

# ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

## MONTHLY BULLETIN

May 2021

[www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk](http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

### Chair's Report



We continue to make progress with the communal areas on both sites 2 and 3. Alan Strowger has finished the major repair work on the shed and it is now prettily fitted out with curtains from

Jenny Cobb, thank you Jenny and there is an attractively covered table inside providing an area for making a brew. All we need now is some sunshine to enjoy sitting outside. Site 3 communal area still needs some finishing off but the area next to the veranda has now been finished. Vivien Fowler has put up trellis at the back and planted out the narrow beds with some climbers as well as other plants so soon it will look lovely. The gravel has been laid on weed suppressant fabric but before distributing the stones they needed to be washed as they were covered in earth and weed seeds.



Vivien did a huge amount of this aided by Marianna and Bill Pencharz. Many thanks to them for doing this job particularly as it is hard, mucky work. The result is as you see, very pleasing indeed.

Thames Water were true to their word and the new water system on site 3 was made operational by 23rd April. Most of the snags have been dealt with but the old system needs to be decommissioned properly. We owe Patrick Crawford a huge thank you for getting this project done - it took a lot of patience and fortitude.

I am sure many plot holders are very relieved now the toilets are open for use. We now have a rota of toilet monitors on both sites. Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered for this essential job.

**Helen Finch, RGS Chair**

### Plant sale

A sale was held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April, organized by Vivien.



Lots of plants were donated for sale which raised £270 for Wandsworth Food Bank.



## Store Report

Deliveries have had their issues recently. There is a shortage of delivery drivers due to many experienced drivers returning to the EU, making deliveries coming late to the allotments. Also, there has been a delay in having items in stock at our suppliers.

We have been warned that there will be more price increases in the course of this year. The most recent - an increase of 12 1/2% on Clover products. This has meant that Ericaceous Compost now costs £5.00 for a 40-litre bag.

We have decided to only stock one type of New Horizon Compost. Thus, we no longer stock New Horizon All Veg and only stock New Horizon All Plant. In talking with our suppliers, their view was that there was not much difference between them. Also, the All-Plant compost is available from both of our main suppliers which makes it easier to source.



We have just had a delivery of root trainers which had been out of stock. They arrive in parts so I will be putting some together in the week. There has been no increase in price so a set of 8 rows of deep root trainers will cost £5.50. These are excellent for plants that require deep root runs such as runner beans.



As we get into the major growing season, there are several kinds of fertilisers available from the Stores on Site 2 and Site 3 to promote the growth of your plants. We have loose fertilisers available from the main Store as well some in boxes for convenience, although more expensive, and boxed fertilisers available from the Store on Site 3.

### Organic Fertilisers:

Bonemeal - loose: £1.00 a kilo; boxed: £3.50 for 1.5 kilos

Fish, Blood and Bone - loose: £1.00 a kilo; boxed: £3.50 for 1.5 kilos

Dried Seaweed - loose: £2.00 a kilo

Carbon Gold Biochar Soil Improver - loose: £3.00 a kilo

Rock Dust - loose: £1.00 a kilo

Onion Fertiliser - loose: £1.50 a kilo

Potato Fertiliser - loose: £1.00 a kilo

Poultry Manure 6X - loose: £0.60; bucket: £7.00 for 8 kilos

### Inorganic Fertilisers:

Growmore - loose: £1.00 a kilo; boxed: £3.50 for 1.5 kilos

Rose Fertiliser - loose: £1.00 a kilo

There is a minimum charge of £1.00 on our Card Payment System.

Do remember to bring your own bags or containers for the loose products to reduce the number of plastic bags we use.

### Gill Tamsett – Trading Secretary

**See the RGS website for jobs to do this month**

<http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/growing-things/plot-jobs-month-by-month/>



## The Summer Show

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June the summer show will be held on Site 2. Hopefully the weather will be good to us but we will put the gazebos up and keep everything dry and out of the wind.

The show will be open between 15.00 and 17.00 with an auction of donated goods will be held at 16.30.

There will be tea and cakes on sale as well as a produce stall. We will need donations of cup cakes / muffins from volunteers (in a cake case so that there is less handling). We also ask that if you have any spare seedlings, plants, cut flowers, herbs or produce (jams) then you donate them as well. If you are still sowing seeds – do a few extra for the show.

Please aim to enter at least one item in the show, it is good fun. It is a reduced schedule compared to previous years and we are going to have some covid friendly rules in place to keep everyone safe.

Entries for the show can be made between 11.30 and 13.00 on the day and staging up to 13.30.

The schedule and entry form for the show is available at the end of this bulletin for you to print off for yourself at home if you can or there will be some copies available in the store over the next few weeks and on the day.



## Shredder training



John Ireland recently gave a training session on how to use the shredder properly and safely. Please email [rgs.sw15@gmail.com](mailto:rgs.sw15@gmail.com) if you are interested in being trained at a future date. You have to be trained in order to be able to use it.

## Greenhouse available Free to collector



This greenhouse is **Free** to whoever would like to dismantle and collect it from Oxted, Surrey.

Measurements are 315 x 190, 210cm high but before you commit, please read the rules below for constructing a greenhouse on your plot. (Or you might like it for your garden).

Call Carol on 07946 420383 if interested.

<http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/RGS-Permission-for-erecting-Greenhouse-or-Polytunnel.pdf>

## Let's Look out for Hedgehogs

### THE TROUBLE WITH GARDEN NETTING

May is a very busy month for hedgehogs, they are busy replenishing fat stores lost during hibernation, looking for mates and preparing nests for young and with this in mind we turn our attention to a particular garden aspect, that of netting. As you know, netting comes in many sizes and forms and is commonly used in gardens and allotments including pond netting, fruit netting, runner beans, tomatoes and so on but you may not be aware of the danger it poses to hedgehogs. Hedgehogs hunt for food by snuffling close to the ground in search of insects, they have good hearing to track the sounds of potential prey but have poor eyesight and will not always be able to see the netting that lies ahead until it is too late. Once a hoggy comes into contact with netting, it will use its natural defence mechanism of curling into a ball, struggling to be free, and quickly becoming ensnared, the netting dangerously tightening around its body with every movement. Netting entanglement can subject hedgehogs and other wildlife such as birds, foxes and bats to a lingering death of shock, pain and dehydration or they may be eaten alive by hungry predators. If a hedgehog miraculously frees itself from netting, life threatening complications can arise such as infection and long-term nerve damage to areas that received insufficient blood supply.

If you do find a hedgehog caught in netting it will need medical help straight away. Please help by only cutting the netting **around** the hedgehog and leaving tangled netting on the hedgehog as this should be removed by a professional due to possible complications not immediately evident. Be alert to the possibility of the hoggy attempting an escape, wild animals will give it all they have to be free - they will not understand you are trying to help them, viewing you as a very large predator. As soon as possible, place the hedgehog into a high sided box ensuring the box has adequate air supply and warmth such as

using ventilation holes and a covered hot water bottle/drinks bottle filled with warm water. Please contact us or Wildlife Aid [01372 360404](tel:01372360404) as soon as possible for further advice.

Fencing built with wire or netting material can also be dangerous to hedgehogs so consideration should be given to how hedgehogs will use your allotment/garden and if possible, hedges could be planted as an alternative to fencing as they offer food, protection, shelter and safe passage for hedgehogs to move from one area to another as well as looking beautiful.



General netting safety is to ensure the following:

1. Keep netting use to a minimum
2. Keep unused netting off of the floor - store it safely away, preferably in a box on a shelf or table.
3. For runner bean/fruit netting start netting further up the plant, giving a minimum of 30 cms of unnetted ground space allowing even the larger hedgehog to safely pass through.
4. Remember hedgehogs and other nocturnal animals do not see netting until it is upon them.
5. Create hedgehog highways for wire fencing by using pipes or wooden tunnels.





May is a very busy time for SW15 Hedgehogs, we are in the middle of our hedgehog spotlight surveys and look forward to reporting on this to you next month. We are also responsible for surveying the local areas set aside by Wandsworth Borough Council for No Mow May - you may have seen the small notices put up in areas of Roehampton, Dover House Road Estate and parts of Putney. As you may recall, the No Mow May project seeks to provide nourishment for pollinators from the mini meadows that can appear from uncut lawns, this in turn increases insect food for hedgehogs and other insectivores such as birds and bats. During the last week of May we are tasked with identifying and counting flowers within quadrats in the areas left uncut with a possible outcome of some areas cut less frequently. We have an I.D. flower chart, quadrats and maps at the ready so if you would like to volunteer to help us identify and count flowers please do get in touch. Work can be carried out with us, in separate groups or individually and at any time suitable to you providing it is within the last week of May. To contact us text/call or



leave a message with Jackie on 07748903660 or Maya on: 07961 668484 or email us [saveourhedgehogs@gmail.com](mailto:saveourhedgehogs@gmail.com)

Stay safe and thank you for caring for hedgehogs and wildlife - without us they have no hope.

**Jackie and Nigel, SW15 Hedgehogs**

## Recipe

### Tenderstem broccoli, spinach and gruyere gratin (for those who still have some Tenderstem to pick)

Preparation time: 5 minutes, plus standing

Cooking time: 50 minutes, Serves: 4-6 as a side



## Ingredients

400g Tenderstem broccoli, trimmed  
40g unsalted butter  
2 shallots, chopped  
40g plain flour  
500ml milk  
170ml single cream  
235g spinach, roughly chopped  
25g soft white breadcrumbs  
75g gruyère, grated  
2 tsp olive oil

## Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180 °C, gas mark 4. Roughly chop the broccoli and cook in a large pan of boiling salted water for 2 minutes, drain and set aside. Put the butter in the dry pan and set over a medium-low heat. Add the chopped shallots and sauté for 5 minutes, until starting to soften. Add the flour, stir for 1-2 minutes until thickened, then gradually whisk in the milk until smooth. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring, until thickened, then stir in the single cream. Bring back to the boil and season.
2. Add the broccoli and spinach to the sauce and mix together. Pour into a 1.3 litre ovenproof dish. In a small bowl, mix together the breadcrumbs and gruyère, then scatter over the vegetables. Drizzle with the oil, place on a baking tray and bake for 30 minutes, until bubbling and golden on top. Leave to stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Recipe suggested by Gill Tamsett from Waitrose magazine

## Dates for the diary

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Tool sharpening event on Site 2, from 09.30

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Summer Show, Site 2, 15.00

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July - Weed walk & Talk (further details in June bulletin)

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Autumn Show, St Margaret's church hall, 15.00

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November – AGM, 19.00, St Margaret's church hall.

## Wandsworth Council Waste & Recycling Centre

For those who have not been recently, you now need to book a slot.

[Centre Opening Times - WRWA](#)

**A job has become available at Enable – working with plot-holders across the borough.**

See details below – closing date 7<sup>th</sup> June.

<https://enablec.org/about-us/work-with-us/pa007>

<https://www.horticulturejobs.co.uk/job/338973/horticulture-and-allotments-officer/>

## Update from Putney Community Gardens

A mini forest garden is going to be set up on the corner of Carslake Road and Hayward Gardens in the autumn, if you would like to help email [info@putneycommunitygardens.org](mailto:info@putneycommunitygardens.org)

They also have a Foragers and Walkers' Group: for those interested in learning more about foraging, both on the estate, and out on the heath and the common. Recently it's become a bit of a walkers' and litter pickers' group too. You can join the [Putney Foragers and Walkers' WhatsApp group here](#).

## Update from the RHS

### Free Food Growing Webinar

**4-5pm, Thursday 20 May 2021**

As part of their food growing focus, there is an online webinar taking place. Join the panel of gardening experts as they discuss the benefits of growing, cooking and eating food as a community as well as giving their top tips on creating and maintaining a productive patch.

Growing produce is good for mental, physical and environmental health.

Whether you're a novice grower or a horticultural hero, sign up now and share the magic of growing your own. There will be plenty of time to ask questions too so if there is anything you would like to know, just drop them an email at

[communities@rhs.org.uk](mailto:communities@rhs.org.uk)

Can't make it on the night? Fear not, sign up and they will email you a link so you can watch the talk at your leisure.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-webinar-community-food-growing-tickets-154406143933>

## Update from the Gardening Museum

[British Flowers Week 2021 - Garden Museum](#)

Show at the museum - 10<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June

<b>The RGS Committee 2020/21</b>	
<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Office/role</b>
<i>Helen Finch</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Jackie Savage</i>	<i>Vice Chair, Store Seeds, Waiting List Secretary and RGS email account</i>
<i>Dorcas Johnson</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Catherine Maunsell-Bower</i>	<i>Site 2 Secretary and Legal</i>
<i>Alison Linton</i>	<i>Site 3 Secretary (plots 101 to 127))</i>
<i>Vivien Fowler</i>	<i>Site 3 Secretary (plots 50 to 100)</i>
<i>Carol Martinez</i>	<i>Bulletin Editor and Show Chair</i>
<i>Gill Tamsett</i>	<i>Trading Secretary</i>
<i>Patrick Crawford</i>	<i>Buildings, Facilities and Lease Negotiator</i>
<i>Greg Wilcox</i>	<i>Store Manager</i>
<i>Brenna Lattimore</i>	<i>Events</i>
<i>Emma Blackwell</i>	<i>New officer</i>
<i>Mike Cooper</i>	<i>Security Manager</i>
<b>Non-Voting officers:</b>	
<i>Jean Crawford</i>	<i>Website manager</i>
<i>Robert Linton</i>	<i>Membership secretary</i>
<i>Charles Gilbe</i>	<i>Site Manager appointed by Enable [WBC])</i>

## **RGS 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](mailto:rgs.sw15@gmail.com)

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

[www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk](http://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 Helen Finch, Chair, rather than confront another plot holder. [Helen.finch2@btinternet.com](mailto: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**

June 2021. Editor Carol Martinez.  
Email stories and photos to [carolmartinez@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolmartinez@hotmail.co.uk) by 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. Recipe suggestions always welcome.

## Guidance for entrants to the RGS Shows

1. Study the rules set out here carefully.
2. Be sure that your entry is exactly as required by the class concerned, e.g., '12 peas, - 11 or 13 would disqualify your entry.
3. Aim to produce a balanced entry, e.g., 'vase of 3 roses' - avoid 1 large bloom with 2 small blooms; a vase of as near identical triplets is the ideal. Likewise try to find identical triplets when showing '3 asparagus spears', etc. Give the name of the variety if you have it.
4. If you have any queries, or need advice, ask members of the Committee who are at the Store every Sunday between 10 am and 12 noon and who will be at the Show from 10.30 on the day.
5. **Salad vegetable** (from the 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".

### Method of entry

Exhibitors are requested to enter for each show separately. Entries are to be made

- At the store on site 2 between 11.30 and 13.00 on the morning of the Show (13<sup>th</sup> June)

### Staging

- All exhibits are to be staged between 11.30 and 13.30 on the day of the Show.
- Wherever possible give the name of the variety with each exhibit
- All exhibits should be removed at 16.15 on the day of the Show (not earlier) or it will be assumed they are for donating to the auction.
- A sticker will be available to put on entry card to say the item is not for the auction.

### Be careful!

Please study the rules governing entry to the Society's shows.

Failure to follow the rules and regulations will result in disqualification.



**SUMMER SHOW**  
**Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Entries and staging between 11.30 & 13.30. Judging 14.00 – 15.00**  
**Open to all 15.00**

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

**Section A - Flowers**

1. A vase containing 1 HT rose, any colour.
2. The most beautiful rose in the garden – judged by visitors
3. \*A vase of multiflora roses, 3 stems of any one variety.
4. \*A bowl of any number of roses arranged for an all-round effect.
5. A vase of 6 stems of sweet peas, any one variety
6. A vase of 12 stems of sweet peas, can be mixed varieties.
7. A vase or bowl of pansies or violas with own foliage, not more than 12 stems, can be mixed.
8. \*A 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. \*An arrangement in a goblet of flowers and/or leaves
10. A vase of perennial flowers of any one kind.
11. A miniature flower arrangement in a vessel measuring no more than 5x5 cm, e.g., an egg cup.
12. My favourite pot plant

**Section B - Vegetables**

13. 3 asparagus spears
14. 6 pods of broad beans
15. 12 pods of peas
16. 12 pods of mangetout or sugar snap (not mixed)
17. 2 courgettes, any one variety
18. 4 potatoes of any one variety
19. a) 3 garlic bulbs  
b) 3 elephant garlic bulbs
20. 3 sticks of rhubarb (natural)
21. 3 different herbs, in small bunches (no more than 25cm)

22. 3 onions, autumn sown, as dug, unwashed and with roots and tops intact.
23. A display of 3 different seasonal vegetables that you like in a salad (see description in guidelines)
24. Any other vegetable not listed above.

**Flower/vegetable/fruit - mixed**

- B25.** \* 1 specimen each of 1 flower, 1 fruit and 1 vegetable
- B26.** Any one fruit/vegetable/plant you are proud to display – judged by visitors.

**Section C – Fruit**

27. 15 gooseberries
28. 15 raspberries, with calyx
29. 12 strawberries, with calyx
30. Display of any other kind of fruit

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

**Section D – Novices**

***For members who have never won first prize for an exhibit.***

31. A vase of 3 stems of any one variety of roses.
32. A display of vegetables, numbers as classes B13-B24.
33. A display of fruit, numbers as classes C27-C30

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 2021 Entry Form

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

Entries by form can be made at the Store (Site 2) on the morning of the show -  
Sunday 13th June, between 11.30 & 13.00

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 \_\_\_\_\_ A10 \_\_\_\_\_ A11 \_\_\_\_\_ A12 \_\_\_\_\_

### Section B: VEGETABLES

B13 \_\_\_\_\_ B14 \_\_\_\_\_ B15 \_\_\_\_\_ B16 \_\_\_\_\_ B17 \_\_\_\_\_ B18 \_\_\_\_\_  
B19 \_\_\_\_\_ B20 \_\_\_\_\_ B21 \_\_\_\_\_ B22 \_\_\_\_\_ B23 \_\_\_\_\_ B24 \_\_\_\_\_

### Flowers/Vegetables/Fruit - Mixed

B25 \_\_\_\_\_ B26 \_\_\_\_\_

### Section C: FRUIT

C27 \_\_\_\_\_ C28 \_\_\_\_\_ C29 \_\_\_\_\_ C30 \_\_\_\_\_

### Section D: NOVICES

D31 \_\_\_\_\_ D32 \_\_\_\_\_ D33 \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ENTRIES: \_\_\_\_\_ @ 20p each = £ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS or email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLOT NUMBER

Please fill in one of above so that we can find you to give you your prize voucher.

## **RULES governing the Summer Show – 13th June 2021**

1. All exhibits must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least 2 months prior to the Show.
2. The Society reserves the right to inspect gardens and allotments of exhibitors to ensure that only bona-fide exhibits are entered.
3. A member shall be allowed to show only produce of any kind grown by him or herself except where otherwise stated.
4. In showing flowers, no foliage or bloom other than that of the flower specified in the schedule may be shown, except where otherwise stated.
5. For the purposes of this Society's shows, the following definitions apply:
  - VASE -A vessel for displaying cut flowers in water with a greater height than the width of its mouth
  - BOWL-: A vessel for displaying cut flowers in water with its mouth at least equal to (but generally larger) than its height.
  - GOBLET – A drinking glass with a foot and a stem
6. No more than one exhibit can be entered in any one class. Two or more persons may not exhibit for prizes separately from the same garden or allotment.
7. Entries to be made as set out above.
8. Exhibits to be staged as set out above.
9. Exhibit cards will be supplied by the Society for all exhibits, showing the schedule number of the class, which must be placed in position with the exhibit.
10. The entrance fee to be 20p for each entry.
11. No exhibit to be removed from the display before the advertised time. Exhibits remaining 15 minutes after the time of closing will be assumed to be donated to the auction.
12. Points in all cases to be: 4 for 1st, 3 for 2nd, 2 for 3rd and 1 for Highly Commended
13. The Committee, while exercising all reasonable care, cannot be held responsible for the loss of, or damage to, exhibitors' vases, etc.
14. Nothing in the foregoing rules shall prejudice the Committee's right to exercise their discretion in any of the matters concerning the administration of the Society's competitions.
15. There will be a one-way system in the show tent.
16. Masks must be worn (available for sale if needed) and hands sanitized before entering the show area or store.
17. A maximum of 6 people will be allowed in the store at any one time, including volunteers.