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# SOUTH CROYDON ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

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## March 2017 newsletter

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website [southcroydonallotment.com](http://southcroydonallotment.com)

### New ploholders

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We have been joined by

Rosalie Massanga Sanda  
plot 66F

Fatima Beb - Cheikh &  
William Clarke plot 72F

Sandra Teixeira plot 109

James & Mary Ganpatsingh  
plot 127 -

welcome to all

### Small Ads

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ALCO garden shredder,  
model NewTec 1600R, in  
working order £20

Wooden Patio table, seats 6

For further details contact  
C a t h                      B e e c h  
([cathbeech@me.com](mailto:cathbeech@me.com))

Weber charcoal BBQ, kettle  
type, 23" diameter looking  
for a new home. FREE

Further details from Elaine  
Westmoreland  
([elaine@gewestmoreland.com](mailto:elaine@gewestmoreland.com))

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## AGM

36 members turned up to the AGM on 15th February. We heard how the Society had had a successful year in 2016 despite challenging growing conditions and is in good financial shape. The highlight must be our record breaking Open Day last August, at which we raised over £2000 for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

Mark Coram chaired the meeting as David Coram is still laid up with a broken leg. He expressed the Society's heartfelt thanks to Richard Franklin, who is stepping down as President, and presented him with an engraved tankard as a token of our appreciation. This was immediately put to good use!

Jim Swaby was unanimously elected as president of the





## Your Committee

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Following the AGM, the officers of the Society are:

**President** - Jim Swaby

**Committee** -

Caroline Allison

Denise Baxter

Catherine Beech

David Coram

Mark Coram

Dennis Everett

Frank Jones

James Marler

Matthew Morris

Elaine Westmoreland

Nigel Williams

George Wright

The Committee will appoint officers at their first meeting following the AGM

We are also pleased that Jo Thomas has agreed to take over from Richard Franklin as Lettings Officer

## Society

Margaret Bromley stood down from the Committee - but we were delighted to hear that she will still be helping with refreshments at our working parties. James Marten volunteered to join the Committee - a full list of Committee members in in the next column.

The meeting agreed to raise annual membership subscriptions to £4 per member

The meeting ended with the ever popular raffle. Royal Marsden kindly donated a miniature wheelbarrow packed with gardening goods for the raffle and we were able to send them a further donation of £36

## Enamel signs go to auction

Those who took part in the November working party and readers of this newsletter (there must be a few out there....) will remember how the working party dug out two enamel advertising signs which had been used to line a compost pit and were still in good condition.

These were auctioned at Catherine Southron Auctions in mid February and together raised a cracking £360 - even



though they were towards the end of the catalogue at Lot 493 or so.

Two or three episodes of 'Bargain Hunt' were filmed at the Auction - Bargain Hunt fans will see the blue Rowntrees sign in the background when these are screened. And look for the vintage ice cream cart that fetched all of 50p.....

## Wildlife report

Spring is really here!

The first Brimstone butterfly was seen on 27th Feb., and frogspawn on 1st March. 11 days later the frogspawn hatched, and is plentiful in most of the ponds on the site.

Daffodils are making a lovely show on the wildlife bank near the shop, now that the snowdrops and crocus are over.

A female pussy willow is in flower near the grass car park, and bumble bees are keenly feeding on the nectar. Later the male willow catkins will be seen, which are rich in pollen, used by bumble bees to form sealed cups to store nectar for their young.

Ostracods, tiny pinhead size molluscs are developing in small ponds, and Mayfly nymphs 7 mm long are present (the one shown was collected from a tiny pond near the Carlton Rd. gate). It should not be long before Cladocera (water fleas) show; I will try to photograph them for the next newsletter.

Nicola has carried out another bird survey, and reports many wrens, and all the usual culprits. Notable sightings included three greenfinches, a gold crest (by the railway at the Glossop road end) and two house sparrows. The greenfinch and sparrow sightings are particularly pleasing, as greenfinches have suffered horrendously from a horrible disease over the last 2 years and local flocks of sparrows have been decimated.

This spectacular fungus below, *Ganoderma lucidum*, is growing adjacent to a burnt log on the wildlife area path.

As always, please send sightings or queries to [nigelwilliams.allotment@sky.com](mailto:nigelwilliams.allotment@sky.com), tel. 07710494096



## Jobs for March

Elaine is determined we should keep busy, and its good to see the site begin to buzz as the weather improves....

- 1 Cover seed beds with polythene to warm up the soil prior to sowing.
- 2 Sow parsnips outdoors in clusters of 5 seeds to ensure rows are complete on germination.
- 3 Prepare runner bean trenches with well rotted manure and shredded paper in he base of the tench
- 4 Tomato seeds can be sown indoors.
- 5 Shallots and onion sets may be planted outdoors, leaving the tops just showing above soil level.

## And that Picture on the front page...

Nigel writes:

Pupils of the Croydon Adult Learning and Training Photography Group met on our site for a course on night time photography. This involved very long exposure times, and the use of laser torches for 'light writing'. As the exposures are 30 seconds long, the person doing the writing is not visible. The difficult trick is that the script has to be done in 'mirror writing'. I worked hard to create our society initials in lights!



## Recipe - Lemon syllabub

From Elaine Westmoreland - another mouthwatering recipe to try

¼ pint (140ml) of white wine  
2 tabbsp lemon juice  
2 teasp of grated lemon zest  
3 oz (85g) caster sugar  
½ pint (285ml) double cream.  
-o-o-o-o-o-

Pour the wine,lemon juice and zest into a bowl with the sugar. Stir and leave to stand for 2-3 hours.

Add the cream and whisk until the mixture thickens. Turn the syllabub into individual glasses and leave in the fridge for 2 hours. Serve with langue de chat biscuits.

### **Langue de Chat biscuits**

2oz (57g) margarine or butter  
2oz (57g) caster sugar  
2¼ oz ( 65g) plain flour  
1 egg white  
Vanilla flavouring

Cream margarine, sugar and flavouring, add beaten egg white and flour. Pipe onto a greased baking sheet, or baking paper. They will spread so leave space between each.

Bake at 325°F, reg 3 gas, 160C for 10 minutes.

## Edible Flowers -2

More culinary ideas form Elaine

Apple blossoms have a slightly floral taste, and the petals may be used in salads. They can be infused in whipped cream or ice cream to go with apple tart. Blossom floated in a fruit punch looks attractive.

Chive flowers have a mild onion flavour and are quite crunchy. They are used tossed in salads, pasta, omelettes and scrambled eggs. Can also be added to cheese sauce or fish dishes.

Citrus flowers have a strong perfume and go well with many different foods from stir-fry to puddings. They are also good fro crystallising and decorating cakes or desserts.

Fennel flowers have a mild aniseed favour which combines well with fish, meat and vegetable dishes. Delicious added to potato soup. Make fennel oil by steeping flowers in a small bottle of olive oil and use to baste pork chops on a barbecue.

## RHS Free Advice?

RHS Fruit and Veg experts from the Fruit Herb and Veg Group are offering to visit allotment societies and other community gardening groups to answer questions and give advice.

We have applied for a visit on one of four possible dates - 23 or 24 June or 28 or 29 July. As you might expect demand is very high for these visits but we'll let you know how we get on.

### Committee E mail addresses

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