

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

June 2020

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Chair's Report



We opened the store on the 17th May with strict distancing and hygiene measures and in line with garden centres opening. It proved to be extremely popular shown by record takings in the store for this time of year. The card reader has been a great success, easy to use both for the volunteer on store duty and for the

customers. It is altogether a lot easier than cash as the money magically appears in the RGS bank account as a lump sum on Tuesdays so no handling of money and all that involves: managing the hygiene risk, counting it, keeping it secure, taking it to the bank. A huge thank you to all the volunteers doing store duty, queue management and the heavy lifting duty. It is proving to be a well-oiled happy enterprise!

To help reduce the queue at the store Jackie Savage and Greg Wilcox put together a 'click and collect' service for site 3 plot holders only. The main demand has been for compost and a few other items so these were on offer to be collected from site 3. Again, this has proved to be popular - many thanks to both Jackie and Greg for all the work that goes into making this happen.

Stocking the store has been somewhat challenging as some products are still in short supply. Gill Tamsett has spent many hours on the phone sourcing products to ensure the store is as well stocked as possible. This has meant that restrictions on how much members are allowed to buy has been kept to a minimum. Thank you to Gill and to the good nature of members accepting necessary restrictions on purchases.

The communal centre on site 3 is coming along very well. We now have the cabin in place and the



veranda area is furnished so ready to be enjoyed. Many, many thanks to Vivien Fowler for organising the installation of the cabin with all that has entailed. It now needs to be painted inside and out and the hut area serviced with water and power. The decision about whether we

have power from the National grid or off-grid generated power has been explored at length. Patrick Crawford has done a very thorough report on the off-grid option for the committee to study so we now have enough information to reach a well-founded decision. Jackie has also just arranged for guttering and a water butt to be installed next to cabin on the toilet shed side. Please help yourself to rain water.

The communal area on site 2 is also coming along. Many thanks to Graham Scott and Florence Terry for clearing the site and to Carol Martinez for managing the project. Once the area has been surfaced properly the shed will be moved alongside the back of the store to be near the power source so hot drinks can be made. There will be a sitting area outside the shed for people to enjoy as well as the shelter the shed will provide.

Sadly, I have to announce the death of 2 longstanding plot holders. Mick Markey died earlier this year. He was well known on site 3 as the owner of the chickens that he always referred to as 'his girls'. Because of the virus only a few people were permitted to attend Mick's funeral but Raj was invited by the family and able to attend. They had arranged a wonderfully apt coffin for Mick:



Frank Wakefield also died very recently. He had been a plot holder on site 2 for many years but more recently had struggled with limited mobility so had not been so much of a presence on site. However, he was keen to hang on to his plot so with help, was able to do so and could enjoy visiting his plot from time to time.

Helen Finch
RGS Chair

Store Report

The Store is open but operating under social distancing guidelines. We are grateful to our members for respecting this. The Click and Collect service is operating well on Site 3. A big thank you to all our helpers at this challenging time but especially to Jackie, Greg, Vivien, Elaine and Helen for all the extra time and effort they are providing so that our members can have safe access to our stock.

Placing orders with our suppliers continues to be an interesting experience. There are shortages of most products. We cannot be sure that what we order will match what is eventually delivered. An order for 6-foot canes had to be changed to 8-foot canes as we were informed that the 6-foot canes would not be available until July. I am sure members appreciate that it is better to have a good supply of 8-foot canes if 6-foot ones are sold out!



We were able to have a delivery of both kinds of New Horizon compost last week as our supplier had just received a delivery of the amount we needed, the day before they received our order. Other customers would have lost out! To minimise the handling of loose products and to speed up service at the counter, we now have Fish, Blood and Bone and Growmore in 1.5 kilo boxes for £3.50. These are also available via the Click and Collect service for Site 3. We are also selling Hydrated Lime in 3 Kilo boxes for £4.00 as selling it loose is quite a challenge when there is only one helper behind the counter. It is so fine that it produces quite a cloud!

We also had a delivery of 10 litre watering cans in red and green as an alternative to using a hose. These sell at £6.00. We also have cane caps for 25p each and packs of PVC plant rings at £2.25 for 100.

So, we should have everything you need to support a successful growing season.

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

Summer Show Photos

As we were unable to hold a summer show we asked members to send in photos of their crops, growing and picked, in order to showcase the wonderful produce from our plots and gardens that otherwise we would have seen at the show.

Flowers



Mariangela's Variegata di Bologna roses



Robert and Ali's Gertrude Jekyll



Ruth B in her back garden



Jane's foxglove with bee



Ruth T's lupin



Nicky's dahlia



Robert and Ali's City of Vancouver tulips and forget-me-nots, in their garden



Val's epiphytic cactus – Queen of the Night



Simon's poppy with bees in heaven



Nicky's sweet peas



Mariangela's sweet peas – Wiltshire Ripple



Carol's sweet peas



Smiles with sweet peas, purple lettuce and strawberries

Fruits



Marika's white-currants – not quite ready



The boys sorting red-currants and beans



Carol's black-currants



A photo of our time – Laura and Jackie picked 7 kilos of Stella cherries from their shared tree



Ruth T's blueberries



Robert and Ali's Brown Turkey figs



Nicky's rhubarb

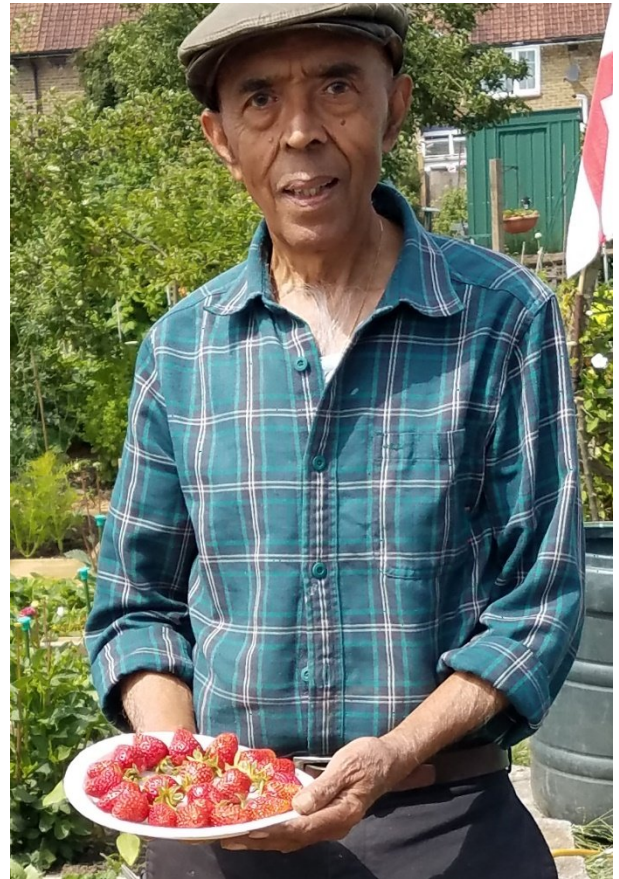


Marika's gooseberries, 7 lbs of them

Always lots of strawberries in the show, the kids come free.



Julia's



Raj



Mark's - Yum



Taste these...



I picked this one!



We picked these..



All our own crops...

The raspberries were early this year.



I helped Gwanma Georgina to pick raspberries



Carol's



Mariangela's

Salad Vegetables



Pam's radishes



Ram's radishes



Allison & Geoff's lettuce – Webbs Wonderful



Vivien's beetroot



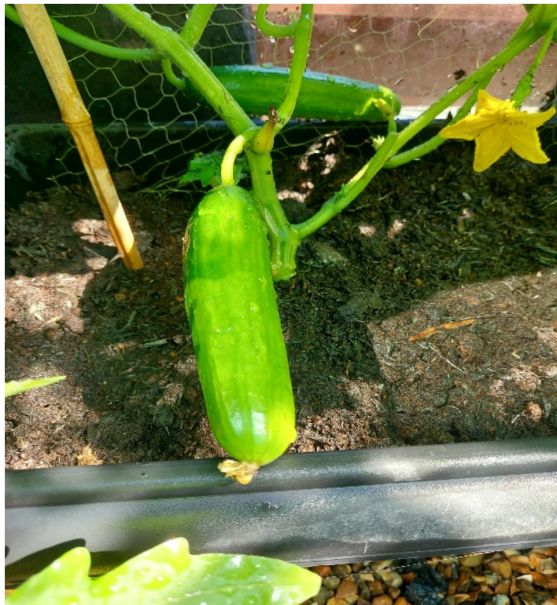
The Casley family's enormous Bolthardy beetroot



Harriet's carrots and beets



Sylvia & Greg's Cherry Bell and French Breakfast radishes, beetroot tops and kale (plus strawberries)



Debra's cucumber La Diva, in the greenhouse

Vegetables

Asparagus



Harriet's



Ursula's



Jackie's

Lots of broad beans



Sally's Aquadulce Claudia smiling at us



Robert and Ali's



Alan's



Jane's



Val's



Vince's cabbage



Nicky's courgettes



Alan's chard



Carol's carrots



Mariangela's cauliflowers – Chester



Raj's garlic



Jonathan's cauliflower - it was bigger than his head!



Val's globe artichokes



Charles' globe artichokes growing on his plot



Such big onions....



Florence trimming her onions on a hot day



Catherine taking her onions on a trip round Putney



Vivien's padron peppers



Liz's peas



Jean and Patrick's peas



Carol's peas – Half Pint



Debra's potatoes - Casablanca



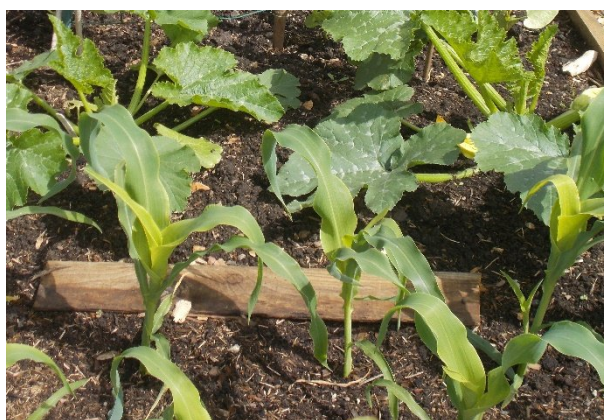
Robert and Ali's mange-tout – Golden Sweet



Ruth T's shallots



Vivien's mange-tout



Marianna's sweet corn



Alan's runner beans



Pat's strawberry jam – what we all look forward to at the show – bring on the scones and cream.

Meanwhile Mike Cobb has been busy during lockdown making benches from pallets



Wild life spotting



Recently Val, Peter and Vicky saw a red kite flying over site 2.

Emma witnessed a black bird stealing and eating tadpoles from her pond.

Let us know what you see and take a photo if you can. Send to rgs.sw15@gmail.com



Test your botanical knowledge - Rachel Felstead sent in this flower quiz. Answers will be in the next edition of the bulletin.

1. A bovine mishap (7)
2. A very proper flower (8)
3. Sounds like herds of sheep (5)
4. Kept in a warehouse (5)
5. This saves you money (6)
6. Sad sight at a dance (10)
7. You will drop this quickly (3,3,5)
8. Keeps his paws warm (9)
9. Sounds like he hates you. (7)
10. Hard working girl (4,6)
11. Avalanche (8)
12. Dear Bill (5,7)
13. Kentish ringing (10,5)
14. Country of drivers (9)
15. Sugary veg (5,3)
16. It led the kings (4,2,9)
17. Mythical beast that bites (10)
18. Hello Cynthia (8)
19. Mix up and hide in plum (10)
20. Canine stood up (7)
21. Soccer is confused when U replaces E (6)
22. Avaricious mother's advice to daughter (8)
23. Said to a departing sweetheart (6-2-3)
24. Sanguineous sign of broken heart (4,4,8)
25. Not shaving, Granddad? (3,4,5)
26. Alone, but surrounded by onions (7)
27. Modestly recoiling in the woods (6)
28. Sounds as if the water in my home is vanishing (9)
29. Confused? Gum in ear will help (8)
30. Nancy or Mary? (5)
31. Hidden in Mordor, chiding Frodo (6)
32. Chain on your bike (5)
33. I can't believe it's not a mug (9)
34. Foggy passion (4,2,3,4)
35. Flying around in Eden (4,2,8)
36. Not a sour pasture (11)
37. Sprightly dancer (8)
38. Pink inventor of a medicinal compound (4)
39. One in the eye (4)
40. Sounds like neither the past or present (7)
41. Mixed wear, is it? (8)
42. Edna's favourite (8)
43. Schubert's Operetta Time (5)
44. Tea on the lawn (8)
45. Pull up in a lay by to find the answer (5)
46. Ali had become all puzzled (6)
47. Nana's hat (9)
48. You need these to frame your teeth, I hear (5)
49. He really fancied himself to death (9)
50. Prickly wine (9)

Staying Safe and well on the allotments:

Stay within your **own** plot and only use your **own** gardening equipment.

Any surface that is **communal** is likely to be **contaminated** so **avoid touching**:

- **The gate:** it is possible to open and close the gate **without touching** it with your hands.
- **Taps:** the virus will survive on metal surfaces, so taps are likely to be contaminated. Safer to use your **own watering can** filled with water from the **dipping tanks**. If you have to use the taps, cover your hand or glove with a **plastic bag** which you then **turn inside out** and **discard**. The bag is easier to remove from your hand than disposable gloves without contaminating your hand.
- Keep some **hand sanitizer** with you or in your shed.

Gloves do not protect you or stop the spread of Covid-19. Keep gloves away from your face. Take care, when removing them, you do not contaminate your hand with the outside of the glove.

At best a Covid-19 infection is nasty, at its worst, catastrophic. We must **all stay well**.

Welcome to New Plot holders

No new plot holders this month.

RHS CONTACTS

Committee Chair: Helen Finch.

Site 2 Allotment Secretary: Catherine Maunsell-Bower.

Site 3 Joint Allotment Secretaries: Vivian Fowler & Alison Linton

Site Manager: Charles Gilbe

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 ADDRESS AND POST BOX

(Fixed to the right of the gate at site 2)

Roehampton Garden Society
The Pleasance Allotments
The Pleasance
London SW15 5HF

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

SECURITY

If you see someone trespassing or causing damage on the Sites, or in an emergency phone 999 or text phone 18000.

NEXT BULLETIN

August 2020. Editor Carol Martinez.

Email stories and photos to

carolmartinez@hotmail.co.uk by 24th

August 2020. *Recipe suggestions always welcome.*