

Roehampton Garden Society
Annual General Meeting
6.45pm Wednesday 18th November 2015
St Margaret's Church Hall

Before the meeting began Jackie Savage introduced Callum Lodge aged 2 and Ian Lewer presented him with his cup for winning the most points at both the Summer and Autumn show.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Jackie Savage welcomed everyone to the meeting including our Vice-Presidents Sheila Konig, Derrick Ratcliffe, Life Member Pat Davis and Ian Lewer one of our local West Putney Councillors who will present the cups. She asked everyone to sign one of the white "sign in" sheets that are being passed round, this is our only attendance record. 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. Everyone is invited to stay after the meeting for refreshments and to do a little Christmas shopping at the "Store" stall.

There were apologies for absence from: -

Our President Justine Greening MP, Vice President Paula Alderson, Members Jane Barnes, Patrick and Jean Crawford, Rob Dark, Elizabeth and Ian Duncan, Lesley Harvey, Estelle Hughes, Bruce May, Ann Rossiter and David Savage.

Present were: -

Penny Baker	Pauline Benjamin	Ciaran Carr
George Casley	Liz Chrominska	Steve Clarke
Pat Dark	Laura Davis	Pat Davis
Helen Finch	Anthony Fitzsimmons	Vivien Fowler
Charles Gillbe	Shirley Gillbe	Jenny Gorle
Joanne Hayes	Janis Humberstone	John Ireland
Sheila Konig	Brenna Lattimore	Alison Linton
Robert Linton	Neil Mason	David MacDonald
Susan MacDonald	Carol Martinez	Catherine Maunsell-Bower
Pip Melotte	Chandy Nath	Dorthe Nielson
Georgina O'Reilly	John O'Reilly	Pam Partridge
Raj Patel	Sarah Purcell	Derrick Ratcliffe
Gary Rose	Jackie Savage	Carol Sewell
Gill Tamsett	Stewart Tamsett	Janet Ward
Greg Willcox		(43) +

2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM – 27th November 2013

These were published in draft form in the December 2014 Bulletin and emailed to the membership last Saturday (14th Nov). They were agreed as a true record.

3. Chair's report and update on becoming a Charity

I am going to leave most of the reporting to those committee members who actually do the work. We have such a conscientious and hardworking committee and you will hear from most of them later.

The RGS committee is made up of a group of people who spend a lot of time and effort on our behalf both on allotment matters, finances, the store and the shows as well as communication through the bulletin and the website.

Our Treasurer, Liz Chominska, who has worked so hard for us these last 3 years is now standing down from the Treasurer's position, but thankfully not from the committee, and so is our Membership Secretary, Melanie Tham, who set up our database and dragged us into the modern era! Thank you so much both of you for all your time and effort. Janis Humberstone has agreed to join the committee as Treasurer and Ali Linton will take over the membership database as well as her duties as Minutes Secretary.

The allotment sites are really run by Helen, Georgina and Shirley. Helen on site 3 and Georgina on Site 2 with Shirley liaising with the Council. Most of their work is inspecting and letting plots but they also have to work with our neighbours too – as we are overlooked on all sides on both sites this includes a lot of households! Their negotiating skills are wonderful to see! They also keep our sites secure and in good maintenance and repair.

Matters of cultivation are of course very important but they also sort out complaints, and anti-social behaviour and work with all of us to make our allotments a pleasant and friendly place to be.

Last year we worked on the Plot Letting Policy and this has worked very well. This year we turned our attention to clarifying our Structures Policy. This has been available since July and is on our website and on request (I have some copies here), quite simply you need written permission from your site secretary if you want to put up a structure that is more than 1.25 metres high and you must keep at least 60% of your land as open growing space. The main message here is PLEASE ASK FIRST before you go and buy something or start to build! Whether a greenhouse, a shed or a polytunnel please just check first!

We now have definitive scale maps of our sites and plots thanks mainly to Robert Linton's work this year! He has also photographed all the structures as they are currently and they are now linked to the plot number on our database. These accurate maps and records are a boon to us all.

In fact it was the photos of the sheds that inspired the committee to ask Robert to photograph the most interesting for our 2016 Calendar – copies on sale here. £4 on the store table.

The 2 wonderful Shows were run once again by Carol Martinez (who is also our Vice Chair). Carol's attention to detail and determination to make the shows as accessible as they can be to all our members reaps the result that we had record numbers of exhibits. Many thanks too to her sub committee team and the Judges, our own George Scandrett and the local cookery writer, Helen Sabieri. We have always known that the standards in our shows are extremely high but it has been proved conclusively this year as one of our keenest exhibitors, Raj Patel, has also exhibited at the main Royal Horticultural Shows in Vincent Square and won many prizes, beating fierce country wide competition. (Congratulations Raj) Raj is inspirational and willing to give advice and support if you have any questions. You can find him often in the store or on his plot (one of the best (if not the best) in Wandsworth as you can imagine). Of course another highlight of our Shows are the Teas, which are so well organised by Pat Davis – who is here tonight to make these refreshments special too.

Thanks to Gill Tamsett who stepped in when Barbara McCall moved away, the Store goes from strength to strength. The turnover has almost doubled in the last 2 years! This is of course buoyed by the inclusion of Kings Seeds which Liz manages and keeps up to date so we can all dream over them! Of course the higher the turnover the more stock is required. We really do need more helpers for the deliveries!

As the political climate changes regarding the administration of local government, we have also been talking to a few other allotment societies – mainly to exchange ideas on self management and becoming a Charity. We have spoken to Chiswick, Barnes and Richmond, Fulham Palace and Bedford (for example) and to the National Association regarding Health and Safety issues, Water conservation and how to settle disputes.

In April we trialed a new rent payment system, issuing everyone an invoice. We will be refining this next April and will be asking most tenants to pay – if they can – by direct bank transfer. Of course the option will still be there to pay by cheque or cash.

Most recently we have had a very successful, supervised, Bonfire Party on Site 3 on Sunday 1st Nov, thanks to Sheila Konig and Bob Aveling, but unfortunately the fire brigade was called to both sites on Nov 5th, so we have to have serious discussions about what we will allow in 2016. Non allotment items which were found on the the site 2 bonfire included light bulbs and painted wood – potentially very dangerous and also spoiling the quality of the potash.

Rubbish collection: This has been offered to us again this year by WBC and will take place next week. This is for allotment rubbish only. I was told the other day that some members drove household rubbish to the allotments to put on the bonfire and that household rubbish has already been found in the rubbish collection. We have no idea why! The tip is free and close by!

Every month we all enjoy our wonderful Bulletin which is emailed to all our members and printed copies are made available on both sites. This is an ongoing effort that Pat has continued this year despite all the disruptions she has experienced during renovation of her house. Pat has also organised the visits this year to Wisley and the Wandsworth re-cycling facility.

A final thank you to all of you and especially those who volunteer in so many ways. What would we do without the helpers and cake makers at the shows, the staff at the store, those who help with deliveries and clean the toilets – to name just a few! I could go on and on!

If you could volunteer for something for just a few hours you would be so welcome! There are Questionnaires around for you to fill in, there are some over on the store table (with the calendars) – or just speak to one of us after the meeting or please email us root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk

Charles Gillbe asked what the nature of the problem had been to necessitate calling the Fire Brigade. JS replied that she hadn't been present on either occasion but understood that the fires had been large, in the middle of both sites and well supervised. The Brigade had been called in each case by a resident backing onto the sites. It was suggested that next year the adjacent residents might be informed of the dates of the fires. Firemen had to climb over the gates on site 3 and maybe one should consider leaving the gates open when bonfires are taking place although this would present a security risk.

Update on becoming a Charity

At the AGM last year all of us (with one abstention) agreed that we could start the application process to become a Charity, with the proviso we would come back to you before any final steps were taken.

The Council and their officers (Enable) have encouraged us to try and become a Charity so we may be able to obtain a long and substantial lease on the allotment land.

This March we submitted an application to the Charities Commission which was turned down in April as “not detailed enough”, but we were invited to re-submit. We took paid advice from Russell Cook Solicitors (£600) who had already been very generous with their pro bono advice and re-submitted at end of May.

We answered questions in June and then it all went silent. I chased the Commission on a couple of occasions then in Sept we had more questions to answer.

We answered them but also decided to ask our President, Justine Greening MP to see if she could find out why we were experiencing such long delays.

Following her enquiry as to progress (for which many thanks!) we have now been told by the Charities Commission that we can become a Charity but that any lease must satisfy their strict guidelines concerning charities being independent of state bodies (in our case Wandsworth Council).

The Council officers who are now in the staff mutual, Enable, Paul McCue and Jerry Birtles, have been helpful but have told us that they too have a wish list for such a lease. Some might give us problems on this independence issue. Jerry and Paul have passed our request on to the Borough Valuer (Peter Tiernan) who has asked us for a copy of our proposed Constitution and explained that if we want to be "entirely independent" of the Council this will present a number of issues that need to be addressed.

We are working on this and that is where we are now.

Charles Gillbe asked if there would be a "commercial" level of rent. JS replied that this was one of the matters currently under discussion. In Bedford (where they have many vacant plots) the rent is £1!

4. Treasurer's Report Liz Chrominska reported: -

Yet again, as at the last AGM, I can report that the Society's finances are in a healthy state. This year's financial report to the AGM summarises income and expenditure over the last three years (over the periods 1 October to 30 September) in the 3 main areas of activity: the Store, the Shows and managing the allotment sites.

The Store has made a profit of just over £2k, considerably up on last year. This is partly because we have been buying seeds from Kings as we have run out of a particular line, whereas in the previous year we spent £1,300 on seeds in order to offer them for sale in the Store.

The Shows also made a net profit of just over £1000, just £5 down on last year.

The RGS collects rents and manages the allotment sites, for which we get 20% of the total for rents collected. The money is used for repairs and maintenance, and includes security (locks and keys). This year we decided to invest in a new system of locks and this amount (nearly £2k) is shown under equipment purchase as it is unusual expenditure rather than day to day maintenance, such as replacing padlocks. Allotment expenditure is still high because we spent £1k on pruning and cutting down trees overhanging and shading Site 2, £600 on legal expenses in relation to becoming a charity and £400 on decorating the toilets on both sites.

To summarise, we have more money than last year in our bank accounts, in cash and in the form of assets: £27,604.97 compared with £26,403.55.

5. Trading Secretary's Report Gill Tamsett reported: -

I took over the role of Trading Secretary from Barbara McCall in May of this year when Barbara and her family moved away from the area. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara, and her husband David, for all that they did to put the Store on such a strong footing following its refurbishment last year. Barbara's dedication in organising the Store and sourcing new products, particularly those containing seaweed, (Barbara's favourite) have ensured that our crops do the best they can.

Just to remind you, the aims of the Store are as follows: to be run for the benefit of its Members, to share knowledge of gardening, to act as a community hub and to provide good quality gardening products at competitive prices. We also want to run it in an ethical and environmentally responsible manner.

This is very much a team effort. Liz manages the stocks of Kings Seeds, Carol orders all the perishable goods, eg the loose potatoes, onions, shallots and garlic. Raj always seems to be at the Store just when we have been asked a particularly taxing question regarding how to grow things to maximise their success. There are also all our volunteers who help at the Store every Sunday morning who not only sell the goods, but also produce some wonderful cakes that are very much appreciated by our members. Many come to the Store just for the cakes!

My role is to ensure that the Store is well stocked and to source new products that may be of interest to our members. I am supported by Jackie in this. I also keep the tea and coffee station is clean, tidy and fully stocked.

Regarding our products, Country Natural continues to be very popular throughout the year. We sell about 650 bags of this per year. The seaweed products and protective nettings sell well. We have recently introduced a new netting which is blue, recommended to us for brassicas.

We have also introduced a 'Swap Shop' where members can bring their produce and swap it for something else or members give a contribution to the running of the Store. This has worked really well, particularly during the apple season. This supports our aim to be a community hub.

We have 2 deliveries per month to the Store during the growing season and I cannot thank my helpers enough for their support with these. Greg Wilcox, Artan Deliallisi, Eugene Power and Jean Bolon have all helped me and Barbara over the past year. But we need more helpers. I would love to hear from those of you who can be free for a couple of hours in the morning with about a week's notice who can hump large bags of compost to the Store from the pallets that are delivered to the entrance to Site 2. If you think you can help, please come and see me at the end of this meeting, or contact me via the Society.

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

We had two great shows again this year and with the changes the show committee have introduced over the last couple of years we have helped to keep the categories fresh and interesting.

In both shows, along with our cookery judge, we updated some of the entries to include more 'modern' ingredients and tastes – these have been largely successful and the new categories will stay in place for the time being.

For the flower entries we invested in some new vases in the spring to replace the tired old metal ones and introduced a few different ideas – the main one being the autumnal display using orange and yellow flowers.

In the vegetables section the growing chilli plant was a big success – every one entered a different variety and colour. The longest, biggest and heaviest items were again popular in the autumn show and made for some interesting specimens of runner beans, marrows and pumpkins.

Once again we had some very promising entries in our novice section – this gives newcomers and those who haven't had the confidence to enter the show before - a chance to show off what they can do without the intimidation of laying out their entries alongside those of the old hands.

It is always nice to see children getting involved – they often go along with their parents or grandparents to their plots and help them (yes, I said help them) with the digging and involving them in the show is a way for children to understand the process of planting, growing, showing off and then eating a tasty vegetable. Making a picture or a funny animal and getting a prize for it is must be a fun thing to do as well.

The auction continues to be well received and Jackie makes a great auctioneer. The sale at the end of the shows of donated exhibits – items of cookery, bunches of flowers, fruits, vegetables and sometimes whole displays means our visitors especially get to share the wonderful smells and tastes of fresh produce.

The produce stall, tombolas and raffles are extra attractions at the shows but the main thing that pulls in the punters is the refreshment stall serving an array of delicious home made cakes. But we could not put on the shows without the volunteers – everyone who helps makes a difference be it making a cake, planting up some seedlings, washing up the cups or manning a stall – so my sincere thanks to everyone who donates their time towards making the shows a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

7. Allotment Secretary's Report Site 2 Georgina O'Reilly reported: -

Lettings.

There have been 10 new plot lettings from November 2014 to November 2015. Three of the larger plots, that is those of 4 rods and over, have been let to existing plot holders who had come to the top of the list for a large plots. 2 larger plots have been split bringing the total number of plots on site 2 to 85.

Site management

Trees

Following a request from a plot-holder at the last AGM regarding tall trees casting excessive shade on the south boundary of the site, we gained permission from Wandsworth Borough Council and agreement from the owners to reduce the height of 3 mature trees and to remove several self seeded saplings. Two holly trees to the rear of plot 34A were pruned and shaped at the same time.

Boundary fence

In response to a request from the owner of the property to the rear of plot 30A, we collaborated to reduce the height of the leylandii trees and establish a clear boundary line. The new owner will install a proper fence.

Security

Overnight, on May 15 thieves entered the site and forced entry into 15 sheds. Four electric trimmers were stolen and 2 garden forks. The police were alerted early the next morning, a crime number given, but none of the stolen goods have been recovered. Further incidents of opportunistic thieving have occurred and unsecured tools have been taken. This is always regrettable and plot holders are reminded to lock away tools at all times.

Community links

In July we collaborated with Dover House Estates Resident's Association's (DHERA) Bring and Buy sale on the Pleasance Green by lending our fold up tables and allowing use of our toilet for the occasion.

Irrigation systems

In response to an enquiry from a plot-holder about installing an irrigation system and taking into account two such systems already in place, members of the committee (Jackie Savage, Helen Finch, Shirley Gillbe and me) have looked into the feasibility of such systems on the plots. While welcoming that these systems can reduce water waste, the team has had to consider the impact on the RGS water bills should they be mismanaged as well as the impact on other plot holders should their use become widespread. We are also bound to work within the restraints of the WBC Letting Agreement. The findings of their investigation will be taken to Committee on December 6th after which it is hoped that a clear procedure and policy can be agreed.

Plot inspections

The 4-monthly plot inspection timetable is now well established along with our designated team. The main issues for the team are reasonable levels of cultivation, weed control and path maintenance. On average there were 4 letters sent after each plot inspection. Three of these were second or third letters and nudged these plot holders into recognising they did not have time to manage an allotment. In the main plot holders who receive letters respond positively. We try to take into account the very different circumstances of our members and ask them to discuss with us any difficulties they are experiencing so this can be considered at inspection times.

Thanks Finally, I'd like to extend thanks to the many plot-holders who give of their time freely in many ways, Eugene Power for helping with the store deliveries, to Alan Smart, the sign-writer and bonfire manager, to Pip Mellotte who maintains the toilet to an impeccable standard and Jenny Cobb who has made curtains for the toilets. Derrick Ratcliffe continues to supervise the manure deliveries his help is invaluable. Also to those plot-holders who communicate with me on many issues as they arise so that the site can be managed as effectively as possible for us all. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

8. Allotment Secretary's Report Site 3 Helen Finch reported: -

This has been my second year as site secretary. It is a role I have continued to enjoy as I get to know all the new plot holders and am gradually getting acquainted with existing plot holders.

Lettings: Some more plots have been split generating 3 more plots so we now have 158 plots altogether on site 3. Over the year since the last AGM there have been a total of 19 lettings (12%), 16 to new tenants and 3 to existing plot holders.

Thefts: Nothing major but complaint from neighbouring householder about the theft of a bike from his back garden which they thought could only have been taken via site 3. They were having work done on their house and had no barrier between the garden where the bike was stored and the allotments.

Improvements: Artan painted the outside of the main gate and he painted the Toilet hut. Chris De Courcey cleared a bramble plant behind the toilet hut that was damaging the fence and did a holding job of repairing the fence.

Plot inspections taken place in November, March and July. I have needed to contact an average of 13 plot holders (about 8%) as their plots needed some attention. Four plots have been given up resulting from nudging letters over this last year. We do have some plots where the plot holders visit far too infrequently to cultivate so we are taking a firmer line as those who do not cultivate their plots are in breach of their tenancy agreement and therefore liable to lose their plot. The vast majority cultivate in an amazing array of different ways and are obviously getting a lot out of having a plot.

Paddock Secondary School. A plot has been let to this school for students with very significant learning disabilities. The school has a science teacher who is a keen allotmenteer and so asked for the school to be added to the waiting list as she felt the students would get a lot out of looking after an allotment. We negotiated a special tenancy agreement specifying supervision of students and how the plot would be managed during holidays, particularly the long summer holiday. They have been rather slow to start but seem to be enjoying using the land.

Thanks: Many thanks to all those who help to keep the allotment site going by willingly giving some time and doing that bit extra. There is always something that needs to be done and the generous spirit in which things get done is very heart-warming but is also essential to keep the organisation ticking over. So thank you to all the contributors – they are much appreciated.

Waiting list

It is growing. There are 215 people on the waiting list of whom 26 are existing plot holders. Those at the top put their names down in July 2013 so it is taking about 2 ½ years for new potential tenants to get a plot at the moment but since the waiting list is growing it is likely to take longer in future. There are 35 more on the list compared with this time last year. There have been 101 names added to the list since the last AGM, of which 7 are existing plot holders.

I have been contacting those near the top of the waiting list and give an indication of time commitment that a plot requires. An offer of going on to the Secondary waiting list is an option if the prospective plot holder is not in a position to take on a plot in the near future. Some people have taken up this offer. Allotments seem to be gaining popularity as the lengthening waiting list is likely to indicate.

John Ireland asked about the difference between the primary and secondary waiting list. HF explained that sometimes people come to the top of the primary list when other commitment prevent them for taking a plot. They can then move to the secondary list and ask for their plot when the time is right for them.

9. Site Manager's Report Shirley Gillbe who is our ex-officio liaison with WBC reported: -

The most significant development of the year is that WBC Leisure and cultural facilities are now run by a Public Service Mutual called Enable Leisure and Culture. This will be the case for the next four years, after which Enable will have to compete for future contracts. This had been planned for some time and went live on 1 October 2015. Enable's aim, and that of WBC, is business as usual, with the same staff as now. More information can be found on the WBC website.

WBC's Best Plot Competition was run across all 10 sites again this year. The judge, Paul Ellis-Howe, was enthusiastic to share his great skill and expertise on all things allotment and plot holders (only 15% of plots on each site were eligible this year) entered were pleased to receive feedback from him. Sadly, the winner was not from our community but Paul has agreed to join the RGS in early 2016 to talk about allotmenting.

WBC/Enable views any encroachment by local residents on to allotment land very seriously. At present one 'serial offender' who has built a boundary fence that extends onto the 'no mans land strip' between each plot and adjacent housing is being managed the Head of Parks, Jerry Birtles. If you fear that encroachment has occurred, please let your site manager know asap.

Finally, Miss Nina Naylor, a gatekeeper for the Pleasance gate on Site 2 for many years and a great friend to the allotments died last month. She came to live on the Doverhouse Estate when she was a small child (aged 4) and worked the plot that my husband and I now manage during the war. She carried on growing vegetables in her garden up to her death. Another link with the history of the Allotments has been lost with her.

10. Bulletin Editor's Report Pat Dark reported:-

Everyone has the opportunity to access the RGS Bulletin, which is produced 10 months of the year, with a break in January and August. The majority of members now access the Bulletin electronically but paper copies are still available from both sites and the Store. Wandsworth Council's 'Quickprint' efficiently produce an excellent paper copy for us.

The biggest issues come prior to the summer and autumn shows when the show schedule and entry forms are attached and after the shows when photos of the produce entered and details of the winners are included.

Each month Jackie, our Chairperson, writes a short topical report about current issues, such as, the gates and rubbish collection. Gill Tamsett, the Store Manager also keeps us updated on new stock or seasonal purchases, e.g. seed potatoes, garlic and onions. During the year a feature was done on the Store showing how deliveries are managed, thanks to the loyal band of volunteers.

There is also warning of special events such as plot inspections, visits and seasonal advice from the experts, such as, dealing with potato blight or shutting down the allotment for the winter.

A recipe using produce that is growing that month is included. Many of these are recipes I have used over the years, one example, was my mum's 'Apple Cake'. I am always delighted when other members send me favourite recipes to include.

Increasingly, members are sending me photos, such as the one in last month's Bulletin of Carol and her friend dressing onions for the Show. We include sad news, such as an obituary of a deceased member and happy news, such as, Raj winning prizes at the RHS Autumn Show and at Wisley.

I have developed a section called 'something, I am proud of'. I came somewhat unstuck with this, when I put in a photo of my glorious 'Solomon's Seal, only to have to include the following month a photo of the grey furry caterpillars stripping it bare!

There is a developing 'Notices' section at the end of the Bulletin, providing contact information and local services that are available to you, such as an excellent shear sharpening service in Merton Road.

Please remember that it is your Bulletin, so feedback, letters, photos and recipes, etc are very welcome. My contact details and deadline for copy are at the back of each Bulletin.

11. Election of the Committee 2015-2016

There were 3 resignations from the committee this year and I would like to thank them all for all their hard work. Barbara McCall who was our Trading Sec has now moved out of the area, Bill Young has taken up a post at Oxford University and Melanie Tham who is now studying again as well as working.

I have the following nominations for the Committee, they have all been proposed and seconded: (they are listed on reverse of the AGENDA (PINK). I hope you don't mind me doing it this way! They are all unopposed, so unless there are any objections I would like to introduce the committee:

<u>Committee nominations for 2015/2016:</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Jackie Savage – Chair & Website Editor	Carol Martinez	Robert Linton
Carol Martinez – Vice Chair / Chair of Show	Jackie Savage	Georgina O'Reilly
Janis Humberstone - Treasurer	Liz Chrominska	Sheila Konig
Alison Linton – Minutes' / Membership Sec.	Pat Dark	Carol Martinez
Georgina O'Reilly – Site 2 Allotment Sec.	Liz Chrominska	Gill Tamsett
Helen Finch – Site 3 Allotment Sec.	Robert Linton	Pat Dark
Pat Dark – Bulletin Editor	Helen Finch	Liz Chrominska
Mike Cooper – Security	Alison Linton	Steve Clarke

Gill Tamsett – Trading Secretary	Alison Linton	Sheila Konig
Liz Chrominska	Georgina O'Reilly	Stewart Tamsett
Sheila Konig	Steve Clarke	Helen Finch
Steve Clarke	Jackie Savage	Helen Finch
Greg Wilcox	Gill Tamsett	Jackie Savage

Shirley Gillbe – Site Manager for Wandsworth Council (non-voting position)

President: Justine Greening

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

14. **AOB**

This year's Christmas pudding was won by Thomas Savage (JS's grandson!)

Ian Lewer thanked the committee for all their great work. He hopes to be able to help the RGS move forward to becoming a Charity and renegotiating their relationship with the council. He was delighted to be with us this evening and present the cups in Justine Greenings absence – her continued support to the RGS in spite of her International role is greatly appreciated.

The meeting closed at 8.15. Refreshments (co-ordinated by Pat Davis and Ali Linton) were served.