

BHAS EAST SHEEN ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary

There will be an open day at Hertford Ave allotments on Sunday May 22nd. This is an opportunity for the public to come and see the allotments.

The AGM is Sunday 26th June, held beside the trading shed. Time midday.

After the AGM there will be a BBQ, and refreshments.

Membership Information

Please join BHAS for the year of May 1st 2016 to April 30th 2017.

Your membership money is used to provide services which help you to run your plot. Don't forget the 50% discount on King's Seeds!



Trading Shed (Hertford Avenue)

Update from the Shed Manager Anna Stokoe:

The shed is now stocked up for the summer and will be open every Saturday and Sunday until the end of May, and alternate ones in June and July starting Saturday 4th June and closing on Saturday 30th July. Hopefully good quality French garlic will be for sale again later in the year.

The Trading Shed has had a very good year. We sold out of potatoes 8 x 25kg which came from Scotland. We were recommended this supplier two years ago and had good reports from plot holders which we sent back to Scotland. The shed is run by volunteers and we would like to express thanks for all the time they give.

WHY I LOVE MY ALLOTMENT...

For the next newsletter email your thoughts on why you love your allotment and recipes for using your produce - ideas to:

info@eastsheenallotments.com



To find out more about the history of East Sheen Allotments follow this link:
[East Sheen Allotment History](#)

Some interesting facts..

- ◆ *Albert Einstein had an allotment (rumour has it that he even received a letter about his untidy plot!)*
- ◆ *Jeremy Corbyn owns an allotment and is currently growing potatoes, beans, soft fruit and apples.*
- ◆ *To make a pound of honey a hive of bees must travel over 55,000 miles and visit two million flowers!*
- ◆ *Most Stag Beetles live for only a few weeks after emerging as an adult, with many dying during the winter. A few can survive if they find somewhere nice and warm to live, like a compost heap.*

Do you know any interesting trivia about allotments??



Crop Pests which affected plants last year - advice from Janet Bostock

Spotted Wing Drosophila. This little fruit fly destroyed my cherry crop last year and seems likely to cause damage to other soft fruits. Having only arrived in England in 2012 it has been reported by many gardeners to the RHS so they have a helpful information sheet: follow this link.

[RHS Information Sheet](#)

Stopping this fly might be difficult but good hygiene and removal of all damaged fruit is essential to reduce fly numbers the following year.

Fungal attack on Broccoli leaves White blisters form on the underside of brassica leaves due to infection by the fungus *Albugo candida*. My purple sprouting broccoli has survived and is providing a good source of veg right now. Again plot hygiene is essential. Remove and bag up all affected leaves throughout the season to reduce spores contaminating the soil for next year.



Spotted Wing Drosophila



Recently planted at the side of the Trading Shed are [David Austin](#) roses, with delicious scents. The roses are: 'Olivia' soft pink; 'Gertrude Jerkyl' deep pink and glorious scent; 'Desdemona' white'; 'Lady of Shallot' peachy pink; 'Darcy Bussell, rich red; 'Teasing Georgia', yellow; 'Pink Perpetua' pink climber.

The patch of ground below the turkey hut will be grassed over. If I have the time I will perhaps put other plants in between the roses, please email me any suggestions.

Mary Enache m.v.thorp@btinternet.com

Children's Corner:

Hedgehog facts...

- ◆ Hedgehogs forage at night; they eat snails, slugs, insects and worms (slow worms also eat slugs and snails). Milk makes hedgehogs sick (just like bread bloats birds).
- ◆ Obstacles for hedgehogs are chemicals, disturbance, machinery, roads, lack of green corridors to roam, lack of wild areas to forage, breed and hibernate.
- ◆ Hedgehogs like spiky leaf litter piles, bramble and long grasses to give birth in June/July and hibernate in the winter from October until March/April.
- ◆ Badgers and foxes eat hedgehogs.
- ◆ Hedgehogs are a great garden friend as they eat our garden pests.
- ◆ Hedgehogs rely on hearing and smell more than eyesight.
- ◆ Hazards for hedgehogs are strimmers, mowers, pesticide/herbicide chemicals and slug pellets.
- ◆ Organic chemical products are just as bad as non-organic; residues of toxic chemicals have been found in vegetables in areas where chemicals are used; such as sprays and pellets e.g. Glyphosate acid. These chemicals are harmful to us and the food chain.
- ◆ Companion & sacrificial planting are good alternatives, as well as beer traps and other natural methods.

If you have any hedgehogs in your allotment or garden please send in photos or sightings to:

naturesgym@glendale-services.co.uk

Conservation Officer: m: 07825860459

[Fun facts about hedgehogs](#)





The Kids Garden.co.uk



Tree Wordsearch

s	t	u	n	t	s	e	h	c	n	a
y	l	h	l	a	r	a	l	v	a	t
a	m	o	i	t	u	b	i	r	c	h
d	m	l	h	a	z	e	l	a	u	n
n	s	s	e	a	k	c	c	r	t	a
h	a	w	t	h	o	r	n	b	g	k
f	f	o	i	d	e	i	q	e	a	e
i	i	f	u	r	r	e	d	l	e	e
f	r	o	w	a	n	k	e	u	a	m



Can you find the names of all the trees in the wordsearch?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Rowan | Fir |
| Birch | Elder |
| Elm | Chestnut |
| Hawthorn | Hazel |

Update from the Chair of BHAS Duncan Hoadley:

We don't like to BRAG...

The Borough of Richmond Allotments Group or BRAG was set up in November 2014 as a formal body that the Council recognises for purposes of consultation. Its principal role is to represent the interests of allotment sites to the Council. Most allotment sites (equating to 95% of borough-wide plot-holders) are represented at BRAG meetings which are held four times a year.

In February of this year BRAG met with David Allister and Pete Lewis of LBRuT and discussed the following matters:

- ✦ Progress on development of the Council's 5 year allotment strategy (2010- 2015 has expired)
- ✦ Devolved and semi-devolved arrangements.
- ✦ Revision of the current Terms & Conditions to set out more clearly respective obligations of the council and the tenant.
- ✦ Potential new allotment sites.
- ✦ Service level inconsistencies across the site
- ✦ Site Maps and various other matters.

You can read the full minutes of that meeting on our website at this address: <https://eastsheenallotments.com/news/>

As you probably know there is an exercise currently underway looking at the merging of Richmond and Wandsworth Councils' back office functions. Until those arrangements are finalised it seems that many initiatives concerning allotments - such as the 5 year strategy- will remain on the back burner.

BRAG has also been looking at how allotment numbers, sizes, and rents differ across London, and now has information for most boroughs. It makes for an interesting read – in Hackney you'll pay £2.10 per rod while in Islington you'll pay £70 for the same! Our rents are 50% higher than the average for London and this is an area that BRAG is keeping a close eye on – particularly in light of the Wandsworth merger (they pay £21.10 per rod).

Update from the Allotment Secretaries:

Susan Moore and Aileen Izett (in a moment of madness) volunteered for the role of joint Allotment Secretary at the AGM in June 2015. It is a demanding job but hugely enjoyable.

We are responsible for managing the waiting list for allotments (on behalf of the Council) and for carrying out inspections of plots (on behalf of your Committee). We work closely with the Site Reps to help maintain standards to make our allotments among the best in the Borough. One of the ways we do this is by liaising with the Council over issues raised by the Site Reps, such as water supply, over-hanging trees, difficult locks or sloping pathways. Allotments in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames have never been more popular, with 372 people waiting for a plot in one of our 5 sites in East Sheen, some people have now been waiting eagerly for 6 years. In the 10 months between June 2015 and mid-April 2016, 16 plots became vacant and have been let to new plot-holders. During the same period, 55 new applicants registered with the Council and joined our list.

To help alleviate the waiting list, we would like to ask those plot holders with large plots, who may be finding it harder to keep it all cultivated, to consider reducing the size of plot. If this is something you are considering, do please get in touch with your Site Rep or the Allotment Secretaries who will be pleased to discuss this with you. Those 372 people will also be grateful!

You can contact us on our email: e.sheenallotmentsecretary@gmail.com



“Where am I on the list???”

Key Contacts: For contact details please see the newsletter circulated to BHAS members

Chair: Duncan Hoadley

Allotment Secretaries - Joint Secretaries: Susan Moore and Aileen Izett

Membership Secretary: Janet Bostock

Site Reps:

Hertford Plots 33 to 51- Janet Bostock

Hertford Plots 15-31 (between the path and road) -Derek Lawrence-Brown Plot 26

Palewell Park - Paul Edelin (plot 15)

Palewell Fields/Pavilion - David Abel

Priory - Donal Douglas

Priory - Keith Norton

Triangle - John Bentham

Membership discounts:

Remember 50% discount from King's Seeds using your BHAS membership

<https://www.kingsseeds.com>

Also, 10% from [Adrian Hall](#) Garden Centres



Happy Gardening!



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