

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

April 2019

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Member's Annual Trip to RHS Wisley



Pat and Sheila with camelias on a very cold day at Wisley.

Thanks to Brenna Lattimore for organizing the trip for members on 22nd March.

Around 30 Adults and 8 children had a lovely day. See inside about their new allotments.

Obituary

Derrick Ratcliffe 1922 to 2019



Derrick sadly passed away on 4th March after a stroke. He was well known on both sites having had a plot for many years and then becoming the 'manure man.' He entered a lovely rose every year for the summer show called Ruby Wedding which he was given after 40 years of marriage to Jean, and he often won the Best Rose in Show Cup. Derrick loved visiting Kew Gardens. 30 RGS members attended his funeral on 26th March. He is already missed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Where has all that lovely spring weather gone? I am writing this at the beginning of April, but it feels like November! At least the days are longer, and we have the comfort of knowing that it will get better.

Enough of this weather business - so what has been going on this month? Getting the store roof replaced has been occupying Patrick Crawford's time and his dogged determination is beginning to bear fruit so it is increasingly likely that the roof will be replaced in the near future on favourable terms as far as the RGS is concerned. Patrick, along with Alan Strowger are making progress with the lease and we have had a very helpful meeting with the Chief Executive of Enable Leisure and Culture who manage allotments elsewhere in Wandsworth on behalf of The Council.

A Policy that the committee feel is inadequate is the Behaviour Policy (you can find it at <http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/RGS-Behaviour-Policy.pdf>) so we have formed a sub-committee to improve it. In particular we feel The Policy should aim at promoting social cohesion of the RGS and it needs to incorporate more guidance and the legal aspects of certain behaviour. We hope to have a draft on our website soon that you will be invited to look at and comment on should you feel the need to do so.

We continue to have a very active committee as well as other plot holders helping to keep the RGS going and growing so lots more has been happening that I haven't highlighted. Mostly they are covered

in other sections of this Bulletin but there are always members who put in a lot of time and effort that is not so obvious. So many thanks to all those who make a contribution to the wellbeing of The Society.

Well, here we are at the beginning of a new season, so we will all be out on our allotments busying away along with the bees.

Helen Finch, Chair

STORE REPORT

Spring has finally arrived, and the Store has been very busy as members prepare for the new growing season. The seed composts and seeds have been selling well. The root trainers are excellent for seeds that develop long root systems and we now have seed trays (with drainage holes) and gravel trays (without holes) in which to place the root trainers for extra protection.

Following a request from members, we will have Perlite in stock from 13 April and be offering 3 ways of buying coarse grit: loose, in small bags or large bags. Grow bags will also be in stock.

Country Natural has been flying out the doors and, as is often the case this time of year, it is difficult to keep up with demand. New deliveries have been scheduled for April and May, but there may be times when we will run out, so we ask you to be patient. We can only have so much delivered at one time.

There are now 2 versions of New Horizon. All Veg has been especially created for tomatoes, cucumbers and chillies and comes in 50 litre bags and All Plants is suitable for all fruits, vegetables, herbs, seeds, seedlings

and containers in 60 litre bags. We are trialling whether members like to have a choice between these 2 versions so would appreciate receiving feedback as to what results they have had from each type and what works for them. As they are different sizes, they will have different prices.

We have gone back to ordering Clover multipurpose compost in 60 litre bags instead of 75 litres as these were difficult to carry for some of our members.



PLOT JOBS FOR THIS MONTH

Plot Jobs advice for April and May can be found on our website at <http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/growing-things/plot-jobs-month-by-month/>

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/>

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.

Saturday Store Opening

The store will still be open on Saturdays until 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.

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

300 + varieties of **KINGS SEEDS** in store most of which should be sown in April or May



ALL YOUR FAVOURITES IN STOCK BUT WHY NOT TRY SOMETHING NEW?

TOMATO BLACK OPAL - (chocolate colour cherry with tangy flavour. Good disease resistance)

FRENCH BEAN SAFARI - (vigorous fine pods like the expensive pencil Kenyan beans in the shops)

BRUSSELS FLOWER SPROUT PETIT POSI aka **KALETTES** (great with stir fries & winter hardy)

KALE COTTAGERS (Heritage variety. Tasty supply of leaves throughout winter)

SPINACH - NEW ZEALAND (not really spinach – gives leaf until frosts)

GOOD KING HENRY aka **LINCOLNSHIRE SPINACH** (another delicious leafy alternative)

PACK CHOI (Joi Choi is ideal as mini veg and has good frost resistance)

AUBERGINES (SPECIAL CHALLENGE CUP IN 2019 AUTUMN SHOW). (Sow before end April!)

RUNNING OUT OF ROOM? – TRY CLIMBERS

Courgette (**BLACK FOREST**) and Okra (**CLEMONS SPINELESS**)

Runner Bean (**POLESTAR** is Sarah Raven's favourite; early, heavy cropper and stringless)

French Bean (**COBRA** is the best for flavour)

IN A HURRY – OR CHILDREN TO ENCOURAGE?

The following will give you results in **3 to 4 weeks**.

Radishes, Spring Onions, Rocket, Purslane, Cress and Pea Shoots.

Don't forget to grow the heaviest Hallowe'en Pumpkin and the tallest Sunflower for the Autumn Show! And while you are at it - the longest runner bean or the biggest marrow

POLLINATORS – ADD SOME EASY BEE LOVING FLOWERS

Nasturtiums, Calendula, Marigolds,

Cosmos, Limnanthes, Poppies



Jackie Savage

Visit to RHS Wisley

There is a lot of building work and changes at Wisley and part of their moving around means a new allotment site.

There are about 20 small plots. All the Diploma in Horticultural Practice students studying at Wisley are given a plot to work on in their first year as part of their coursework. They were all at different stages of planning, but this young man was on the ball.



The rest of the plots are given to members of the local community such as schools and beginner growers who join regular masterclasses along with the students. The beginner growers will have the plot for a year and are then expected to pass on their knowledge to others in the community.

The children enjoyed themselves on their day out.



Site 2



Annie's colourful plot.



Steven and Julie's lovely leeks



Simon with his impressive forced rhubarb on 3rd March.

Welcome to new plot-holders:

Site 2

Claire Gillyon

Site 3

Albi Ison

Ramesh Ramgolam

Katarina O'Neil

Vedat Tayfun Esen

David Bagheri

Shaheen Munir

Madeleine Neave

Sara Geneletti

Site 3



Vince's occupied hedgehog house.



Jaco's tiptop tulips



The new bins for manure and wood chips.

Our manure now comes from Richmond Park stables where they use organic flax straw for the horses.



Thanks to Heather for tidying up the path to Huntingfield Road.

SHOWS UPDATE:

The Summer Show – New Variety will be held on Sunday 9th June on site 2 between 13.00 and 17.00. There will be classes for seasonal fruits, flowers and vegetables. It will be a community event and we will ask that you bring something nice along to put on the buffet table like at a street party. 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. Come along to have a jolly good time getting to know your allotment neighbours in the sunshine. (Fingers crossed). More information and schedule of classes in next bulletin.

Carol Martinez – Joint Show Chair

April RECIPE

Broccoli and anchovy pasta.

Serves 2

Use up the last of those purple sprouting florets

1 tin of anchovy fillets
350gm of purple sprouting broccoli
1 clove of garlic
1 teaspoon of chili flakes (or to taste)
Pasta of choice.
6 tablespoons of breadcrumbs

1. Fry the breadcrumbs in a little olive oil and set aside.
2. Mash up the anchovies and use the oil in the tin to soften the anchovies over a low heat. Add a crushed clove of garlic and the chili flakes.
3. Cook the broccoli for 3 or 4 minutes and drain. Break into pieces.
4. Start to cook the pasta.

5. Add the broccoli to the anchovy mix and add a few tablespoons of the pasta cooking water.
6. When pasta is cooked, drain and add to the anchovies and broccoli, retaining some more of the cooking water if needed. Mix together and incorporate all ingredients.
7. Serve with a scattering of the breadcrumbs and parmesan.



National Park City

Some of you will have been interested in the progress of the setting up of the National Park City.

They are holding a fair on Saturday 29th June, followed by the launch of the National Park City at a week-long festival between 20th and 28th July on the South Bank around The Royal Festival Hall and City Hall.

They are also asking that people celebrate the launch of the event in their own way by holding mini events across London.

Follow the link for further information.
<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/london-national-park-city/national-park-city-festival-london-2019>

Update from Putney Community Gardens

If anyone is interested in helping at a school - the community gardens are asking for volunteers to help run the allotment at Ark Academy.

If you would like to help email
rowansalim@gmail.com

The Source, Bulk Foods

In the spirit of using less plastic and cutting down landfill I would like to raise awareness of a new shop that has opened in St John's Road Battersea.

The Source Bulk Foods sells all their produce from sacks and large containers and you need to take along your own bags, boxes, bottles and baskets to bring your purchases home.

They sell everything you would expect such as nuts, dried fruits and beans to tea and coffee, herbs and spices, cereals, flour, oils, pasta, rice and confectionary.
Check them out at

<https://thesourcebulkfoods.co.uk/>

Yoga

One of our plot-holders has recently started a new venture – Marika Mosol will be teaching yoga and would like you all to know about it.

Slow Flow Yoga for
beginners/intermediates, all bodies
and ages.
Set aside time to empower your mind
and body and move freely without
judgment. I invite you to come and
connect and listen to your body.
After all, yoga is for every 'BODY!'
Every Monday from 29th April
10 am – 11 am
St Mary's Church, Putney: Lancaster
Room
£10 per class or book 5 class passes
for £40
For more info/questions:
email: marikamosolyoga@gmail.com
You will need to bring your own mat.

NOTICES DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Family / Flower show – Sunday 9th
June – Site 2

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:

rgs.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 rgs.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 rgs.sw15@gmail.com as a known
contact.

Or email rgs.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

If you haven't picked up your new membership card yet don't forget to ask next time you are in the store on site 2.

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.

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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

End of May 2019. Editor Carol Martinez.

Email stories and photos to carolmartinez@hotmail.co.uk by 20th May.

Recipe suggestions always welcome.

