorted for the next growing season! This morning we visited the Roehampton Garden Society / Roehampton Allotments for some growing advice, seed packets and some kindly donated plant babies which will be replanted into the raised beds on the Ashburton Estate 💖 A thousand thank yous to everyone at Roehampton Garden Society 🌱 What an oasis of relaxation and green in London.

Always good to have a planting plan.

They have also built themselves a bug hotel



March RECIPE

Cheesy celeriac, leek & rosemary gratin.

I still have a few celeriac and leek growing and this is both easy to make and delicious.

25g butter
2 leeks
1 celeriac
300mls double cream
300mls milk
100g cheddar or gruyere
Small handful of rosemary leaves - roughly chopped
1 bay leaf

1. Heat the butter in a saucepan. Add the leeks, rosemary and bay leaf, then cover and cook very gently over a medium-low heat for 15-20 mins until the leeks are soft. Pour over the milk and almost all of the cream, then season and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat and leave to cool a little, then scoop out the bay leaf.
2. Pour a little of the leek mixture into an ovenproof gratin dish. Arrange a layer of celeriac in

the dish, then season. Spoon over some more of the leek mixture and scatter with a little cheese. Repeat the process, alternating between layers of the leek mixture, cheese and celeriac slices, then finish with a drizzle of cream and the last of the cheese. Can be prepared up to a day ahead and kept in the fridge.

3. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Bake the gratin for 1 hr-1 hr 15 mins until the top is golden and the celeriac is tender when poked with a knife. If the gratin is browning a little too much, cover the dish in foil. Can be chilled, then reheated in a microwave or oven on a low heat with a drizzle more cream



NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Member's trip to Wisley – Friday 22nd March. (Reserve your place by 15th)

Family / Flower show – Sunday 9th or 16th June – Site 2 (tbc)

Autumn Show – Saturday 21st September – St Margaret's Church Hall

AGM – Thursday 14th November - Roehampton Cricket Club House

RHS CONTACTS

Committee Chair: Helen Finch.
Site 2 Joint Allotment Secretaries
Mariangela Renshaw & Elizabeth
Smart.
Site 3 Joint Allotment Secretaries:
Vivian Fowler & Alison Linton.
Site Manager: Shirley Gillbe.
Comments or questions for Chair
and/or Committee via website:
rqs.sw15@gmail.com

***All policies and procedures are on
our website.***

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

RGS email

As you know the email system was
changed last year. Those of you on
email should all have been receiving
emails from rqs.sw15@gmail.com. If
you have not been receiving any, then
please check your spam/junk folders.
In order to be sure to get them in
future please set
up rqs.sw15@gmail.com as a known
contact.
Or email rqs.sw15@gmail.com

RGS ADDRESS AND POST BOX

Fixed to the gate at site 2,
Roehampton Garden Society
The Pleasance Allotments
The Pleasance
London SW15 5HF
Website:
www.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, Helen Finch, rather than confront another plot holder.* Helen.finch2@btinternet.com
07736 422373

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-furbish old garden tools
www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

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 is applied and 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.

AUSTIN MOWERS

Repairs and sells reconditioned mowers and sharpens shears.
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020 8874 4206
www.austinmowers.com
austinmowers@aol.com

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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. 07985 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 is open on Sunday mornings between 10 -12.00 noon. Café, serving teas, coffee and homemade cake

NEXT BULLETIN

Mid-April 2019. Editor Carol Martinez. Email stories and photos to carolmartinez@hotmail.co.uk by 8th April. Recipe suggestions always welcome.

