



# Roehampton Garden Society

## AGM 2024

### Site Secretary Reports

#### **Site 2 (plots 1-49)**

It seems incredible that I have been Site 2 secretary for a whole year now, but have very much enjoyed the role.

Overall Site 2 is looking good. We have said goodbye to a number of long standing Plot holders, who had fairly large plots of up to 5 rods, and have divided these plots into more manageable 2, 2.5 or 3 rod sizes. This also helps tremendously with tackling the long waiting list. We have 15 new Plot holders and some of these new people have done extremely well at tackling rather overgrown/neglected plots. A few of these people will be awarded "Certificates of Excellence" at the AGM to highlight they're achievements.

Sadly Alan Strowger (Plot 33B) who many of you may remember as he was so helpful with the construction of the tea-hut and other maintenance jobs, died in August. He had only been diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer a few months earlier. He will be greatly missed.

Many thanks to the toilet cleaning volunteers who vigilantly keep the toilet pleasant. And many thanks to the Store volunteers who allow us to purchase seeds, compost and many other items on site. Also we owe thanks to the 'Tea Hutterers' led by Georgina O'Reilly who look after the social area behind the store.

I look forward to another year as Site 2 secretary and wish to thank Helen Finch and Georgina O'Reilly who have been extremely helpful in assisting me with this responsibility.

***Susan Bennett***  
***Site Secretary***

#### **Site 3 (plots 50-100)**

##### **Change in Site Secretary**

As many of you will already know, I took over from Vivien Fowler as Site Secretary for Plots 50-100 earlier this year.

##### **Lettings, etc**

A total of 12 plots have been let this year. Unfortunately, there was also one eviction. No plots were split.

### **Plot Inspections and Cultivation**

The mixed weather this year has resulted in mixed success for many plotholders. Still, most people seem to have had at least some good crops, and there have also been some wonderful flowers to admire on many plots, as well as near the Potting Shed.

Following inspections, 16 letters have been sent to plotholders in relation to more minor issues, as well as four Stage 1 letters.

### **Common Areas**

The Potting Shed continues to be well used by all plotholders, and admired by everyone who sees it. Several people have been very positive about the Sunday morning opening of the Site 3 sheds.

### **Thanks to**

Particular thanks must go to Helen Finch, our Chair, for the huge amount of work she continues to do for the Society, Sue Bennett and Richard Standen for their support as fellow Site Secretaries, and Alison Linton for her work in acting as Site Manager.

But most of all, this year a huge round of applause and thanks must go to Vivien for her dedication and hard work over the last six years when acting as site secretary – on top of all the many other things she has done, and continues to do, for the Society. I'd like to add my personal thanks for all of Vivien's help while handing over the site secretary role (and for continuing to deal with things while I was away on holiday), as well as for her patience in dealing with my many queries.

***Nina Buchan***

***Site Secretary***

## **Site 3 (101-127)**

### **Lettings**

There has been a low turnover over plots this year. Of the 6 plots let, 2 plot holders had to give up their plots because their personal circumstances did not allow them sufficient time. Despite being very clear about the time commitment required, it seems that a number of potential plot holders do not have realistic expectations about the amount of work involved in looking after an allotment. With Jackie Savage, the waiting list co ordinator, site secretaries are working to strengthen the information given to those on the waiting list in the hope that applicants will be clearer about how they can balance looking after an allotment with other commitments in their lives.

For those who have been on the waiting list for a long time, they are often keen to avoid losing their place in the queue. Their circumstances have often changed since their original application. Those in this situation are offered a place on the secondary waiting list. When they feel ready to take on an allotment they can contact Jackie who will prioritise their application on the primary list as vacancies arise.

### **Site Inspections**

These are an important part of the management of the allotments. Feedback from visitors to the sites over the last year show how impressed they are with the general care and attention that plot holders give to their plots.

I recognise that some plot holders may feel a bit intimidated by the prospect of inspections. This is not our intention. Maintaining basic standards benefits all plot holders. Where there are difficulties in achieving these, site secretaries aim to be supportive and helpful rather than punitive. Most of the replies I receive to concerns appreciate this.

I continue to be concerned about the state of some of the paths in the inner part of site 3 due to their narrowness and uneven surfaces. This is made worse in some places by plants growing over the boundary of a plot onto the path and causing an obstruction. This is the main reason for my writing to a plot holder after an inspection.

Walking around the plots three times a year also gives me an opportunity to see how well most plot holders look after their allotment. The variety of planting and imagination people bring to the site is quite inspiring and I welcome such diversity.

### **The Committee**

In my relatively short relationship with RGS I have been so impressed with the work of the Committee under the leadership of Helen. I appreciate the support she, and other committee members, have given me during the last year.

***Richard Standen***  
***Site Secretary***