

SUMMER SHOW SPECIAL AUGUST 2015

It's show time again!

THE SUMMER SHOW will be held on **Monday 31st August at Hertford Avenue Trading Shed**, open to all 1.00-3.00pm. The schedule is included with your newsletter and as last year will include "the Great Barnes Bake-off". Be inspired and get cooking, more bakers are needed to fill the tables with delicious entries. There are cups to be won, to show off to your friends for your fruit, vegetables, flowers and baking and special prizes and cups for the kids. There will also cups for winners of The Best allotment on all the sites, Best Novice and Best Senior Allotment-Holder. A BBQ with alcoholic and soft drinks, home-made cakes, preserves, a Plant stall and a raffle should give you and your friends and children a really good day out. **We will need help and contributions on the day** Contact your Site Reps if you would like to help (see under Contact list at end of newsletter) Raffle prizes etc. can be left at the Trading Shed when it is open at the week-end before The Show or bring on the day.

This isn't Chelsea Flower Show!

Your entries don't have to be perfect, just remember:

- Biggest is not always best
- Try to show entries that are pest and disease free
- Where an entry comprises several items choose ones that are as near as possible the same size and shape.
- Give yourself plenty of time, and if you can, prepare at least some of your entries the night before.
- Most important, **read your schedule carefully** and when you pick up your show-cards on Monday morning, make sure you write your name clearly and put your exhibit in the right place.

Entries will be taken from 10.00am, judging will begin at 12.00am, no-one will be allowed onto the show area until judging finishes at 1.00pm. Then open to all.

Please bring your own small plain, china plates to show beans, small tomatoes and soft fruit, and keep your fingers crossed that we don't have strong winds to blow away all the entries into the allotments! Anyone showing jam or chutney, please cover with wax and cellophane seals and not screw on lids.

IF YOU WON A CUP LAST YEAR PLEASE RETURN YOUR CUP TO THE TRADING SHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Please give them a good polish before they are returned.

If you know any-one who is not a member, tell them they can enter into The Show and then tell them to join The Society!

Get inspired! **Richmond Allotment Open Day Sunday 9th August** Richmond's Old Palace Lane Allotments are throwing open their doors to the public, next to the White Swan Inn(TW1 1PG) between Richmond Green and the river, teas, plant sale, admission £3 to raise money for Cancer and Caring charities.

Kew Horticultural Show 5th September. On Kew Green open from 1.30, -prize-giving 4.30, Auction of produce 5.30.Plant cake bric-a-brac stalls, teas, live music and more...

More Summer News

The AGM was held by the Trading Shed in June. Those who attended will know that Alex Clarke stood down as Chairman and temporary Allotment Secretary. We now have a new Chairmen, Duncan Hoadley and the job of Allotment Secretary is shared by Susan Moore and Aileen Izett (contact details at end of newsletter), we also have a new constitution which you should have received, contact your Site Rep. if you need a copy.

The Trading Shed is closed in August but opens for the weekend before the show, on Sat. 29th and Sun 30th, 11.00- 12.00am. Please bring your membership card if you want to buy goods.

Hertford Ave. Gate: everyone using this gate will be very happy to know that this now has a new padlock and Donal Douglas has a spare key if needed in an emergency.

Our Website is now up and running at www.eastsheenallotments.com and well worth paying a visit for a full history of the sites, pictures and seasonal gardening advice.

B.R.A.G. has representatives from all the allotment sites in the Borough and meets with the Council every 3 months to discuss how we can run our allotments more efficiently. I represented our allotments at the last meeting on July 20TH. Among matters discussed were Council Rents which will increase by 6.3% from Oct. 2015 and the inconsistency of service levels provided by The Council to individual sites. It was suggested that the Mortlake Brewery fields could be used for allotments as the land is dedicated for non-building use. It was decided that if any progress is to be made Council Representatives should be invited to at least 2 meetings a year.

Late summer on the plots

Pest and disease: fruit and vegetables

Bitter Rot: Brown saucer-like depressions appear on fruit sometimes while still on the tree, the depressions may have concentric rings of white to yellow-brown glistening pustules oozing minute pink worm-like tendrils.

Brown Rot: soft brown patches form sometimes round a wound and spread to any fruit they touch. Yellow-white pustules can form, the fruit may shrivel up and go black while still on the tree.

Treatment: Remove any rotting fruit from the tree, thin out fruit so that there is more air circulating around crops. Make sure affected fruit is not touching healthy fruit or that fruits are not rubbing against each other.

Potato and Tomato Blight: Potato and Tomato Blight usually appear in warm, humid and wet weather. This summer has been very dry so here have been few signs of Blight but the first few weeks of August have been cooler and some-what damper so keep an eye out for signs of Blight which are:

On Potatoes: brown patches appear on the edges of the leaves and these will spread over the whole leaf eventually spreading to the potato tubers.

On Tomatoes dark streaks and patches appear on the stems and dark brown to black blotches appear on the edges and tips of the leaves.

Treatment: Spray with Bordeaux Mix, in the early morning or late afternoon, not when hot at midday or if there is a chance of rain though it is probably now too late for this to be affective.

If the infection is bad on potato leaves remove all foliage and bin or burn. With tomatoes, remove affected foliage to give tomatoes more air circulation and a chance to ripen more quickly though you may find fruits that look healthy will develop Blight symptoms when picked with the tomatoes going brown and rotten. Only water when you really need to and in the morning. Always bin or burn any affected crops or foliage immediately to prevent Blight spreading to your neighbour's crops.

Work on the plots

Lift early potatoes, leave them to dry out for an hour or so before using or storing somewhere dark and cool.

Leave onions in the ground if the weather is dry, otherwise hang up somewhere light and not too hot to ripen.

Plant out leek seedlings under vegetable mesh or fleece to protect from Allium Mite.

Grow cucumbers up a frame to keep the cucumbers straight and away from slugs.

Sow carrots for a late autumn crop (small but sweet) protect from Carrot Fly with fleece or vegetable mesh.

Also sow: Chicory and Endive, Flat-leaved Parsley, Black Spanish Radish (very hot winter crop),

A late crop of Turnips, Pak-Choi (watch out for slugs), lettuce such as "Arctic King" or "Winter Density" (they will need protection from winter cold).

Cabbage "Durham Early", Corn Salad and Land or American Cress.

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Goodbye to my lovely neighbour Angelo Secchi who died early in the summer, he loved to sit on his allotment watching the grapes ripening and thinking of Italy, his homeland.

