

## **Roehampton Garden Society**

### **AGM November 2021**

#### **Site 3 Secretary's Report – Outer Area: Plots 50 -100**

It has been a mixed year for my area – the damp and cool weather devastated our tomato crops whilst our beans and courgettes flourished!

Firstly - to express thanks to Helen Finch for her support – her judgement and knowledge are invaluable, and her guidance through the Covid pandemic enabled us to work on our plots throughout the lockdown periods. Thanks to my site secretary colleagues, Alison Linton and Catherine Maunsell-Bower for sharing and helping with problems. Our new social area on Site 3 is enjoyed by all - thanks to Jackie Savage for project managing its implementation and to all those who have given plants and time to make it a success. The new water tanks are also a great success and appreciated by all. Heather Harrison has turned the muddy Huntingfield Road entrance into an attractive area with planting, pebbles and paving.

Some facts. Over the past year I have let 9 no. plots and divided 2 no. 5 rod plots into 4 no. 2.5 rod plots. Following our plot inspections I have

- sent out 20 emails regarding problems with plots
- issued 8 Stage 1 Informal Warning letters
- issued 2 Stage 2 Serious Warning letters
- terminated 1 plot tenancy

Whilst most plots are cultivated to a high or acceptable standard, a few, and it is usually the same few, are cultivated to a bare minimum with weeds and/or grass covering most the plot. The shared paths are also often neglected. It is a waste of such a wonderful asset, particularly when we have a 4 year Waiting List for a plot. It also takes considerable time to send letters and emails, and then to reinspect plots. As a way forward on Site 3, Alison Linton and myself

have decided in future to meet offending plot holders before issuing Stage 2 letters, to point out problems and to suggest solutions with a timescale in mind.

When showing prospective plot holders an available plot I believe it is of utmost importance to explain the time and effort it takes to cultivate a plot, and that they read the RGS rules to understand what is expected of a plot holder.

Other matters – manure deliveries are now non existent. We have contacted local stables all who have manure but do not have the means to deliver it to our sites. It is available if plot holders wish to collect it though. Wood chip delivery is intermittent and we do try to get good quality woodchip delivered. Rubbish clearance from vacated plots continues to be a large expense for RGS and we continually have to remind plot holders that they are responsible for disposing of their own rubbish.

And a big thank you to all those plot holders in my area whose plots continue to be a source of wonderful produce and provide visual delight!

**Vivien Fowler**

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