

## **Roehampton Garden Society**

### **AGM 2021**

#### **Show Chair's Report**

It was good to get back to having shows in 2021 after both had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, the only time this has happened since the shows started back in the 1870s was during the wars. Our oldest cup dates back to 1906.

The Summer show in June was held on one of the hottest days of the year on Site 2. It is a smaller, simpler show as there are less fruits and vegetables around but more flowers – especially roses. We didn't hold the cake competition which we trialled in 2019 as we needed to be careful with Covid regulations, this was lucky though as they would have melted in the heat and made a bit of a mess.

Holding the show outside on Site 2 is great to get people socialising and talking about the exhibits, especially nice when the weather is good. Going forward this is the way the summer shows will continue.

The Autumn show was back in St Margaret's church hall in September, as though we had never been away. After a wet summer it was touch and go as to whether there would be enough exhibits – but there was no need to worry as squash, beans and cucumbers turned up in abundance, along with amazing figs, chillies and dahlias. We did not promote the show widely as we didn't want to be overwhelmed with visitors. Because it was a nice day we could put tables on the lawn for people to have their tea and cake. Selling spring bulbs at the show has been a success and the raffle for the home-made Christmas cake is popular too. Alas, there were no entries in the children's section, but we did have a very chuffed novice who won some prizes and who it is hoped will enter many more shows.

As well as needing more plot-holders to join in with exhibiting, to keep it interesting and diverse – next year we will hold a demonstration on how best to show with tips of what to do and what not to do. As Chair, I put lots of entries in as I have a fear of the tables looking empty – some of the entries

might win a place and some are hopeless, so help me out by putting in your exhibits instead.

Both shows were rounded off with an auction to sell donated produce – vegetables and flowers, home-made cakes and jars of preserves. Many thanks to David for keeping order so that we can all raise a hand for our bid.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who help the shows run – for setting up and taking down again, for donating cakes, making teas and washing up, for manning stalls, selling raffle tickets, sweeping the floors and moving tables and especially to all those plot holders and members who exhibit their bounty for everyone to see.

**Carol Martinez**

**November 2021**