

ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1873

AGM BULLETIN

November 2022

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk



The AGM was held on Friday evening, 18th November at St Margaret's Church.

Jackie Savage gave a very interesting presentation about the history of the RGS and its place within the Dover House Estate.

Extracts from the Chair's report are at the end of this bulletin, with a list of elected committee members.

We only had one show this year, the summer show in June. The autumn show was cancelled out of respect for the death of our Queen.

Unfortunately our President Fleur Anderson could not join us, but Sheila Konig stepped in as prize giver for cup winners in the summer show and annual awards.

The Lady Hudson Cup for the most beautiful rose in the summer show –
Sheila Konig



The Lady Corry Cup for the best vase of multiflora roses – **Helen Finch**



The Hugh & Lady Linstead Centenary Cup for the best display of sweet peas – **Rob Linton** – Not at AGM

Mariangela Renshaw won 2 cups in the summer show - the A Norman Rogers Challenge Cup for the best vase of cut flowers and the Dr Howard Coulthard Cup for the best bowl of roses arranged for all round effect



The Barbara Dacie Cup for the best flower display in a goblet – **Vivien Fowler**.



The Roehampton Estate Challenge Cup (presented by Douglas Overall) for the best vegetable in the summer show – **Raj Patel, (chili plant)**



The Davis Memorial Cup for the best exhibit for 1 vegetable/1 fruit/1 flower – **Carol Martinez**



The Reverend PG Wallis Cup for the most points for fruit in the summer show – **Sally Harvey**



The Percy Barnes Memorial Cup – The novice with most points in the summer show – **Kate Pugh**



Sally also won this year's Banksian Medal which is awarded by the RHS to the person winning the most prize money. It cannot go to the same person in 3 years.

The Jack Hawkins Cup for summer cookery – **Sylvie Wilcox**



Annual Awards



Certificates were presented to Angela McLuckie, Aty Behnoud, Ana Cors, Julia Millette and Baiba Sile – all of whom have made a great start to their plots in the short time they have had them.

The WTF Iles Memorial Cup for the best newcomer, in the last 18 months on Site 2 – **Sue & Mark Illingworth**



The Rita Noon Cup for the best newcomer, in the last 2 years on Site 3 - **Vitalija Ramanauskiene**. Not at the AGM

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

In my report I will be reflecting on the last RGS year and talk about plans for next year. We have one item of business which I will present.

What has the RGS achieved over the last year?

2022 is our Centenary Year so we had 3 celebratory events:

i) The main centenary event was an exhibition in Putney library about the History of RGS. It was a very well researched and presented exhibition and Jackie will be giving a cut down version in her presentation tonight. The research and exhibition was mostly driven by Jackie Savage and Jean Crawford with help from

Christine Wolski, Sue MacDonald and Jenny Cobb. Vivien Fowler and Shan Karwatowska put together lovely arrangements of plants to set the gardening theme and Jenny made the Centenary Banner that you see here. Thank you to you all for putting together such a splendid exhibition.

ii) At our last AGM I said this would be our Centenary year. Fleur Anderson, our President and MP, floated the idea of having a celebration at the House of Commons in the Jubilee Room. We thought it was a wonderful idea and so she arranged for us to come to The House. It was altogether a very memorable evening. Many thanks to Fleur and her team for arranging such a special event.

iii) Our summer show on site 2 had a Centenary spin on it too. To mark the special occasion we had a centenary cake shaped as 100 which Fleur ceremoniously cut. Also we offered bucks fizz drinks and savoury snacks as well as our usual tea and cake. The bucks fizz went down a treat so might be a stayer for future summer shows.

General Activities over last year:

ÿ The communal areas continue to be enjoyed. We owe a huge thanks to Vivien Fowler who vigilantly plants up and tends the plants in the communal area on site 3 and to Annie Hardinge for making the site 2 communal area so attractive.

ÿ This year we had a plea from those who have to freeze in the store waiting for deliveries and from members who have meetings in the store that we had some better heating installed. We now have some overhead heaters that cut out after a short time so there is no fear of them being left on. This project was elegantly managed by Patrick Crawford - many thanks to you, Patrick.

What about plans for next year?

ÿ Our current hand washing facilities in the toilet sheds are very poor and are not compliant with building regulations - we

should supply warm water for washing hands. This project has been started. We are having electric water heating units that are infrared activated, so the water is warmed as needed and cuts out automatically.

ÿ Possible change of name: Roehampton Garden Society does not capture the fact that our primary location - the allotments - and most of our members are in Putney. We could mark the transition into another century by updating our name to Putney and Roehampton Garden Society (PRGS). We are not in Roehampton anymore and not having Putney in our title is misleading. Having a name change is indicative of an active, forward-looking organisation which I believe we are. The proposed name keeps the 'Roehampton Garden Society' element linking it to its past.

A show of hands demonstrated a strong preference to change the name to Putney and Roehampton Garden Society (PRGS). The show of hands was simply giving the committee an idea of how those members at the AGM feel about the possible name change. An Extraordinary General Meeting would need to be called to change the name as this is a constitutional issue.

Thank you: firstly The Committee: RGS could not function without a strong team on the committee. I would like especially to thank Jackie as she has agreed to remain as Vice Chair. She is a constant source of guidance for me. If I am struggling with a decision a chat with Jackie invariably makes the right path clear.

She is a doer as well as a consultant so very valuable to the Society as well. The others on the committee that are big contributors are the Site Secretaries - that is Vivien Fowler, Alison Linton and Catherine Maunsell-Bower. Catherine has decided to step down as site 2 Secretary, but she will be remaining on the committee. It has been particularly challenging doing this role when her plot is not on site 2 but she has approached the role with determination and energy - many

thanks to you, Catherine. Carol Martinez is another big contributor - she organises the shows and does the post event bulletins and helps with general issues on site 2 and the store. The stores would not run without Gill Tamsett and Greg Willcox who do the ordering and deal with the deliveries of stock to both sites with Jackie ordering and generally organising the Kings seeds. They all do a sterling job. Our splendid website is managed by Jean Crawford who also does the monthly Update both of which we can be justly proud. The waiting list is ably managed by Alison Linton. Robert Linton vigilantly keeps the membership database up to date and sends out the annual invoices to all members. He also keeps our site maps (the envy of Enable) up to date. Patrick Crawford is consistently chasing the elusive lease with a wonderful air of inevitability. Other members of the committee who don't have a specific role have been fantastic at being there, doing things when needed. So the RGS owes a huge thank you to you all.

The allotments and other RGS activities would not happen without the help and resourcefulness of other members who are not on the committee. Thank you to all those who man the store on Sunday mornings and the Trading Sheds on site 3. Artan Deliallisi always gives some of his own time to the Society added to any job he is commissioned to do. Alan Strowger has on several occasions done some 'handy man' jobs on site 2 and my husband has done a number of such jobs for RGS. Sylvia Willcox not only made the lovely cushion covers on site 3 but also made replacements for those that the fox decided to sabotage. Annie Hardinge's daughter helped to pretty up the shed and communal area on site 2. John Ireland does the shredder training. Also thanks to the plot holders who clean the toilets and communal areas. All this good will is what makes our Society work so well and a pleasure to be part of - thank you all.

Goodbyes: we always have a few members stepping down from the committee. This year Emma Blackwell will be leaving the committee. It has been good having a younger perspective and a

site 2 perspective on the committee. Many thanks to you, Emma.

I have not mentioned a key role - that of the Treasurer. We have been fortunate having Dorcas Johnson as RGS Treasurer for the last 2 years as she has a strong background in computing and all our accounts are now on a computer package. She has done this role conscientiously and precisely, so all has been well - bills paid and movement of monies vigilantly recorded. However, travelling calls and lockdowns are in the past so she feels she needs to relinquish this role. Many thanks to you Dorcas for all you have done for RGS over the last 2 years.

We are very lucky to have Carol Martinez taking over this key role - many thanks.

An item of business: At the last AGM the membership agreed to a change regarding Plot Holder Partners (PHP). We needed to make it clear that we should not raise any expectation of inheriting a plot as of right, so PHPs were required to go on the waiting list for their own plot and wait their turn. This arrangement does not provide for plots that are cultivated by a couple who live together and who both contribute more or less equally to maintaining the plot, so it makes sense for there to be a right to inherit in these cases.

However, if the Plot holder and helper do not live together, in order to differentiate from PHP, the helper would have the title of Plot Holder Assistant (PHA). A PHA

would have to go on the waiting list and they would have to wait their turn for a plot.

A show of hands indicated adoption of this change.

There were a question about the length of the waiting list. It is now 5 years. There was a discussion about whether anything needs to be done about it, such as close it to any newcomers. It was decided to keep it as it is but monitor it over the next year.

Other Committee papers: from Treasurer, Site Secretaries, Trading Secretary, Show Chair and Waiting list Secretary are available on the website.

Elected Committee Members AGM - November 2022

Committee member	Office/role
<i>Helen Finch</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Jackie Savage</i>	<i>Vice Chair, Communications</i>
<i>Carol Martinez</i>	<i>Treasurer, Bulletin Editor and Show Chair</i>
<i>Catherine Maunsell-Bower</i>	<i>Legal</i>
<i>Alison Linton</i>	<i>Site 3 Secretary (plots 101 to 127)) & Waiting List Secretary</i>
<i>Vivien Fowler</i>	<i>Site 3 Secretary (plots 50 to 100)</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>Sue Hodgson</i>	<i>Site 2 committee member</i>
<i>Annie Hardinge</i>	<i>Site 2 committee member, Seeds</i>
<i>Kate Hunt</i>	<i>Site 3 committee member</i>
<i>Shan Karwatowska</i>	<i>Site 3 committee member</i>
<i>Jeremy Cole</i>	<i>Site 3 new committee member</i>
<i>Richard Standen</i>	<i>Site 3 new committee member</i>
Non-Voting officers:	
<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>