

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

June 2019

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk



Finalist in Greening the City category: Ephemeral Garden, by Yann Avril, Boulogne-Sur-Mer, France. 2019 International Garden Photographer of the Year. Isn't it lovely?

Shows Update

As I am sure you have probably heard by now we will be holding our Summer Show - New Variety – on site 2 on Sunday 9th June between 13.00 and 17.00.

As well as being a show space for plot holders to display their seasonal vegetables, fruits and flowers (and hopefully win prizes) – it will be a community event so that everyone, especially new plot holders can get a chance to meet other plot holders from both sites.

We will have a communal buffet table for savoury items and we are asking that if you are coming along that you bring something for the table that can be easily shared.

Instead of having a cookery exhibits we are holding a 'Cake Off' competition. If you are a keen cake-baker, why not make a decorated cake or 8 cup cakes – 'a celebration of summer'. The winner for the best decorated cake will be judged by other plot holders and the winner will receive a cup at the annual presentation. After judging the cakes will be sliced up and sold along with cups of tea and squash – How very English.

There will be a dedicated children's area with activities, a produce stall selling seedlings, plants and home-made jams. At the end of the show we plan to run our ever-popular auction of donated flowers, vegetables, cakes etc.

So, bring along your family and friends and keep your fingers crossed for a sunny day.

See the schedule at the back of this bulletin, in the store or on the website.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Here we are into the new growing season with seedlings coming on and perennial plants in full leaf with fruit starting to appear. With these lovely long days, we all have so much more opportunity to be tending our allotments.

So how is progress on the store roof going? Patrick Crawford has been working with The Council and all the signs are that it will be fixed not long after our Summer Show: New Variety on Sunday 9th of June. Patrick is forever cautious as there still is opportunity for things not to go smoothly however, it is all looking very good indeed. Nothing like professional persistence to elicit results.

A draft version of the new Social Cohesion Policy has been out to you all for comments both on the website and hard copies in the store. The policy document will be finalised after the deadline for comments at the end of this month, then published on our website. The Social Cohesion Policy gives far more guidance regarding behaviour that is expected from the membership than the very brief Behaviour Policy that it is intended to replace and there is more emphasis on fostering a social spirit.



The RGS were approached by Adam from Surrey Sharpeners offering to come on site to sharpen tools for allotmenters. He came to site 2 on Sunday 19th May, started work at about 9.30 and was still busy at 7pm! He was very pleased with the response and I got the impression those using the service were also very pleased. He said he would be happy to

come again either in autumn, say October and /or next spring. Feedback would be most welcome.

So now we are well and truly ready with sharpened tools at the beginning of a new season, so we will all be out on our allotments busying away along with the bees. May all your crops be wonderful!

Helen Finch, Chair

STORE REPORT

Although the Store is well known for the variety of composts and fertilisers it sells, it also has many other items to support your allotmenting.

For watering, we have Hozelock tap connectors and spray attachments. I often find that I have lost the tap connector on my hose, often falling into the tank by the watering station, and spray attachments often do not survive winter frosts if kept on site. Indeed, I always bring mine home for the winter. We also have 10 litre watering cans at £5.50. There are 1 litre clear spray bottles for gently misting plants with water for £2.00.



There are a variety of twines, twist ties, raffia and plant rings to tie your plants to supports. Canes come in several lengths – 8, 6, 4 and 3 foot - and there are 2 feet green sticks. There are also cane caps and wigwam cane grips.

The hand forks, hand trowels and secateurs are of good quality and well-priced. We also have kneeler cushions to protect your knees at £2.50.

Ants are often a problem this time of year on allotments and at home and we now have Nippon Ant Killer Powder in stock for £2.50.

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

SEEDS TO SOW DIRECT WHERE THEY WILL GROW UNTIL HARVEST TIME

It is often said that late sowings “catch up” quickly with those you sowed earlier and optimistically when you just couldn’t wait to get the growing season under way!

Some seeds to sow now in RGS store:

BEANS: Climbing French e.g. Barlotta di Fuoco, Cobra, Cosse Violette, Hunter, Python

Dwarf French e.g. Safari, Sprite, The Prince

Runners: Enorma, Moolight, Polestar, White Lady

Best quality canes up to 8’ in height available in store.

BEETROOT: e.g. Red Ace, Pablo both AGM winners to harvest up to the Autumn frosts

COURGETTES: If your early sowings disappointed sow these direct before end of June and they will soon catch up! Ambassador, Aetna Polka, Black Forest, Nero di Milano and Zucchini.

SWEDE and TURNIP: Sow Ruby Swede and Milan Purple Top Turnips in June and harvest October onwards.

SWEET CORN: Sow in May/June and make sure you water well if the weather is dry. e.g. Lark and Goldcrest varieties.

BEET, LEAF /CHARD: Sow now for a crop in the winter: e.g. Bright Yellow, Rainbow, Rhubarb and Swiss Chards and Perpetual Spinach.

CABBAGE: Sow Club Root Resistant KALIBRO in June for an October harvest.

CUT AND COME AGAIN” SUGGESTIONS:

PAK CHOI: AGM winner Red Choi leaf vegetable that will mature in about 4-5 weeks.

SALAD LEAVES: examples include Analena, Little Gem Cos, Salad Bowl, Mizuna, Rocket, Mixed Spicy Leaves and Sorrel.

CHICORY/RADICCHIO: Rossa di Treviso and Palla Rossa can be picked about 4 weeks after sowing.

Jackie Savage

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.

PLOT JOBS FOR THIS MONTH

Plot Jobs advice for June 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/>

NETTING A CHERRY TREE



If you would like to pick a bowl of cherries like this in late June/early July, you must protect them from the birds.

After the flowers have been fertilised by the bees and the cherries are forming (early June) net the tree using enviromesh. You can buy this for £4 per metre (3.6m wide) in the store. You can reuse it for other covers during the year and for the cherry every year. Don't use bird netting as the larger holes just get stuck on the branches and tear the leaves.

All you need are 2 people and long bamboo canes and the sheet of mesh. The best method to get this over the tree is clearly demonstrated in this video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k92_tljMF7Y

My tree is not as large as the one shown but you can see that the enviromesh is slippery and just glides over.

Our mesh cover doesn't touch the ground; we just use clothes pegs to secure it round the trunk to stop birds and insects from going in and getting stuck. It is easy to unpeg to sample the cherries and to slip off when YOU want to pick them.



Laura Davies and Jackie Savage

Welcome to new plot-holders:

Site 2

Mark & Sue Illingworth

Site 3

Shaheen Munir

Vedat Tafun Esen

Madeleine Neave

Sara Geneletti

Ramesh Ramgolam

Katarina O'Neill

David Bagheri

Abi Ibson & Geo Galanti

Ursula Bacon

Mary Rothwell



Vince's artichokes

KIDS CORNER

30 Days Wild Challenge

Gardening is a great way to experience nature close up. Have you ever gone on a mini-beast hunt in your plot or garden and noticed how many little creatures share your space (and sometimes your veggies!) with you? They all have an important role to play in a healthy ecosystem - even the ones we don't always like to see, like the slugs and snails munching our lettuces or the aphids crawling all over our broad beans!

But these little creatures are food for other animals. Frogs and hedgehogs love a tasty slug, for example. And all those hundreds of aphids make a feast for ladybird larvae! Take a closer look at a plant covered in aphids and you'll most likely see ladybirds, ladybird larvae and even tiny yellow ladybird eggs too.

The Wildlife Trust is challenging children and adults alike to take a moment each day this June to appreciate nature or do something to help the wildlife around us. This might be as simple as seeing how many birds you can spot on the way to school or making a home for bees on your plot. You could also build a little pond in your plot or garden out of an old dish or saucepan and see if any frogs come to visit!

The Wildlife Trust will send each person who's interested a pack to get them started on this challenge. It will include a booklet of ideas, some stickers and a wall chart to record your activities over the month. You can apply for your pack on their website, here:

<https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/40705/petition/1>

Or, if you already have plenty of ideas of your own and would rather just get started recording your activities without signing up, there will be wall charts available to pick up on the table in the Site 2 Store, and also at the summer show.

Let's make June a wild and wonderful month!
Brenna Lattimore

Family Gardening Festival Fun

Get hands-on this May half term with garden activities at Wisley's fun-packed Family Gardening Festival from 25 May - 2 June. Captivating themes include 'go wild', 'flower power' and 'plot to plate'.

CARING FOR OUR WILDLIFE

As tenants of allotment land, we have a responsibility to care for our wildlife. A dead hedgehog was recently found on site 2. We do not know if it was a result of slug pellets but if you feel you need to use them, please only use the Organic Slug Pellets as recommended by Garden Organic and sold in the Store and follow the instructions on the container carefully.



This is too many pellets.



Why not try using the wool pellets instead

Georgina O'Reilly



Vince's bee house

RSPB - Hedge cutting and the law

Some mature hedgerows are protected by law, but this wouldn't normally apply to garden hedges.

RSPB recommend not cutting hedges and trees between March and August as this is the main breeding season for nesting birds, although some birds may nest outside this period.

It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs.

It is an intentional act, for example, if you or your neighbour know there is an active nest in the hedge and still cut the hedge, damaging or destroying the nest or contents in the process.

If someone is cutting a hedge during this period, speak to them and politely mention the risk to birds' nests, and the laws protecting nests.

Read more at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/plants-for-wildlife/garden-hedges/hedge-law/#j6lsb0XLKvemKDvI.99>

Elaine Barnwell

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. The official launch date is 22nd July.

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>



My poppies

RHS Updates

Sculpture at Wisley 2019

Join us at Wisley for an unmissable exhibition of modern and contemporary sculpture from 30 May to 1 December, curated by Susan Bacon. While exploring the Garden on a self-guided trail, you'll discover the work of six eminent sculptors, such as Henry Moore, Lynn Chadwick and Phillip King, in thought-provoking locations.

https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/whats-on/sculpture-at-wisley?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2019_May_16%20Wisley%20Monthly&utm_content=2019_May_16%20Wisley%20Monthly%20CID_b8523947f44c807714468caef7addbb&utm_source=marketing%20newsletters&utm_term=Find%20out%20more



Countdown to the new Wisley

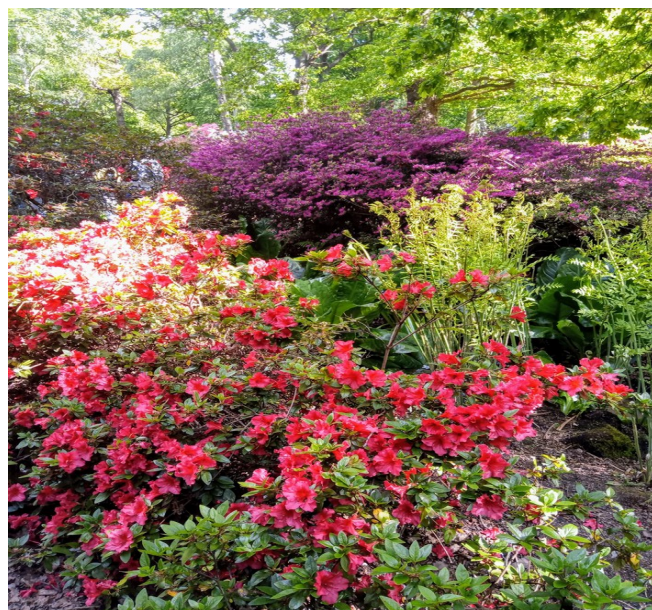
We are so excited to share with you the new Welcome building experience at Wisley - and there's just over three weeks left until it officially opens on 10 June! With a beautiful new entrance into the gardens, a new plant centre and shop, and new dining options - we can't wait for you to see it. Keep an eye on your emails for further details soon.

Iris delights at summer show

Join the British Iris Society for its main show of the year right here at Wisley on 25 May. Be enthralled by iris displays, shop plants for sale, and chat to friendly experts for iris advice.



Mel's Iris



The Isabella Plantation looked lovely last weekend.

June RECIPE

Asparagus, pea shoot and broad bean tart.

Ingredients

320g ready-rolled all-butter puff pastry
1 medium free-range egg yolk, beaten
300g bunch asparagus, woody ends trimmed
200g baby leeks, trimmed
200g peas
250g burrata or mozzarella ball, drained and roughly torn
50g pea shoots

For the filling

3 tbsp olive oil, plus a glug and a little for griddling
1 onion finely chopped
1 garlic clove crushed
400g broad beans, cooked and shelled
1 tsp dried sumac (from the spice section of large supermarkets), plus extra to serve
Zest and juice ½ lemon, plus extra juice to serve
1 tbsp tahini
Bunch each fresh mint and coriander, leaves roughly chopped



1. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6. Unroll the puff pastry onto a large baking sheet. Using the tip of a small, sharp

knife, score a rectangle onto the pastry, leaving a 2cm border (score the border to make a pattern, if you like). Brush the border with beaten egg, then bake for 20-22 minutes until golden and cooked. Set the pastry base aside.

2. Meanwhile, bring a medium pan of water to the boil and cook the asparagus and leeks for 3-4 minutes until just starting to cook through. Remove with a slotted spoon to a colander and cool under cold running water, then pat dry with kitchen paper. Add the peas to the boiling water and cook for 2-3 minutes until they float to the surface of the pan. Drain and refresh under cold water, then pat dry with kitchen paper.
3. To make the filling, heat a glug of oil in a saucepan and cook the onion over a medium heat for 5 minutes until starting to soften and colour a little. Add the garlic, cook for 2-3 minutes, then remove from the heat.
4. Put the onion and garlic in a food processor with the beans, sumac, lemon zest and juice, tahini, half the herbs and the 3 tbsp oil. Add a little salt and pepper, then whizz to a purée.
5. Heat a griddle pan until smoking hot, then add a little oil and the asparagus and leeks. Char for 5-8 minutes until the veg have sear marks all over and are cooked through. Remove from the heat.
6. To assemble the tart, use your hands to push the middle rectangle of the pastry down, leaving the glazed 2cm raised border. Spoon the broad bean purée into the centre and smooth it over the base. Top with the charred veg, peas, burrata or mozzarella and the pea shoots, then garnish with a pinch of sumac, the remaining herbs and a squeeze of lemon juice.

One of these would look nice on our buffet table at the show.

NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Show New Variety – Sunday
9th June – Site 2

Autumn Show – Saturday 21st
September – St Margaret's Church Hall
AGM – Thursday 14th November -
Roehampton Cricket Club House

Roehampton Cricket Club started in 1842!

Based on Putney Heath ground (opposite what was The Telegraph pub).

Adults and mixed Juniors sections. **New Members always welcome.**

Tel: 07736 743183

www.roehamptoncricketclub.com

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/RoehamptonCricketClub)

[RoehamptonCricketClub](https://www.facebook.com/RoehamptonCricketClub)

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

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

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

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

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.

AUSTIN MOWERS

Repairs and sells reconditioned mowers and sharpens shears.

300 Garrett Lane, SW18 4EH

020 8874 4206 www.austinmowers.com
austinmowers@aol.com

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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. 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

Beginning of July 2019. Editor Carol Martinez.

Email stories and photos to carolmartinez@hotmail.co.uk by 1st July

Recipe suggestions always welcome.

SUMMER SHOW – NEW VARIETY

Sunday June 9th, 2019

Entries between 10.00 & 12.00. Staging until 12.30. Open to all
13.00

(* signifies the Class has a special prize or cup)

Section A – Flowers

1. Vase containing 1 HT rose, any colour.
2. The most fragrant rose in the garden – judged by the visitors
3. *Vase of multiflora roses, 3 stems of any one variety
4. *Bowl of any number of roses arranged for an all-round effect
5. Vase of 6 stems of sweet peas, any 1 variety
6. Vase of 12 stems of sweet peas, can be mixed varieties
7. Vase or bowl of pansies or violas with own foliage, not more than 12 stems, can be mixed
8. *Vase of cut flowers, 3 or more kinds with any foliage, arranged for all round effect (Society vases to be used, available on day)
9. *Arrangement in a goblet of flowers and/or leaves

Section B - Vegetables

10. 3 asparagus spears
11. 6 pods of broad beans
12. Any other vegetable / e.g. courgettes, potatoes (numbers as per RHS guidelines)
13. 12 pods of either peas, mangetout or sugar snap (not mixed)

14. a) 3 garlic bulbs
b) 3 elephant garlic bulbs

15. 3 sticks of rhubarb (natural)

16. A display of 3 different seasonal vegetables that you like in a salad (see description below)

Flower/vegetable/fruit - mixed

B17. * 1 specimen each of 1 flower, 1 fruit and 1 vegetable

Section C – Fruit

18. 15 gooseberries

19. 15 raspberries, with calyx

20. 12 strawberries, with calyx

All fruit to be displayed at their best on a small plate so that each individual fruit can be seen

Section D – Cookery / Cake Off

21. * A decorated cake or 8 cup-cakes 'a celebration of summer'. To be judged by visitors and then donated to be sold with tea.

Salad vegetable (From RHS show handbook)

"A vegetable used in either a raw or cooked state and served in salads as a cold dish. The following examples are kinds that may be used for horticultural show purposes: beetroot, cabbages, carrots, celeriac, celery, chicory, chives, corn salad, lamb's lettuce, cress, cucumber, dandelion, endive, Florence fennel, kohlrabi, lettuces, onions, oriental brassicas, potatoes, radishes, sweet peppers, tomatoes, turnips and watercress".

Summer Show 2019 Entry Form

Show Rules and Awards will be available to see on the day of the show.

Entries by this form can be made at the Store (Site 2) on the morning of the show - Sunday 9th June, between 10.00 & 12.00

Please place a cross beside the number of each class you wish to enter

Section A: FLOWERS

A1 _____ A2 _____ A3 _____ A4 _____ A5 _____ A6 _____ A7 _____
A8 _____ A9 _____

Section B: VEGETABLES

B10 _____ B11 _____ B12 _____ B13 _____ B14 _____ B15 _____
B16 _____

Flowers/Vegetables/Fruit - Mixed

B17 _____

Section C: FRUIT

C18 _____ C19 _____ C20 _____

Section D: COOKERY - Cake Off

D21 _____

NUMBER OF ENTRIES: _____ @ 20p each = £ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS or email address

PLOT NUMBER

Please fill in either an email or home address or plot number so that we can find you to give you your prize voucher.