

# The Bushy Times

## Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

[www.bushyparkallotments.org.uk](http://www.bushyparkallotments.org.uk)

Issue 68

November 2023

### NEWS UPDATE

We will hold the AGM next spring, trying to pick some fine, if cold, weather! We held the last AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The Autumn Open Day was cancelled. An internal social event was held on 14<sup>th</sup> October. It remembered long-term tenants John Whitby and Ted Leppard who passed away earlier in the year.

The Council have promised action on the locks: -

- making sure that the vehicle gate padlock is securely attached.
- responding to tenant's problems using the pedestrian gate padlock.

The woody waste facility is now operational, please observe the rules, details on the notices.

The water will be turned off when frosts are forecast.

Please lock the gate on entry and exit, the vehicle gate has often been left unlocked!

### MISCELLANY

#### Bruchid beetle

I have written about this pest before and it's worth reminding you to check any beans that you have harvested for next year's seed. The beetle affects all beans, broad/French/runner, and overwinters as pupae in the bean seed.

I store my dried seed in glass jars at home and saw beetles active in a couple of them. The relative warmth of indoor storage had accelerated their life-cycle and the beetles had emerged to continue their work. I sieved the beans to deal with the adult beetles and found the seed that had been affected as shown below.



Seed affected by the beetles, their neat exit holes showing on the Bigourdan haricots and Mr Fearn's French bean seed.

One of the black Mr Fearn's had hosted 8 beetle larvae!

***Check your stored seed.***

### **Crown Prince squash**

Crown Prince squashes were developed in New Zealand and quickly spread as a home gardening variety to Australia and onto the UK. In my experience it is the best flavoured and best variety for storage that you can grow. A plant will generally produce 2-3 good sized fruits, average weight 3.6 Kg, that will keep until March/April of the next year if stored in a cool dry place. The flesh is up to two inches thick and requires a strong knife to cut through the fruit.

It is marketed as an F1 variety, that is it is a cross, but I have not been able to find details of the parent varieties! It is believed to be a relative of the *kabocha* squash, a Japanese origin cultivar that generally has much smaller fruit, around 1 Kg each.

### **Bigourdan haricot bean**

The Bigourdan haricot beans that I profiled in Newsletter 65 have proven to be very productive. Half the seed that I sowed from the packet failed to germinate but I was able to put 22 plants into a 2.5 metre row and they have grown magnificently. The pods are numerous and the seed is easy to extract from the dried pods and is a good size. Around 2.1 Kg of dried beans were produced and I look forward to using them in cassoulet and other dishes this winter. Initially the crop had white seeds as promised on the packet but nearly all the later growth was more like a borlotti, striped dark maroon on brown in colour!

## ***ALLOTMENT T&C UPDATE – Section 2***

In March 2023 the Council revised the Terms and Conditions. Section 2, copied in below, covers the termination process, tenants should be aware of the procedure and Council requirements.

### **2 - Termination and appeals process in respect of the conditions of cultivation on the plot or breach of terms and conditions**

2.1 - Failure to comply with the Allotment Terms and Conditions will result in the Termination Process being activated.

2.2 - You should expect the Allotment Officer or other Council representatives and the Site Committee to regularly visit your plot. When you pay for the use of your plot, you agree to the Council's Terms & Conditions. If the cultivation standard at any time on a plot is below the 75% required by the T&Cs in 3.1 this could trigger the termination process.

A preliminary site inspection will be made early in the year to identify any plot considered below the average cultivation standard on that site.

We may send enquiry letters, e-mails and/or make a phone call to ask about your intentions for your plot. If necessary, you may be asked to contact the Allotment Officer or Site Committee within 2 weeks. If you do not reply within this period a first warning letter will be issued. This is the start of the formal process that could end with the termination of your tenancy.

#### ***Written warning***

2.3 - This warning will be sent to the email address you provided OR posted to your home address if we do not have an email address for you.

It will give you one calendar month from the date of the email/letter to return your plot to an acceptable condition. It is very important that you acknowledge receipt of the warning letter either by emailing [allotments@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@richmond.gov.uk) or by writing to the Allotment Officer and/or Site Committee. As appropriate.

Your plot will be re-assessed at the end of the calendar month and there are three possible outcomes:

If you have made the improvements requested in the warning letter this will be acknowledged and no further action taken

If you have made significant improvements but not achieved all improvements requested in the warning letter you will be put on probation for 6 months and your plot re-assessed at the end of this period

If you have not made the improvements requested in the warning letter the Council will issue a Termination of Tenancy Notice

### ***Termination notice***

2.4 - A Termination of Tenancy Notice will be issued by the Allotment Officer if the conditions set out in the warning letter have not been met (or if you have been terminated for breach of another area of the T&Cs). Plot holders who have their tenancy terminated will be removed/excluded from waiting lists.

You will be given 2 weeks to clear your personal items (such as tools, poly tunnels, children's toys) from the date of the termination notice. If you do not clear your personal items the Council reserves the right to charge you any costs for clearing your plot.

If you receive a warning letter following two consecutive annual inspections during your ongoing tenancy and on the following third occasion your plot is found to be non-compliant with the T&Cs, your tenancy will be terminated with no right of appeal.

2.5 - In most cases you will have the right to appeal a termination notice. Your appeal must be submitted in writing within 14 days of the date of the termination letter. The appeal should be addressed with proof of posting to the Parks Service Manager, 44 York Street Civic Centre, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ or emailed to: [allotments@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@richmond.gov.uk).

### ***Appeal process***

2.6 - An appeal hearing will be called where you will have an opportunity to present your case. The hearing will comprise a panel of two allotment Chairs (or Site Committee representatives) from other sites and will be Chaired by the Head of Culture, Environment and Community Services. The panel may have to visit your plot before the appeal hearing. The decision of this panel is final.

There are four options available to the panel as follows:

Uphold the termination

Re-instate you with a probationary period of 6 months, where any further breach of the Allotment Terms and Conditions will result in immediate termination with no right to appeal.

Re-instate you with no probation

Re-instate you on a subdivided plot

The Appeal Hearing will be minuted and the minutes sent to both you and the panel to make sure there is a record of the process.

There will be the opportunity for everyone present at the Appeal Hearing to ask you, the Allotment Officer and any witnesses (you may call two witnesses) relevant questions. At the end of the hearing both you and the Allotment Officer can sum up their case.

Appeal hearing – step by step

The appeal hearing will proceed as follows:

Case presented by the Allotment Officer or Council Representative

Both you and the Appeal Panel can ask the Allotment Officer/Council Representative any questions

You present your case

The Allotment Officer/Council Representative and the Appeal Panel can ask you questions

The Allotment Officer/Council Representative sums up their case

You sum up your case

If the Appeals Panel decides on a probationary period it will, after 6 months, make a review. Following the review, the Appeals Panel will decide whether the conditions of the probationary period have been met. If there are no issues, you will remain on your plot. If there are breaches of the probationary conditions, or of the Allotment T&Cs, the Panel have a right to immediately terminate your tenancy with no further right of appeal.

## POĞAÇA – Turkish breakfast pastries



Detail of the *sade poğaçı* packaging, made in Turkey and bought at the local Mediterranean Store. A favourite breakfast pastry from visits back to friends in Istanbul. I would collect these warm and fresh from the local bakery around the corner from their flat. The illustration on the packaging is a snapshot of Istanbuli culture, Galata Tower, Leander's Tower, Bosphorus Bridge, çay glasses sitting on their saucers and *poğaçı*!! *Sade* means plain, versions with cheese filling were also available.

### For the dough - 10 pieces:

½ cup olive oil  
½ cup warm milk  
1 egg + white of the egg used for glazing, beaten  
80 gm thick yoghurt  
1 tbsp demerara sugar  
7gr dry yeast (1 sachet)  
3 tbsp *mahaleb* – cherry kernel flour – optional  
425 gm all-purpose plain flour  
125 gm strong white bread flour or wholemeal spelt flour  
1 tsp salt

### For the topping:

Egg yolk  
*Corek out* = nigella seeds - to decorate

Proceed as normal for a bread dough recipe. I cheat and use a breadmaker to prepare the dough. For a second batch I added *mahaleb*, the ground kernel of the sour cherry, from the Mediterranean store on Heath Road, Twickenham. After proving, knock back the dough and divide into 10 portions. Shape into a simple round bun, the second time I put them in a 12 hole bun tin to support them. Proved as usual in the oven, 30 minutes @ 40°, they had spread and risen modestly. Brushed egg yolk on the dough and added *corek* seed. Baked at 160°C fan oven for 20 minutes.

A savoury version includes a filling, either *feta* cheese with parsley or pitted olives. While the dough is rising, prepare your chosen filling, crumbled Turkish white cheese or Greek feta cheese and chopped parsley and mix well. After proving divide into 10 portions, each about a size of a small tangerine. Flatten into a round flat circle with your fingertips, about 10 cm in diameter. Place a spoonful of the filling mixture on one side of the dough, leaving a margin near the edges. Fold the circle to cover the filling to form a half-moon shape, seal the edge. Place the stuffed dough on a greased tray, give them a second proving and bake them.

### Phil Iddison

[Plot 308/309]

On behalf of Bushy  
Park Allotments  
Association

Please contact the Council via their website

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/allotments](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/allotments)  
**for any matters relating to your tenancy or the T&Cs. Please also  
report thefts, gate issues & water leaks directly to the Council,  
quoting your plot number if this is relevant to the issue.**

Contact me - [phil.iddison@arcadis.com](mailto:phil.iddison@arcadis.com) about the newsletter.