

Roehampton Garden Society

AGM November 2021

Trading Secretary's Report

Yet again, this year has had its challenges. Due to the second Lockdown, we could not open the Store after the December break. However, realising that the early months of the year are crucial to start growing things, we introduced a 'Click and Collect' scheme whereby members could order a small selection of products online and then collect them from the Store on Site 2. These included seeds, seed potatoes, onion sets, garlic, shallots and a limited selection of composts and fertilisers.

This was a lot of work for many helpers. The online order form had to be managed and all the orders bagged up prior to being collected on the Sunday morning. I am sure that this service was appreciated by our member as we took £4,600 during the 8 weeks that the scheme ran for!

We were able to reopen the Store on 4 April with social distancing rules in place. These were slightly relaxed in July when all restrictions were eased in England.

We now have the facility to purchase bulky bags of compost and boxes of fertilisers, together with Country Natural, on Site 3 on Sunday mornings. We now have very smart and robust sheds to house the stock.

Most products were available this year with some shortages of a few products. The main issue was with deliveries. The horticultural sector was hit by driver shortages as were the rest of businesses in the UK. A delivery booked for 4 June did not turn up but then half of it turned up without notice on 10 June. We never did find what happened to the other half of the order.

Prices have been increasing during the course of the year and we have been advised that there will be further increases next year. Country Natural increased its price significantly in January but this was the first for several years.

I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who has helped with the functioning of the Store this year. This includes all those involved in the Click and Collect scheme, the ordering of potatoes, onions, garlic and spring bulbs, deliveries to Sites 2 and 3, and the volunteers who give up their Sunday mornings to help with the Stores on Site 2 and 3.

Gill Tamsett

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