

# ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

## AGM BULLETIN

November 2021

[www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk](http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

The AGM was held on Friday evening, 12<sup>th</sup> November at St Margaret's Church.

Extracts from the Chair's and Treasurer's Reports are at the end of this bulletin.



The following awards were presented by our MP Fleur Anderson.

### Show Awards 2021



### *Special Awards for the Summer Show*

The Roehampton Estate Challenge Cup (presented by Douglas Overall) for the best vegetable in the summer show – **Helen Compson** (Garlic)



The Hugh & Lady Linstead Centenary Cup for the best display of sweet peas – **Rob Linton** – awarded at home.



The Davis Memorial Cup for the best exhibit for 1 vegetable/1 fruit/1 flower – **Vivien Fowler**

The Lady Hudson Cup for the most beautiful rose in the summer show – **Carol Martinez**

The Dr Howard Coulthard Cup for the best bowl of roses arranged for all round effect – **Laura Davis**

**Mariangela Renshaw** won 3 cups in the summer show - The Lady Corry Cup for the best vase of multiflora roses, the A Norman Rogers Challenge Cup for the best vase of cut flowers, and the Barbara Dacie Cup for the best flower display in a goblet.



**Carol Martinez** won 2 cups in the autumn show - the Hugh & Marie Jenkins Trophy for the most points for vegetables in autumn show and the Tommie Noon Cup for the best exhibit in class C54 – 5 different vegetables/fruit



The Autumn Vegetable Cup – This year for winner of the best chillies – **Raj Patel**

**Special Awards for the Autumn Show**  
The Reta Challenge / Leslie Harvey Memorial Cup for the best vegetable in the autumn show – **Georgina O'Reilly** – Growing capsicum plant





The Dr Miguel Lacroze Cup for the best Harvest Collection – **Vivien Fowler**



The Percy Barnes Memorial Cup – The novice with most points in the autumn show – **Sue Illingworth**



The Barnes & Mortlake Herald / Derrick Ratcliffe Challenge Cup for the best exhibit of roses – **Mariangela Renshaw**

The Jack Hawkins Challenge Cup for the best vase of 4 different types of flowers– **Mariangela Renshaw**

The Ben Dandey Memorial Cup for the best exhibit of dahlias – **Vince Cottam**



### ***Annual Awards***

The Reverend PG Wallis Cup for the most points for fruit in both shows – **Sally Harvey**



The Autumn Cookery Cup (Ladies Cup) – The exhibitor gaining the highest number of points in Section G – **Ali Linton**



The JHP Higgins Cup for the exhibitor gaining the most points in horticultural classes but not successful in winning a major horticultural award –Member **Ruth Tigue** who also won the Christmas cake in the autumn show raffle



The Rita Noon Cup for the best newcomer, in the last 2 years on Site 3 - **Kate Hunt**



The WTF Iles Memorial Cup for the best newcomer, in the last 2 years on Site 2 – **Annie Hardinge**



Kate's plot

Both plots looking great just a few days before the AGM



Annie's plot



Helen was presented with flowers and thanked for all her hard work over the difficult last couple of years.

### **Chair's Report from the AGM (Extracts) Helen Finch**

Last year we were unable to have a real AGM so were not able to welcome our new President, Fleur Anderson to our meeting. This year she will be with us and has kindly agreed to present the prizes. It has been lovely to see her at both the summer and autumn shows, meeting members and gamely participating in the auctions

What has the RGS achieved over the last year? The communal area on site 3 is now fully operational and used a lot. We had an official opening ceremony on 7th August. Thanks to Sonia Sawyer, whose legacy to the RGS made the project possible. It was a very happy event celebrating the rewards of monetary donations, as well as all the time members have given, together with their expertise. Vivien Fowler, who worked as a professional designer, not only conceptualised the project but has vigilantly continued to maintain the area keeping it looking so lovely. Jackie Savage has also worked tirelessly to source materials and furnishings and to ensure the work was done. Greg Willcox has done a lot of the construction work, in particular the raised beds using old

pallets, and the lovely cushions were made by Sylvia Willcox. Also, thanks to Jenny Seddon and Gary Rose for their artistic signs. We all owe a big thank you to these people.

Now we have power on site 3 we have our own shredder in its own posh shed alongside the new trading sheds. John Ireland has been training site 3 plot holders on its use so we are hoping there will be less green waste to be taken at the November rubbish collection. Many thanks to John for agreeing to do so many Sunday training sessions. Many thanks also to Charles Held and his merry band of volunteers, Gerrard Ryan and Mick Mosol, who laid the concrete base for the sheds. Charles also led the volunteers laying the stone pathway down to the communal shed.

Heather Harrison has continued to tend and beautify the pathway to the back gate on site 3. She has put down some gravel to make the path less slippery and therefore safer as well as planting the beds either side of the pathway to make a charming area. Many thanks to Heather. (AOB included questions about this area and how muddy it has become. HF will investigate concerns)

The new water system on site 3 was finally connected up by Thames Water in April this year. It is fully operational and the old system decommissioned. It is wonderful to have so many more water points and generous dipping tanks that fill automatically. Thank you, Patrick Crawford for all the chasing up this project involved and to the Council for funding the upgrade.

The communal area on site 2 is now fully functional as well. The shed was repaired by Alan Strowger so the floor and walls are good and solid now. It was painted and prettied up by Carol Martinez and Georgina O'Reilly. Lee Fennel made the raised beds, again from pallets, minimising costs as well as reusing good timber. With power going into the shed it is now possible to make a cuppa whenever you like. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to making the communal area

so pleasant. There have been improvements around the back of the toilet shed mainly done by Catherine Maunsell-Bower, creating a pathway where there was previously just a heap of rubbish.

What about plans for next year? Patrick Crawford has led a small team looking to have a new lease with the Council that makes RGS independent. The plan is for us to have a 30- year full repairing lease at a peppercorn rent. Catherine Maunsell-Bower has been researching the best corporate charity structure that would suit RGS managing the allotments. There has been new legislation that allows Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies (CCBS) to be formed. It specifically mentions allotments as being a suitable society. Thank you, Catherine for looking into this and other options too.

Changes to the committee - Brenna Lattimore and family have returned to her home country, Canada. Thanks to her for making a contribution to the committee, in particular for organising the 'Plant Walk and Talk' event this year. 20 members joined Roy Vickery, a very knowledgeable botanist, who gave a lot of insight into old folk lore about weeds (weeds - what weeds!) he found on site 2. We wish Brenna all the best to her and her family. We will also miss Mike Cooper who has decided to resign from the committee after about 20 years of service. Many thanks to Mike for all his work and practical advice over those years.

The RGS is very fortunate in having such a stable and able committee who generously give their time. It is very good indeed to Chair such a competent, supportive and excellent team. Nothing would happen without them. The site secretaries do a demanding job as does Carol Martinez who organises the shows and puts the Bulletins together. Jean Crawford manages the RGS website of which we can be very proud. The membership list is fastidiously kept by Robert Linton and Dorcas Johnson has kept our accounts immaculately and ensured the bills were paid. The stores are stocked and managed by Gill Tamsett, Greg Willcox and Jackie Savage. Waiting

for deliveries that never arrive has been a huge trial this year, but somehow the stores have been stocked. Jackie has managed the waiting list and RGS email in her usual super responsive and organised way. I owe her a personal big 'thank you' as she has continued to be a stalwart support to me in her role as Vice Chair. We all owe a huge thank you to all the committee members. However, it is important not to forget that jobs crop up from time to time and given that we have such an amazing array of able, resourceful members, jobs get done and problems are solved. This all makes for a very strong community which can aspire to continue to develop with a bonding passion for gardening and enjoying our wonderful allotments.

A change has been drafted in the 'Offering Plots to let' document. The role and process for managing Plot Holder Partners (PHPs) has been reviewed by the Site Secretaries and Chair. There was a concern that there may be some plots exclusively being worked by a PHP and there may be an expectation that the PHP may inherit the plot thus circumventing the waiting list. The suggested wording to address this issue is:

*The purpose of a PHP is to assist/support a plot holder (tenant). A tenant must not use a PHP to exclusively cultivate their plot long term i.e., sub-let it. A PHP must be an Associate member or Member of RGS. If The PHP does not share the same household as the Plot Holder, he/she must be on the Primary Waiting List and therefore resident in Wandsworth. A PHP has to work their way up the waiting list and will not be permitted to inherit the plot which they partner until they reach the top of the list.*

The amendment was passed with no objections. There was a question about why it was necessary to change the previous wording, which was that a PHP needed to wait 3 years, was explained: The old 3-year rule did not take into account the enormous increase in the waiting list, so now it would be more like a 5 year wait to get to the top of the list. This new wording will take care of any future fluctuations.



## Treasurer's Report and accounts by

**Dorcas Johnson**, Treasurer.

Report for Financial Year 1st Oct 2020 to 30th September 2021

- i) At the start of the year our Lloyds bank balance was £28,664.21 with a further £10,000.00 in a fixed term account for a total of £38,664.21. The fixed term account matured in Feb 2021 paying out £105 to RGS and the funds were moved back to the Lloyds account. At the end of the financial year our total balance was £31,798.13
- ii) Most of our income comes from the store, our shows and plot rentals. The store made a profit of £3,013.76 this year and the shows a profit of £922.89. Enable (on behalf of Wandsworth Borough Council) takes 80% of the RGS rental income which last year was £13,520.00. The remaining 20% was £3,380.00 which goes toward allotment maintenance.
- iii) This year RGS spent £3,494.30 on maintenance including grass cutting, plot clearance, tree removals and new locks and keys as well as general repairs and maintenance. This was £114.30 more than the 20% of charges allocated by Enable and was covered with RGS funds.
- iv) An extra SUMUP card reader was purchased for the store at a cost of £118.80. Contactless payments made it possible to keep the store going while keeping safe during the pandemic.
- v) A number of improvements to the allotments at both sites have been made this year as well as the purchase of equipment for ongoing use. The total cost was £15,030.07. These include; i. Electrical work for site 2 - £720.00 ii. Patio/tea area for site 2 - £2,968.90, iii. Shredder shed for site 2 - £410.10 iv. Sheds for site 3 - £4,123.08 v. Shredder for site 3 - £402.03 vi. Electrical work for Site

3 - £3,034.06 vii. Completion of work on tea hut for site 3 - £3,371.93

- vi) Approximate expected budget costs for the new financial year: Enable bill — £14,000.

A reassuring statement of accounts – all our liabilities are covered by our assets. No questions were asked.

Hard copies of the Full accounts were distributed before the AGM started. Further hard copies are available on request.

**Other Committee papers:** from Site Secretaries, Trading Secretary, Show Chair, Waiting list Secretaries. These are available on the website only. There were no questions.

## Elected Committee Members AGM - November 2021

| <b>Committee member</b>         | <b>Office/role</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Helen Finch</i>              | <i>Chair</i>   |
| <i>Jackie Savage</i>            | <i>Vice Chair, Store Seeds and RGS email account</i>                     |
| <i>Dorcas Johnson</i>           | <i>Treasurer</i>   |
| <i>Catherine Maunsell-Bower</i> | <i>Site 2 Secretary and Legal</i>  |
| <i>Alison Linton</i>            | <i>Site 3 Secretary (plots 101 to 127)) &amp; Waiting List Secretary</i> |
| <i>Vivien Fowler</i>            | <i>Site 3 Secretary (plots 50 to 100)</i>                                |
| <i>Carol Martinez</i>           | <i>Bulletin Editor and Show Chair</i>                                    |
| <i>Gill Tamsett</i>             | <i>Trading Secretary</i>   |
| <i>Patrick Crawford</i>         | <i>Buildings, Facilities and Lease Negotiator</i>                        |
| <i>Greg Wilcox</i>              | <i>Store Manager</i>   |
| <i>Emma Blackwell</i>           | <i>Site 2 Representative</i>   |
| <i>Sue Hodgson</i>              | <i>Site 2 new committee member</i>                                       |
| <i>Annie Hardinge</i>           | <i>Site 2 new committee member</i>                                       |
| <i>Kate Hunt</i>                | <i>Site 3 new committee member</i>                                       |
| <i>Shan Karwatowska</i>         | <i>Site 3 new committee member</i>                                       |
| <b>Non-Voting officers:</b>     |  |
| <i>Jean Crawford</i>            | <i>Website manager</i>   |
| <i>Robert Linton</i>            | <i>Membership secretary</i>  |
| <i>Charles Gillbe</i>           | <i>Site Manager appointed by Enable [WBC]</i>                            |



## For Sale

**Poly tunnel - bought new in May 2020**

**The cost is a £50 donation to the RGS.**

**Prior permission will be needed to put on your plot.**

<https://www.dancovershop.com/uk/product/polytunnel-greenhouse-2x3x2m-pe-transparent.aspx>

It measures 2m by 3m. The ridge height is 2m.



Graham and Florence will help to take it down but it will be the responsibility of the buyer to transport and erect on their plot.

Please email Florence on [fjt@florenceterry.com](mailto:fjt@florenceterry.com) if interested.