

**Roehampton Garden Society**  
Annual General Meeting  
**7.00 pm Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016**  
St Margaret's Church Hall

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Jackie Savage welcomed everyone to the meeting including our Vice-Presidents Sheila Konig, Derrick Ratcliffe and Life Member Pat Davis. She asked everyone to sign one of the "sign in" sheets that are being passed round, this is our only attendance record. She said that our President The Rt Hon Justine Greening is coming after a vote in the Commons and hopes to be with us by 8pm. There is to be no recording of these proceedings. Please turn off your mobile phones. Draft minutes will be available in the December Bulletin and a draft version will be posted on our website. She invited everyone to stay after the meeting for refreshments and to do a little Christmas shopping at the "Store" stall.

There were apologies for absence from: -

Vice President Paula Alderson and Local Councillor Ian Lewer.

Members: George Casley, Liz Chrominska, Rob Dark, Joanna Eskdake, Jenny Gorle, Lesley Harvey, Maggie Jones, Lindley Maitland, J. O'Reilly, Pam Partridge, David Savage, Stewart Tamsett and Ruth Tigue.

Present were: -

R. Aveling	Penny Baker	E. Barnwell
Ruth Barnwell	Pauline Benjamin	Ciaran Carr
P W Crawford	Pat Dark	Pat Davis
Helen Finch	Anthony Fitzsimmons	Vivien Fowler
Charles Gillbe	Shirley Gillbe	Estelle Hughes
Janis Humberstone	John Ireland	Eva Knedlova
Sheila Konig	Brenna Lattimore	Alison Linton
Robert Linton	David MacDonald	Susan MacDonald
Carol Martinez	Pip Melotte	Dorthe Nielson
Georgina O'Reilly	Raj Patel	Debra Radford
Derrick Ratcliffe	D. Renshaw	M. Renshaw
Brad Sanderson	Jackie Savage	Gill Tamsett
Jane Varnus	Janet Ward	H Whelan
Johanna Williams	Greg Willcox	(41) +

**2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

These were published in draft form in the December 2015 Bulletin and emailed to the membership last Saturday (19<sup>th</sup> Nov). They were agreed as a true record.

**3. Chair's report**

My thanks go to the terrific committee and those other volunteers who spend a lot of their own time managing our lovely allotments and creating the great community spirit that we have.

SECURITY – Bad news first!

We have had a few security problems this year particularly on site 3. Several complaints about loss of property in May and then in the summer there were complaints that fruit was stolen from plots. We investigated this and one committee member spoke to a stranger/trespasser but despite all efforts no culprits were found. I informed the police who told me to put up notices to say that thieves will be prosecuted etc but that was all....

Then at the Site Managers's meeting run by Enable (Wandsworth) last week which is where we meet and discuss all things allotment with the 8 other allotment sites in this borough, we were told that 2 other sites (King George's Park and Morden) – both large sites had experienced the same problem. Thefts of fruit. Reports (just like we had) of whole trees being stripped of their fruits in one go. Only fruit, not vegetables! Nothing on the ground, all apparently carefully planned. I am convinced the thieves are outsiders and the gates and fences do not deter them. The other week we found a fence panel which had been carefully removed to allow access straight through to Dover House Road. We lifted it back in!

I would like to hear any ideas about how these thefts might be stopped next year. The Meeting last week talked of scarecrows, CCTV cameras (real and fake) and large notices.

Despite my belief that if you are determined to break into one of our sites you can quite easily, I am concerned that there are still a number of gates that open onto the allotment sites where the resident is not a plot holder. 23 on site 3 and 2 on site 2. We are working out ways of blocking the gates off without damaging the residents' properties. I would appreciate any ideas about that.

Our new gate locks seem to have settled now – I hope I am not speaking too soon! We have taken out a maintenance contract for £358 per year and this includes 2 maintenance visits for each of the 4 locks and 2 call outs if needed. (A call out is £95). The maintenance visits are in November and May and we are giving it a year's trial.

In April we increased the deposit on a key from £10 to £20. This is because when plot holders leave they often don't bother to return the key. £10 isn't much these days apparently, but perhaps £20 will be!

### RENTS

In March we were able to send out most of the rental invoices by email (80% of our plot holders now have email addresses.) Most people paid by direct bank transfer. However we will still offer the option of payment by cheque or by cash in person at the store in April.

### SERVICES

We are fortunate to have regular deliveries of manure (thanks to Derrick Ratcliffe) and wood chippings on our sites. The grass on the main paths is mown regularly too and we purchased a strimmer (and 2 batteries each lasting about 20 mins) that can be borrowed by arrangement from the store to make it easier for you to maintain the paths next to your plots.

Rubbish collection: This has been offered to us again this year by Enable (WBC) and will take place week beginning 5 December. It is for allotment rubbish only and please bag it! Remember that at all other times you are responsible for the disposal of your own rubbish and don't just leave it so that one of the committee has to take it to the tip!

### STRUCTURES

The committee has worked hard this year on a Structures Policy that is practical and we can now accept a structure up to 2.3m (7.5') in height (instead of the old 1.9m/ 6'). This might not seem much, but it is hard to find a poly tunnel (for example) that is 1.9m high. Hope this makes things easier for you! But remember you must ask your site secretary for permission for any new structures (or trees!) before you buy!

### NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

We joined the National Allotment Society in May. We had been advised this might be a good move as they might help in us in our transition to a charity. Also they offer horticultural advice, various discounts and a magazine and emailed newsletter three times a year. The cost is £2.75 per member but as we have 400 members it would have been over £1000, so we negotiated a deal for 229 people who are actually plot holders, so it cost about £600. Let's see how it goes for a year.

### WEBSITE

We have a good website but it is about 10 years old and needs a update, particularly as we had to rescue it in the summer as the website hosts were threatening to close it. So a member stepped up and sorted that out for temporarily and now another member has agreed to design us a new one in the New Year – so watch the space! It is a great tool for us as it advertises what we do and is a good resource with dates for your diary, advice sheets as well as all the minutes of the committee meetings etc.

### EVENTS

The main events in our year are our 2 Shows in June and September. Once again organised by Carol Martinez and judged by George Scandrett and a local cookery writer, Helen Sabieri. Our high standards were confirmed again as Raj Patel (one of our main exhibitors) also exhibited at the main Royal Horticultural Shows achieving 2 Firsts in their Later Fruit and Vegetable Competition in the first weekend in November. When most of us have cleared our plots of crops Raj still keeps them coming!

We had 2 good Bonfires this year on 5<sup>th</sup> November and a well attended party with refreshments and fireworks on site 3. Thanks again to Sheila Konig and Bob Aveling. There were about 40 people on site 2 and 70 on site 3 so I hope everyone had a good time! This year we notified all the neighbours that had given us their emails and all went well with no calls to the Fire Brigade!

In March Paul Ellis-Howe came and gave a talk on what he looks for in a good allotment plot when he judges the Best Plot Competition. This event was held in the store and was very well attended. Even if we might not have agreed with everything he said, it was still food for thought.

In July some of the committee went on a visit to Kings Seeds near Colchester, organised by Pat Dark, who also arranged for a group of members to go to Wisley in the Summer.

Other events included a Friday Late event at the V&A in August where information about our Society was available. This will be repeated next year and we will circulate the details to you as you might like to go along. I believe there were horticultural talks and a seed swap. Is Avril Horsford here?

In June we welcomed some members of the Wandsworth Horticultural Society (mainly plot holders on other Wandsworth allotment sites) and they have invited us to see their sites next year. We also now receive their quarterly Newsletter and pass on any tips and dates to you through the Bulletin.

We received lots of leaflets and advice from the Hedgehog Preservation Society. We have distributed those and hope that we can encourage hedgehogs back to our allotments along with other wild life.

Between Christmas and New Year one of our plot holders will be pruning that large apple tree on site 3. When I have a date I will let you all know as he will need some help and will be offering advice on pruning and will come and have a look at any apple or pear trees for you. (Not stone fruit as that is pruned in the summer.).

If you would like to volunteer for something for just a few hours you would be so welcome! Please talk to a committee member soon about what you can offer.

And now I will hand over to Anthony Fitzsimmons who can update you on what we have been doing regarding renewal of our Lease and Becoming a Charity

## Update on becoming a Charity

Antony Fitzsimmons reported:-

This is a slow process and there are two parts to the process

Setting up the Charity

Persuading the Charity Commission to grant us Charity status.

### Lease

Wandsworth Borough Council (WBC) has to be persuaded to "let go" ie grant us a lease. This is fraught with difficulty as the 5 acres of allotment land is very valuable. Slow steady progress has been made and we are just about ready to agree the lease (draft number 8). We hope it will be for 50 years. Barnet took 8 years to acquire a 38 year lease, we are on year 3!

### Rent

Once the lease is in place WBC will start to discuss the annual rent and we hope it will be peppercorn!

### Constitution

This has been agreed by the Charities Commission and WBC have had a huge input.

We are very grateful to Justine Greening MP who has helped us move forward, and also to Councillor Ian Lewer.

### Questions from the floor

Q. It was asked if we were setting a precedent nationally.

A. We will be the first Charity with a lease. Other allotments have set up Federations but no Charities actually lease their allotment land from a Council, as far as we can find out. We decided against being a Community Interest Company this as councils are loathe to grant long leases to committees who will change.

Shirley Gillbe thanked Anthony Fitzsimmons, Jackie Savage and the committee for the huge amount of work they have done on this and there was applause from the floor.

**4. Treasurer's Report** Janis Humberstone thanked Liz Chrominska for all the support she had given her in her first year as treasurer and reported: -

- ☐ In anticipation of becoming a charity, the format of the accounts has been tweaked slightly, so that they are in a form which would be acceptable to the Charities Commission.
- ☐ A full balance sheet has been added. This sets out the assets of the Society and who is entitled to those assets, as although there may be money in the bank accounts, that is not all available for the Society to spend.
- ☐ Creditors are now recorded where services relating to one year have not been paid for before the end of that year.
- ☐ Debtors are also now recorded eg a refund of VAT is due to be repaid to the Society, together with an overpayment of water rates.
- ☐ A figure now appears on the balance sheet, which reflects the total amount currently being held for Key Deposits – these deposits are ultimately refundable to plot holders when they return their keys. We now have a separate key deposit account.
- ☐ Equipment being held at the end of last year showed a value of £900 – that has been written off as the equipment now has no value.
- ☐ Further equipment was purchased during the year and was depreciated by 50% so that the value of equipment shown on the balance sheet is now half what was paid for it, but is the estimate of its second hand value. That value will be further depreciated next year, so that the cost will have been written off over 2 years. Having said that we are hiring out the strimmer to plot holders, so that will contribute towards the cost of that particular item.
- ☐ Stock in hand at the end of the year has also been adjusted.
- ☐ There has been a decrease in the profits made by the Store during the year. This has been caused by lower sales during the year, together with an adjustment to the values of opening stock which also impacted on the profit for the year. Gill will be talking about this further.
- ☐ The profits from the shows this year also showed a slight decrease, although that may in some way have been the result of the weather which was not brilliant on the day of the September show.
- ☐ Having said all that, the Society has a healthy bank balance and its retained income account has increased overall by £560.

JH answered questions covering the large balance our accounts show and commented that we need a reserve for any unforeseen expenses such as repairs to the store or the water rate on site 3.

She also explained that our minimal amount of interest isn't due until 1<sup>st</sup> October and will show on next year's account.

## **5. Trading Secretary's Report**

She reported: -

The Store on Site 2 is run for the benefit of the Members and offers quality gardening products at competitive prices.

We also aim to run the Store in an ethical and environmentally responsible manner.

It is for this reason that we took the decision to discontinue to stock products containing glyphosate earlier this year after its licence came up for renewal by the EU. The World Health Organisation had advised that it was 'probably carcinogenic to humans'. Also, research has shown that it is harmful to bees. Several European countries have banned its use. Alternative products have been researched to sell in the Store but so far none have had good reviews. The search continues.

We have been able to keep the Store almost fully stocked in the course of this year. The new large shed on Site 3 means that we can now have a delivery of larger quantities of County Natural. However, Loach, our main supplier, changed their pricing structure earlier this year which means that we have to wait until we need to order goods to a value more than £300, otherwise prices increase significantly (by c 20%). Thus we have to wait until we have an order of this value or higher before we can reorder. This means that we may run out of products although we have been able to keep this to a minimum.

We have not reviewed our prices for some time and now feel it is time to do this especially following the changes that Loach made to their pricing policy. We have already had to increase the price of Enviromesh which now costs us more to buy. Our prices should be competitive but also realistic. This will be done in the next couple of months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who assist in the running of the Store. It is a group effort with Carol Martinez responsible for sourcing the garlic, onions and potatoes, and Liz Chrominska the seed packets. My thanks also to Greg Willcox who is a great help with the deliveries and is responsible for sourcing and erecting our new shed on Site 3. I would also like to thank the many members who volunteer in the Store each week, it couldn't run without them.

We have had less Members visiting the Store this year and, as a consequence, sales have been lower this year than in previous years. Country Natural and the garlic, onions and potatoes continue to sell well, but other sales are down.

We would like to hear your ideas as to why this may be or what changes we could make. For instance, should the Store open an hour later on Sunday's, for instance, between 11am and 1 pm? (there always seems to be a rush at 11.55am!) Are we stocking the right products? Is there anything we are not stocking that we should?

**Q.** Can we open The Store to other people?

**A.** It is for members, but membership is £3 and maybe we should advertise to residents through DHRA and have a stall at their annual tabletop sale which takes place in June.

**Q.** Should we put out a sandwich board on the pavement to advertise the Store on Sunday mornings

**A.** This would have security issues. The Neighbourhood Police have commented that we are vulnerable and our "invisibility" is our strength.

**Q.** Should we open later?

**A.** After discussion it was agreed that opening later at 10.30 – 12.30 would be considered by the Committee in the New Year. **Action: Store committee**

**Q.** Can we sell our excess produce.

**A.** No, it is not allowed by WBC (Enable). Members are encouraged to bring any excess crops to the store where they can be exchanged for a donation to the RGS.

**6. Show Chair's Report** Carol Martinez reported: -

Every show is different, depending on the weather on the day and what it has been up to in the preceding weeks.

The June show followed a cold wet spring and apart from rhubarb all the exhibits were on the small side. We were lucky to see a few miniature courgettes when normally we would have a table collapsing under their weight. Strawberries were sparse as well.

The September show was the bean show, with new and unusual varieties amongst the standard runners and French. The dahlias were stunning but the roses were a wash out and it was a real shame that the oversized vegetables exhibits were non-existent as they are always a talking point.

George Scandrett did a great job of judging again - his eye for detail is very sharp. Thanks George.

Over the last couple of years the show committee has added some new items to spark up the cookery section. The cake made from a given recipe shows how many interpretations there can be from the same ingredients. The autumn cake made from a seasonal vegetable was popular and we saw beetroot, pumpkin and courgette transformed into something delicious to have with tea.

Our thanks to Helen Sabieri, local cookery writer for her advice and for judging the shows.

Thankfully we see at least one new novice in every show – long may this continue. Some people have told me that the rules and guidelines look daunting and scary and they feel wary of entering. But we want those people to know that we are not scary and we are very happy to help new and experienced growers show their produce at its best, we do have to have some rules though. We need new people to keep the competition keen and to make sure the winning cups are spread out amongst a wider group of growers.

The children's section always raises a smile and it wouldn't be the same show without this category but we are welcome to new ideas. What would your children like to make and show?

Our thanks to David Renshaw for his very professional conducting of the auctions at the end of the shows. These have become very popular and keep visitors at the show a bit longer; the only danger is the possibility of running out of cakes.

Thanks also to all the volunteers who give their time to help with setting up the stalls, pouring the tea and washing up the cups, for making cakes and donating to the tombola.

Thanks also to all the exhibitors for making the shows the enjoyable spectacle they always are.

## **7. Allotment Secretary's Reports**

**Site 2** Georgina O'Reilly reported: -

### **Lettings.**

In the period November 2015 to November 2016 there have been 9 new plot lettings. Two of these plots were created from larger plots where the plot holder had requested to downsize their plot. Four of these plots became available following plot inspection letters regarding lack of cultivation. There have been no plot lettings to current plot holders waiting for more land. There are now a total of 87 plots on site 2.

### **Site management**

In the spring site security was breached when the householder removed the fence to the rear of Plot 30A. Following our complaint a replacement fence was soon erected.

### **Thefts**

There have been no serious break-ins to the site this year although a few items have been reported missing.

### **Irrigation systems**

Following the request to install irrigation systems from plot holders last year, three plot holders were invited to participate in a trial. Only one was able to undertake this and he will be reporting back with his findings at the next committee meeting and we shall report back to members via The Bulletin next year.

### **Plot inspections**

Plot inspections this year have revealed a consistently good level of cultivation overall. Where problems arise we proceed along the Wandsworth guidelines to alert plot holders of our concerns and agree a timetable for improvement.

Paths between plots were noticeably overgrown during early summer so a strimmer was purchased for plot holders to borrow for £2.00 a session. Subsequently a second battery was purchased to allow for a longer strimming time.

I would like to thank the two plot holders who have responded to concerns about invasive bamboo by removing it. This is an opportunity to remind plot holders that plants such as this are not suitable on an allotment and to consult their tenancy agreements or site secretaries before planting shrubs or trees.

### **Thanks**

Finally, I'd like to extend thanks to the many plot-holders who give of their time freely in many ways. Thanks to Pip Mellotte who maintains the toilet to an impeccable standard and thanks to Alan Smart for managing the bonfire again. I would also like to thank the many plot-holders who communicate with me on issues as they arise so that the site can be managed as effectively as possible and continues to be a welcoming place to come. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

**Site 3** Helen Finch reported: -

This has been my third year as site secretary. It is a role I have continued to enjoy and feel more and more part of the growing allotment community that is Site 3.

### **Lettings:**

4 plots have been split generating 4 more plots so we now have 163 plots altogether on site 3. Over the year since the last AGM there have been a total of 22 lettings (14% of 163 plots), 19 to new tenants and 3 to existing plot holders. 8 of these plots became available after the incumbent tenant had been encouraged to give up their plot due to poor cultivation.

### **Security on Site 3:**

One of the problems on site 3 is that there are 32 gates from gardens which border the site which give access to the allotments. Two thirds of these (21) are where the residents are not plot holders.

### **Improvements and repairs:**

Both gates have been painted on the outside. The shed housing a store of Country Natural has been replaced as the other one was demolished in a storm last winter.

We had a very significant flood at the water tap near plot 92B. Thames water had to be called in to deal with it as this particular tap has its supply common to several neighbouring houses in Huntingfield Road. This fact was not previously known so it took a while to track down the water supply. In order to fix the leak the water had to be turned off which meant the householders had to be given several days' official warning by Thames Water. The plots east of the tap were irrigated for about 2 weeks in all before the leak was finally fixed.

### **Plot inspections**

These took place in November, March and July. I have needed to contact an average of 16 plot holders (about 10%) as their plots needed some attention. During May and June there were a number of plots that were getting horribly out of control so interim, targeted inspections were done and 8 plot holders were contacted and 3 gave up their plots as a result.

### **Thanks:**

There are a lot of plot holders who generously give their time and talents to help site 3 work. Without a spirit of volunteering site 3 would be a very sorry place so many thanks to all of you who have helped with repairs, keeping the toilet clean, generally keeping the common areas tidy, putting up sheds, giving advice and encouragement to new plot holders, helping others who might not be well. Also thanks to those for doing bits of plumbing, those who turn water on and off and those who run the bonfire party.

### **Waiting list:**

There are currently 225 people on the waiting list (10 more than a year ago), of whom 29 are existing plot holders (2 more than last year). Those at the top put their names down in April 2014 so it is still taking about 2 ½ years for new potential tenants to get a plot. There have been 65 names added to the list since the last AGM, (101 at the same time last year) of which 9 are existing plot holders (7 last year). The fewer potential new plot-holders may be a reflection of a reducing popularity of having an allotment or people not knowing about us or feeling it is an impossible aspiration to have a plot in London or a changing demographic in the area or people retiring later. Other ideas are welcomed as perhaps we should think about addressing some of these possible reasons.

### **8. Site Manager's Report** Shirley Gillbe who is our ex-officio liaison with Enable reported: -

It has been Enables first full year, we have had more meetings facilitating better communications between us. We are grateful for their co-operation.

There have been thefts on our sites and Enable report that other sites in the Borough have had a similar problem and it has been suggested that it might be a co-ordinated effort by the thieves.

The "Best Plot Competition" is being modified and they are considering replacing it with a "Better Plots" event which will be more inclusive. There will also be an "Allotment Challenge" event in January. Details to be circulated and posted on the website.

### **9. Bulletin Editor's Report** Pat Dark reported:-

The in-house printing service at WBC 'Quickprint', ceased to function this year. WBC put printing services out to tender but administer the system, this is still the cheapest option for RGS but inevitably, costs have risen. The timescale has changed and it is now delivered to my door!

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Ten Bulletins have been published since the 2015 AGM.

The December 2015 Bulletin reported on the AGM. The cover photograph showed six members of the committee and listed the committee elected. Each committee report started with a photo so plot-holders and members can recognise committee members and be aware of their responsibilities. The Show Awards were celebrated with photos of prizewinners being presented with their cups.

Nine Bulletins have been published during 2016. There are no Bulletins in January or August. In each Bulletin the Chair reports on key issues affecting the sites, such as advance warning of rents; plot inspections; security etc., and the Trading Secretary reports on stock at the store, new lines, and gives advice on what to grow at different times of the year.

June and July Bulletins advertise and report on the Summer Show and the September and October Bulletin on the Autumn Show. The July and October Bulletins take the opportunity to celebrate the entries that make the Shows such

popular events in our calendar with photos of the flowers, fruit and vegetables, the cake and tombola stalls and lists of first prize winners.

Each Bulletin features seasonal photos, usually taken on the allotments.

The monthly Bulletin welcomes new plot-holders and members; features a seasonal recipe; advertises events such as Bonfire Night or the annual visit to Wisley, items for sale and new services.

This year Sally Baker, a Barnes Brownie wrote about working for her gardening badge, which seemed like quite a tough badge to gain. There have been features on the Kew Annual Orchid Festival that takes place in February; the presentation by Paul Ellis-Howe, the judge of the Wandsworth best plot competition, on what he expects to find on a good plot; the proposal to make London a national park; and visits to the Kings Cross Skip Garden, Kings Seeds and the new Hive sculpture at Kew.

Gardening advice is also given, for example, how to plant your dahlias; being water wise and bees and allotments.

The Notices section at the end goes from strength to strength.

I want to thank all those people who contribute to the Bulletin. I am always very grateful to receive photos, recipes, articles, letters etc. so please keep them coming. My contact details are at the end of every Bulletin.

## **10. Election of the Committee 2015-2016**

There were 2 resignations from the committee this year Steve Clarke and Sheila Konig and I would like to thank them all for all their hard work.

I have the following nominations for the Committee, they have all been proposed and I am inviting seconders from the floor.

### **Committee nominations for 2015/2016:**

Jackie Savage – Chair & Website Editor  
Carol Martinez – Vice Chair / Chair of Show  
Janis Humberstone - Treasurer  
Alison Linton – Minutes' / Membership Sec.  
Georgina O'Reilly – Site 2 Allotment Sec.  
Helen Finch – Site 3 Allotment Sec.  
Pat Dark – Bulletin Editor  
Gill Tamsett – Trading Secretary  
Liz Chrominska – Store  
Greg Wilcox – Store  
Mariangela Renshaw – Shows  
Mike Cooper – Security  
Brad Sanderson  
Shirley Gillbe – Site Manager for Enable (WBC) (non-voting position)

### **Proposed**

Shirley Gillbe  
Jackie Savage  
Sheila Konig  
Pat Dark  
Helen Finch  
Janis Humberstone  
Alison Linton  
Carol Martinez  
Greg Willcox  
Gill Tamsett  
Carol Martinez  
Jackie Savage  
Georgina O'Reilly

### **Seconded**

A. Fitzsimmons  
David Renshaw  
Elaine Barnwell  
Sheila Konig  
Charles Gillbe  
Shirley Gillbe  
Estelle Hughes  
David McDonald  
Penny Baker  
Vivian Fowler  
Pip Melotte  
Derrick Ratcliffe  
Vivien Fowler

**President:** The Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP

**Vice Presidents:** Judith Glaysher, Derrick Ratcliffe, Alan Rake, Paula Anderson, Sheila Konig, and George Scandrett

**Life Members:** Pat Burke, Pat Davis, John Horrocks, Janet Long, and David Rossiter

## **11. AOB**

i. Shirley Gillbe thanked **Sheila Konig** for her huge contribution to the RGS. She has been a committee member for more years than we can remember and now feels that she must stand down, we will all miss her enormously. She was a member when allotments were unpopular and as Membership Secretary would telephone plot holders to cheer them along! She has been instrumental in making the Bonfire Party on Site 3 a wonderful occasion enjoyed by everyone attending (60+ this year). We hope she will continue to help and we are very grateful for all she has contributed. Thank you Sheila.

The Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP presented the prizes.

The meeting closed at 8.20. Refreshments (co-ordinated by Pat Davis and Ali Linton) were served.