

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

MONTHLY BULLETIN

June 2021

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Chair's Report



Weren't we lucky with the weather for the day of our Summer Show? Although we still felt the threat of the delta variant of Covid we were able to have the show in a pretty normal way. Fleur Anderson, our President and MP

came along and enthusiastically participated in the auction. Many other RGS members attended even if only for a fairly short time which helped to limit any worries of having too many people on site at any one time. It is a lot of work putting on a show particularly for Carol Martinez who takes the lead coordinating all the helpers. So, a massive thank you to Carol and all those who helped to make the day a happy, successful event. Hopefully by the time of our Autumn Show on September 11th the wonderful vaccines will have made all restrictions redundant.

It has been great to see members enjoying our new communal areas in the sunshine we have had. These projects continue to progress. We have another raised bed in the site 3 tea hut area; we owe Greg a big thank you for this. He is constructing a bench attached to the raised bed which is an ingenious way of dealing with the change in levels. The raised beds on site 2 have now been planted out and promise to look lovely very soon. We are planning to replace the mini store sheds on site 3. It will involve making a solid base and Charles Held has volunteered to lead on its construction. One of the sheds will house a shredder for site 3 plot holders to use once they have undertaken training on how to use it safely and how to leave it in a fit state for others to use after them. John Ireland has been training plot holders in using the shredder we have on site 2 so site 3 plot holders will also need to be trained. Thank you, John,

for running the training.

We had a visit from Adam Bennett from Surrey Sharpeners on May 22nd. He had his gazebo and workbench up and running in about 2 minutes ready for business. He had a very successful busy day sharpening all kinds of tools, kitchen knives and scissors. It seems to be a popular service so we plan to invite him back in May next year.



The toilets both have needed some attention. Many thanks to Bob Aveling who straightened out the door on site 3 so it was possible to lock. Neither lock was engaging so it was an essential piece of work beautifully executed by Bob. Even the bolt works now. The toilet seat on site 2 had developed a wobble which Mike Cooper has kindly fixed. It is great at least to have the normality of these facilities available again and hopefully a more normal way of living will be allowed in the near future. Thank goodness for our allotments during this awful pandemic!

Helen Finch, RGS Chair

The Summer Show

On Sunday 13th June the summer show was held on Site 2. We used our new gazebos which we were very glad of as it was such a hot day.

There was a reduced schedule that covered the seasonal crops but there were a few things missing because of the lateness of everything. But never mind that, everyone had a nice afternoon with tea and cakes.



The winning flower arrangement



Sweet peas were lovely



The miniature flower arrangement was popular



Always lots of rhubarb in the summer show



Peas a plenty



Raj and Kate inspect their strawberry exhibits



A competition for a plant that the owner is proud to display. The cactus garden won for Callum and Angus Lodge, voted for by visitors to the show



Gorgeous gooseberries

All the first, second and third prize winners will soon receive a voucher to spend in the store.

The autumn show is a much bigger affair and, Covid allowing, will be held in St Margaret's church hall on Saturday 11th September.

All being well we will also have a 'how to show in the show' workshop on Sunday 5th September on Site 2 – to encourage people to enter. We had no novices enter the summer show which is a shame.



David auctioning some broad beans at the end of the show

Store Report

We are still having problems with deliveries. The last delivery was particularly bad. A delivery was arranged for Wednesday, 4 June but it did not turn up. Half of the delivery then arrived, without notice, to the gates of Site 2 on Wednesday, 10 June. We had to rush to Site 2 to unload this 900 kg pallet and move its contents into the Store. We are still waiting for the second part of the order to arrive which includes the popular SylvaGrow which has been out of stock. Many thanks to Greg Willcox, Jackie and David Savage

and Stewart Tamsett for helping to unload the delivery at short notice and to Carol Martinez for alerting us to its arrival.

We sell a variety of liquid fertilisers to feed your plants during the growing season.

Maxicrop liquid seaweed extract is a popular feed this time of year to promote healthy plant growth. We decant into 1 litre bottles which cost £5.00 or £5.50.

We have 3 types:

Maxicrop Original Seaweed Extract is a natural plant booster, being a tonic rather than a fertiliser. It stimulates growth and builds up resistance to pests, diseases and drought. It is ideal for flowers, shrubs, trees, fruit, vegetables and indoor plants.

Maxicrop Seaweed Plus Tomato Fertiliser is for all fruiting and flowering plants, being high in Potash. It is especially good for tomatoes once the flowers appear. It stimulates plant and tomato growth and gives a better flavour, size and shape to tomatoes.

Maxicrop Natural Fertiliser Plus Seaweed Extract is a fertiliser that helps to stimulate strong root growth and promotes green leaves. It is good for salads, spinach, kale and carrots.

We also sell large bottles of Tomorite for £4.25.



We also sell 2 types of twine and a variety of lengths of bamboo canes to keep your plants under control.

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/>

FILL THE GAPS – SEEDS YOU CAN SOW DIRECT JUNE / JULY

ALL THESE SEEDS ARE IN STOCK IN OUR RGS STORE



Beetroot – Bolthardy, Pablo, Red Ace

Carrrots – Autumn King, Chantenay Red Core

Radicchio / Chicory

Peas – Half Pint, Kelvedon Wonder

Beans – French climbing and dwarf, plus runner

Cabbage – Kalibro, Wheeler's Imperial

Kale – Nero di Toscana

Spinach – Perpetual, Amazon, Matador, New Zealand



Herbs – parsley, chives, basil

Salad leaves – Rocket, Endive Pancalieri, Corn Salad Vit, Mixed Oriental leaves, Mizuna

Spring onions – White Lisbon

Lettuce – All Year Round, Analena, Lobjoits Cos, Lolla Rossa

Pak Choi – Red Choi, Joi Choi

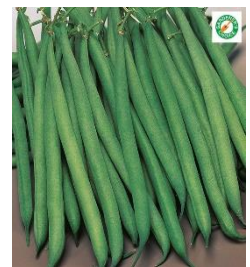
Khol Rabi – purple and green

Radish – Sparkler, Crunchy King

Turnips – Snowball, Milan Purple Top

Flowers – Calendula, Nasturtium, Poppy, Sunflowers

Green manures – Summer Quick Fix, Phacelia



Bindweed

Hedge or greater bindweed, Calystegia sepium, is a fast-growing perennial, vining plant which grows from both seeds and roots. In one year, its stems can reach several metres high while its roots can grow well over a metre. If left unchecked, the roots can grow to 3 metres (10 feet) deep while the seeds remain viable for up to 30 years in the soil. It is extremely important, therefore, that its flowers are removed before they set seed. However, bindweed can also grow easily from underground roots, stolons and rhizomes (see below).

Bindweed is a twining plant that wraps itself around anything in order to reach the sunlight. Accordingly, even if it is not allowed to seed, bindweed can still be seen popping up everywhere to photosynthesize. This is a process by which the chlorophyll in its leaves absorbs energy from light.

Once it finds sunshine, it sends out large, white, very pretty, trumpeting blooms from June to October.



In an ideal world, this is a plant that would look extremely attractive gracing a garden trellis or growing over an elegant archway. There is, however, one very significant and dangerous drawback to this plant. If left unchecked, it will out-compete even large shrubs and small trees for any available light. Creating a rope of numerous stems twisted together, it binds, weakens and eventually destroys its host plants. What is also remarkable is that this mass destruction of all that stands in its way can happen within just one season.

In short, this is one very determined and versatile plant which will stop at nothing to reach garden or plot domination. For instance, its roots that emerge near the top of the soil can very quickly become **stolons**. These are creeping horizontal plant stems or runners that take root at

various points along the ground or will grow on a host plant on which they can climb.



On the other hand, **rhizomes** are those familiar white, knotted roots that grow deeper into the soil. Fragile and brittle, each fragment is able to start life on its own. Like stolons, they can weave themselves through other roots spectacularly well, finding the most inaccessible reaches of your plot such as underneath raspberry bushes, lavender, rosemary, purple sprouting broccoli and so on. However, controlling bindweed need not be a problem. Adhering to the following guidelines should yield effective results.

Cultural Control

Hoeing: As soon as there is a sign of bindweed, the most efficient method of control is to cut it off at soil level using a hoe (if a hoe is not available, cutting by any other means such as secateurs, is equally effective). For maximum effectiveness, this procedure should be carried out on a dry day with a light wind. The wind will help the seeds to dry out on the surface of the bed rather than re-rooting into moist soil.

It is important to remember that persistently cutting the vine off at ground level as soon as it emerges from the ground will eventually starve the plant. This in turn, will deny it the opportunity to photosynthesize and eventually will cause it to die. It is very good practice, therefore, to take time each week to scour your plot for new signs of bindweed and immediately cut or pull out any you find. It should be noted also that,

although using water permeable-membrane may suppress annual weeds, it will encourage the growth of stolons. These are described above.

Hand-pulling or hand-weeding with a fork: Using a fork to dig out bindweed not only reduces the risk of breaking the roots but is a really effective way of arresting and eventually conquering further progress. For the purists, this will mean sifting carefully for broken fragments as small root sections left behind can re-form into new plants. However, pulling out young shoots is much easier than pulling out established vines. Therefore, persistent pulling of any subsequent new shoots will not only be easier to remove, but will weaken any remaining roots.

Hand weeding is easiest on lighter soils and should only be attempted where it will not disturb the roots of cultivated plants. Sometimes, however, the only method of control is to dig up both bindweed and host and patiently tease out the bindweed roots before re-planting the host. This should only be done at a time of year when the uprooting is likely to cause as little damage as possible to the host.

Chemical Control

It should be noted that, in general, the RGS does not endorse the use of chemical control and advises it should only be used as a last resort in a limited and highly targeted manner. Nevertheless, for those who feel that chemical control is their only option, the following advice may be of assistance.

At the beginning of the growing season, judiciously stake bamboo canes wherever you see a sign of bindweed and encourage the bindweed to wind itself around the stake rather than climbing up your other plants or spreading across your plot. When the bindweed has wound its way around the bamboo canes, the leaves can then be sprayed liberally with the systemic weed-killer, glyphosate, which will be taken down into the roots as the bindweed grows. More often than not, however, bindweed will be found growing in close proximity to other

plants or weaving its way up through them to reach the light. Care should be taken, therefore, to make sure your other plants are not damaged or destroyed by glyphosate spray. For this reason, spraying should never take place on a windy day.

Accordingly, a slightly more time consuming but safer approach is to carefully unravel the bindweed from the stake or the host plant and curl it into a loose ball (still attached to its roots) making sure to preserve most, if not all, of its leaves. This should then be placed into a small, airtight plastic bag and sprayed with the glyphosate weed-killer inside the bag before tying it firmly and leaving it in place. The plants should then not be removed until approximately three weeks later. This gives the chemicals a chance to penetrate the roots and allows the bindweed to die back, making it easier to remove. It is important that the roots are also dug out at the same time.

The advantages of using this method of chemical treatment are: (a) the glyphosate will not be diluted or washed off the bindweed when it rains; (b) the host plant or other proximal plants will not be damaged or destroyed by glyphosate spray; (c) pollution of the soil surrounding the bindweed will be reduced as the glyphosate will only travel down through the root system of the bindweed without interfering with the root system of other plants.

Considering the above methods of control, a 'green' or cultural control approach appears to be by far the simplest, most efficient and environmentally friendly method as espoused by the RGS and the RHS. To conclude, therefore, it can be said that the three most useful weapons in a gardener's arsenal against bindweed are vigilance, persistence and patience.

WARNING: Bindweed waste must *never* be composted as it is most unlikely the heat will be sufficient to destroy it and it can even continue to grow inside your composter.

Catherine Maunsell-Bower

Plant 'Walk and Talk'

On the subject of weeds - On July 24th, RGS is pleased to be offering members the opportunity to attend a guided walk around the allotments to learn about 'weeds', the folklore associated with them and uses of common allotment plants. The walk will be with botanist Roy Vickery of the South London Botanical Institute.

Roy worked in the Botany Dept of the Natural History Museum from 1965 - 2007, and remains a Scientific Associate at the museum (though due to Covid restrictions he hasn't been able to go into the museum for over a year). He has also been associated with the South London Botanical Institute for many years, and regularly leads walks for the institute such as the ones he will be offering our members. His first article on the folklore and uses of British plants was published in 1975, and since then he has published numerous articles and three books, all based on material which he has collected. His Plant-lore Archive currently holds some 8820 items of information from approximately 2930 contributors. For further information see www.plant-lore.com

For the walk on July 24th there will be 2 slots, one at 10:30, one at 1:30. You will need to book by emailing to rgs.sw15@gmail.com saying which slot you choose. If you don't mind which time, please say so as we have a maximum of 10 members per slot so may need some flexibility to balance out the walks. Should be very interesting and a huge privilege to have such a well-qualified person conducting the walks.

A recent article from the PutneySW15.com website

£40,000 funding helps provide new roof and water supply

Green fingered residents who enjoy growing fruit, veg and flowers at the Roehampton Garden Society (RGS) allotments have welcomed a series of improvements.

The allotment shed has a new roof and most important of all the water supply to the growing areas has been upgraded.

The improvements to the allotments on the Dover House estate were funded by the town hall to the tune of £40,000.

In response society member Patrick Crawford wrote, "On behalf of the Roehampton Garden Society we would like to thank you for your efforts in providing us with a new water supply on our Site 3. The new installation with its increased number of water tanks is very beneficial to all plot holders on Site 3 and we have received many favourable comments."

Open spaces and environment spokesman Cllr Steffi Sutters said, "I'm delighted that we've been able to improve the infrastructure at the allotments and provide better facilities for members of the society who take great pride in their plots."

RGS was founded in 1854, and currently manages two allotment sites in Roehampton on behalf of Wandsworth Borough Council. Individual allotments are leased to members, who pay an annual rent.

It aims to encourage productive cultivation of the land, whilst caring for the environment and encouraging wildlife and bees. It also promotes the benefits of organic gardening.

Let's Look out for Hedgehogs

Helping Mother Hedgehogs in the summer Months

Now is the time for the pitter patter of tiny paws as hedgehog breeding season really gets underway. Hedgehogs typically have their hoglets (baby hedgehogs) in June and July. A litter size can vary but on average



Mother hedgehog may have no choice but to move her young during the day to a safer nest, particularly if the nest has been flooded or disturbed.

only two to three will survive past infancy. A second litter may be born in late summer however, these are less likely to make sufficient weight to survive winter. Female hedgehogs are entirely responsible for rearing their young and with sheltered habitats harder to come by, they have an extremely difficult task of keeping their hoglets safe. On occasion, mother hogs may venture outside during the day to replenish the nest or to find food but please note, this is not typical behaviour of all hedgehogs and in general they should not be seen out during the day. It is a sad fact but unless there has been a disturbance to the nest, a hedgehog out in the day is most likely to be dying and will need our help by gently containing in a high sided box, always whilst wearing gloves, kept warm and for the finder to call us, Wildlife Aid: 01372 360404, or the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890 801. It is illegal to handle a hedgehog unless as an act of safety. At every event when encountering a hedgehog, it is appropriate to stay at a distance unless in obvious danger or has signs of injury/illness such as

bleeding, wobbling, laying down, laboured breathing or vomiting.

To help mother hedgehog and her family in the garden or the allotment, you may like to create a log pile which is ideal for food and shelter particularly if you place some of the logs a few inches under the soil to encourage a wider diversity of insects.



Hedgehogs create maternity nests in hedgerows, brambles, log piles, compost heaps or under sheds and outbuildings for extra security against predators and weather. Hoglets resemble little pink mice when they are born, about 5-7cm in length and weighing between 10 to 30 grams, they cannot yet hear or see. Within a day hoglets begin to show their quills and by 2 – 3 weeks they can see, hear and look like small hedgehogs and it will not be long before they join their mother in foraging outings; by 6 weeks, the young hedgehogs will head off to begin their own life adventure. Mother hedgehogs will abandon or even eat their babies if the nest is disturbed so, please resist the temptation to peek inside a hedgehog nest and help to ensure their home is well hidden from prying eyes and predators by keeping an area in your garden or allotment, a little wilder and overgrown for coverage and to encourage insects. Please use caution when trimming hedges or turning compost, remembering to check, check and check again – hedgehogs do not run from danger but will curl into a ball for protection. Providing fresh water every evening will offer invaluable support to hedgehogs who

can travel miles in search of water. Hoglets can drown in just a few inches of water so placing pebbles in the dish allows for escape not only for hoglets but other small animals whilst giving insects safer access and slowing water evaporation.



This hedgehog was spotted out in the local area recently and as you can see, illness or injury are not always obvious. Continued

observations may help to give clues on why a hedgehog is out during the day but if in doubt, please contain the hedgehog wearing gloves or wrapping the hedgehog in a jumper or something to protect you both, and phone for help.

Thank you for taking the time to help our hedgehogs and please do continue to help spread the word, the more who know how to help hoggies the better their chances. Thank you.

To contact us text/call or leave a message with Jackie on 07748903660 or Maya on: 07961 668484 or email us saveourhedghogs@gmail.com

Wildlife Watch

I have a pond made of 2 old washing up bowls. This frog / toad? sat for hours as I was working nearby. It goes to show that even a little wet space will be made use of. (And yes, I did top up the water level after I noticed it was low).



Update from the RHS

To celebrate National Allotment Week – 9th-15th August the RHS are holding some on-line talks and live Q & As on the following;

Composting, no dig plotting, water use on allotments, practical organic gardening and peat free growing.

See their website for further information;

[National Allotments Week 2021 9 August till 15 August. – The National Allotment Society – National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd \(nsalg.org.uk\)](https://www.nsalg.org.uk/)

Recipe

Salmon and spring vegetable stew

Preparation and cooking time: 45 minutes

Serves: 4



Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
1 leek, trimmed and thinly sliced
500g new potatoes, halved if large
100ml dry white wine
250ml fish or veg stock
100ml single cream
1tsp Dijon mustard
4 x 150g sustainable salmon fillets
150g fresh or frozen peas or young broad beans
2 tsp fresh thyme leaves
For the persillade
Grated zest of 1 lemon
1tbsp lemon juice
1 garlic clove
30g fresh flatleaf parsley, chopped
3 tbsp olive oil

Method

1. Heat the oil in a deep-frying pan or shallow saucepan with lid. Fry the onion,

leek and thyme with pinch of salt and pepper over a medium heat until softened.

2. Add the new potatoes and the wine.

Bring to the boil and cook for 2-3 minutes until the wine has reduced.

3. Stir in the stock and bring back to the boil, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes until the potatoes are tender.

4. Meanwhile combine the persillade ingredients in a bowl, season to taste and set aside.

5. Combine the cream and mustard, then stir into pan. Arrange the salmon fillets in the pan, pressing them down between the vegetables. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes then remove the lid, add the peas and/or broad beans and cook for a further 2-3 minutes.

Divide into shallow bowls then spoon over some of the persillade sauce.

Recipe suggested by Gill Tamsett from Delicious website.

Wandsworth Council Waste & Recycling Centre

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

[Centre Opening Times - WRWA](#)

Dates for the diary

Saturday 24th July - Weed Walk & Talk, 10.30 and 13.30

Sunday 5th September – How to show in the show, Site 2, 12.30

Saturday 11th September – Autumn Show, St Margaret's church hall, 15.00

Friday 12th November – AGM St Margaret's Church, 19.00

The RGS Committee 2020/21	
Committee member	Office/role
<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>
Non-Voting officers:	
<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

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 Helen Finch, Chair, 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

July 2021. Editor Carol Martinez.
Email stories and photos to carolmartinez@hotmail.co.uk by 26th July 2021. Recipe suggestions always welcome.