

## Committee Reports and Notes from the AGM 2022

**Held at 7.30pm on 18 Nov 2022 in St Margaret's Church, Putney Park Lane.**

**1. Welcome:** Helen Finch, Chair, welcomed all present. There were 50 members present at the meeting.

**Present:** Helen Finch (Chair), Carol Martinez, Jackie Savage, Vivien Fowler, Greg Willcox, Sylvia Willcox, Dorcas Johnson, Michael Bower, Catherine Maunsell-Bower, Louise Wilkinson, Marina Castillo, Aty Hadidi Behnoud, Gerrard Ryan, Anna Cors, Charles and Shirley Gillbe, David and Sue MacDonald, Kate Pugh, David Renshaw, Susan Bennett, Baiba Sile, Angela Phelan, S Jackson, Joy Ma, Gill Tamsett, Mark Sherrard, Eva Knedlova, Robert Aveling, Georgina O'Reilly, J S Tamsett, Julia Millette, John Murray, Jeremy Cole, Sue Illingworth, Mark Illingworth, Marianna Pencharz, Bill Pencharz, Sheila Konig, Richard Standen, Juliana Gier, Elizabeth King, Johanna Williams, Angela McLuckie, Mariangela Renshaw, Laura John, Richard Lozbergs, E Smart, Ruth Tigie, Jeremy Tigie.

**Apologies:** A and R Linton, Laura Davis, Kate Hunt, Patrick and Jean Crawford, Fleur Anderson, Annie Hardinge, Sue Hodgson, David Savage and Christine Wolski.

**2. Minutes of AGM 2021:** Tacit membership approval of this document received by 01/01/22

**3. Chair's report by 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?***

- i) 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 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 tea and cake. The bucks fizz went down a treat so might be a stayer for future Summer Shows!

### **General activities over last year:**

- ii) ***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.

- iii) 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?**

- iv) 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 units that are infrared activated so that the water is warmed as needed but cut out automatically.
- v) **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 any more (In Jackie's talk she will explain this further) 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 to get some idea of how the membership feels about it was requested. Those in favour of updating to PRGS were an overwhelming majority.](#)  
[There was some discussion about the process of changing the name and whether other names could or should be considered. HF made it clear that a changing the name of the Society is a constitutional issue so an EGM would need to be called to effect the change.](#)

#### **Now we move on to the 'Thank you' part of the evening - always a danger zone so I apologise in advance for any sins of omission in this area.**

**Firstly The Committee:** RGS could not function without a strong team on the committee. I would like to especially thank Jackie as she, fortunately for me, 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. 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 maps (the envy of Enable) up to date. Patrick Crawford is consistently chasing the elusive lease with a fantastic 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. And thank

you to Georgina O'Reilly for the lovely flowers. 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 taking over this key role as Treasurer - many thanks.

Questions were invited but no more were forthcoming.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 1 Oct 2021 - 30 Sep 2022 by Dorcas Johnson - Treasurer**

##### **Assets**

Our Lloyd's Bank balance stands at £35,871.81 at the end of September.

The store is well stocked with goods to a value of £4,927.08. Our trophies are valued at £1,000.

##### **Liabilities**

We are holding key deposits which total £6,178.

We've had a good take up on show voucher redemptions so we are currently holding only £65.80 in outstanding vouchers.

We are chasing an outstanding bill from Castle Water for metered water on site 3 and are holding £3,000 for this purpose.

##### **Income**

The Society collected £17,729.17 in plot rental fees this year, of which 80% goes to the management company Enable on behalf of Wandsworth Borough Council. Last year this amount was £13,562.16 and this year's payment (due in October in the 2022-2023 financial year) is expected to be about £14K. The remaining 20% of the rental fees is income to the Society and is used for maintenance of the sites.

In addition to plot rental fees, our main sources of income are our membership fees, our shows and our store.

This year we collected £2,696.69 in membership fees.

Our Summer show made a profit of £294.85. Our Autumn Show was sadly cancelled.

Our store continues to be useful resource for the community, a place to meet and exchange tips with fellow gardeners and a source of income to fund our site improvement projects. This year the store generated income of £4,088.80 on sales of £14,034.93.

##### **Expenses**

The main expenses for the Society are allotment maintenance and special projects. This year we spent £2,785.77 on maintenance for the two sites, broken down as follows —

Grass Cutting £980.00  
Tree Pruning £390.00  
Site Clearances £732.00  
Plumbing Work £286.00  
Locks £195.48  
Misc £202.29

We spent £3,344.19 on Special Projects this year with the major project being the provision of heating for the store at a cost of £2,631. In addition, improvements were made to the tea areas on both site 2 and site 3 at a total cost of £713.19.

The miscellaneous standing expenses for the society (office supplies, cleaning supplies, membership expenses, web site costs, etc.) totalled £1,129.64. We also spent £560.28 on activities to mark the centenary of the RGS.

Questions were invited but no more were forthcoming. Copies of the accounts had been distributed amongst those present before the start of the AGM.

**5. Other Committee papers:** Those present were asked if there were any questions or comments about Site secretaries' reports, Waiting list secretary, Show Chair, Trading Secretary and Seeds organiser that had been published on the RGS website. There was a question about the length of the waiting list. JS replied that currently there are about 400 and that it continues to grow. It is likely that there is now about a 5 to 6 year wait for a plot. Gerrard Ryan asked if it should be closed or what if any action could be taken to alleviate such a long wait. HF replied that plot holders not tending their plots are encouraged to relinquish them or may be evicted. Large plots are divided when they become available. Five rods per household is the maximum, the majority of plots are 2.5 rods. The practice of offering up to 5 rods to good plot holders may need to be reviewed in the light of such a long waiting list. HF said when people near the top of the waiting list as contacted about a third are not able to take a plot.

#### **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.

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.

Any questions or comments about the paper? Can I have a show of hands to indicate adoption or otherwise of this change. [There were no objections to adopting this change](#)

[Questions from the floor were invited. There were none.](#)

**6. Committee stand down:** Those currently on the committee stood down.

**7. Election of Committee 2022/23:** The committee was duly elected as follows:

<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Office/role</b>	<b>RGS member Nominator</b>	<b>Seconded at the AGM</b>
Helen Finch	Chair	Sue MacDonald	Dorcas Johnson
Jackie Savage	Vice Chair, communications	Laura Davis	Georgina O'Reilly
Carol Martinez	Treasurer, Bulletin Editor and Show Chair	Stephen O'Kelly	Pat Dark
Catherine Maunsell-Bower	Legal	Terry Johnson	Raj Patel
Vivien Fowler	Site 3 Secretary (plots 50 to 100)	Mark Sutcliffe	Angela McLuckie
Alison Linton	Site 3 Secretary (plots 101 to 127) + Waiting list secretary	Mariangela Renshaw	Greg Willcox
Gill Tamsett	Trading Secretary	Helen Compson	Vivien Fowler
Patrick Crawford	Buildings, Facilities and lease negotiator	Sue MacDonald	Elizabeth Smart
Greg Willcox	Store Manager	Norman Wilson	Mariangela Renshaw
Sue Hodgson	Site 2 committee member	Georgina O'Reilly	Charles Gillbe
Annie Hardinge	Site 2 committee member. Seeds	Terry Johnson	Sally Harvey
Kate Hunt	Site 3 committee member	Sheila Konig	Raj Patel
Shan Karwatowska	Site 3 committee member	George and Tina Casley	David MacDonald
Jeremy Cole	Site 3 new committee member	Jackie Savage	Vivien Fowler
Richard Standen	Site 3 new committee member	Alison Linton	Jeremy cole
<b>Non Voting officers:</b>			
Jean Crawford	Website manager	David MacDonald	Gerrard Ryan
Robert Linton	Membership secretary	Mariangela Renshaw	Vivien Fowler
Charles Gillbe	Site Manager appointed by Enable [WBC]	N/A	

**8. Any Other Business:** Charles Gillbe spoke about a proposed 'In House GQT' event. This was greeted with a lot of enthusiasm so he will proceed with arrangements.

The meeting was then closed.

**Date of Next AGM Thursday 16/11/23**

