

**KENSINGTON GARDENS SQUARE GARDEN ASSOCIATION
2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held by Zoom conference meeting on Thursday 26 November 2020 at 19:30

ATTENDANCE

Member	Address	
Rishi Daggar	10-14	
Jacopo Gnisci	10-14	
Marius Felderhof	10-14	
Jennifer Felderhof	10-14	Committee member
Judith Schechter	10-14	Committee member: Treasurer
Simon Glucina	26	Committee member: Chair & Secretary
Mary Notaras	26	
Caroline Egan-Strang	27-28	Committee member: Garden Parties
Tim Tasker	27-28	
Celia Berry	27-28	
Mener Tsitsis	40	By proxy held by Chair
Hajanee Jeyaratnam	43-45	Genesis representative
Shaw Warnock	58	
Jona Lueddeckens	58	
Susanne Gahler	59	Committee member: Small Garden & Garden Keys
Natasha	60	
Brigitte Haupts	64	Committee member
Dieter Wellmann	64	Committee member: Large Garden
Emma Fulton	68	
Jan Kremer	68	Committee member: Large Garden & IT. Life Member
Alexandra Dondelinger	69	By proxy held by Chair
Maureen	73	
Moray Angus	72-74	
GMS Estates	72-74	By proxy held by Chair
Jonathan Smith	86 - 92	Residential Land (Garden House) representative
<i>Jelena Vickovic</i>	<i>Apologies</i>	<i>Committee member: Community Engagement</i>

1. The **Rules of the Association** state that a quorum is 7 members. The meeting was therefore quorate with 12 paid-up members – covering 37 frontages
2. The **AGM 2019 minutes** were presented by the Secretary. They were accepted by the meeting without amendment and signed by him as a true record. There were no matters arising not otherwise on the 2019 AGM agenda
3. **Chairman's Report:** Simon Glucina summarised some of the highlights in the Committee's activities during the past year; he wished to emphasise three points in particular in a challenging year. First, that the gardens had been a fantastic respite for people who had been able to enjoy green space so close to home particularly during the difficult period of the Spring lockdown, and that people had on had on the whole been very well behaved. Secondly, while the pandemic had restricted parties and community engagement, it had been one of the most productive years for the gardens themselves, benefiting from many hands, new planting and development works in both gardens, and Simon wished to thank the garden leads in particular for this. In particular, levels of colour on the back of bulbs and shrubs planting not seen for many years; the redevelopment of the small garden with pavers throughout, a grassy back garden; better composting and storage; much greater attention to trees including stabilising and trimming; and development of irrigation in both gardens. Thirdly, he paid special thanks to Jan Kremer, large garden lead, for his outstanding commitment to, and

achievements on behalf of, the Association & he was awarded very rare Life Membership in recognition. One of the appreciations received by the Committee exemplified this *'The gardens have progressed so fully under Jan's care, beyond anything that we might have envisaged. He has left a legacy that will go down in the annals of our Garden Square records for his indefatigable work, in parallel with our warm appreciation of his care for us and our precious green space.'*

4. **Horticultural report for the Large Garden** (Jan Kremer and Dieter Wellmann). Jan and Dieter took the meeting through a presentation on zoom, including a review of the year and plans ahead.

2020 highlights included:

- **Lawn** was laid in weak areas in February requiring significant effort: we've aerated all of the grass areas to improve the drainage & make it less sticky when too much rain
- **Plantings** of different colours: circa 250 this year giving us something to explore almost every day, albeit they will take a few years to mature. Many plants are doing better due to sunlight & better access to water & light
- **Bulbs** planted/ being planted: circa 4,000 in November will emerge in the spring
- **Borders:** have been worked on, particularly the southern end
- **Trees** significantly trimmed following extensive discussion with the Council
- **Water irrigation system** zones installed & drip lines placed on a timer
- **Water taps** adapted so they can run two lawn sprinklers at the same time
- **Back of the garden/ working space** renovated with new gravel & ferns giving purpose to this part of the garden
- **Birdbaths** installed & bugs, ladybirds & wildlife encouraged giving value to the Garden

2021 plans:

- **Garden furniture** repairs or replacement
- **Dutch elm trees:** we have 6, three of which have Dutch Elm disease and will need to be taken down
- **Mulberry tree** has required stabilising and a large branch was torn off in the August storm & we can't remove any further; the tree has provided fruit this year
- A request for **tree lighting** at this time of year: This would be welcomed but sadly there are no electrical points which would make this possible at present

5. **Horticultural report for the Small Garden** (Susanne Gahler). In a similar way, Susanne presented highlights and plans for the small garden.

2020 highlights included:

- **Pebbled pathway** installed which curves throughout most of the length of the garden
- **Bulbs planted last year** were a joy in the spring
- **Lawn installed** with some reseeded required
- **Drainage & watering system** helped the garden in spite of our dry summer with plants surviving well
- **Back garden/ working space provided which allows for mulching / working tools/ products**

2021 plans:

- **Shed repainted**
- **Planting:** more is required to improve the garden further
- **Tree work continued**
- **Additional bench to be installed**

5. **Social events** (Caroline Egan-Strang (Garden Parties) on behalf of herself and Jelena Vickovic (Community Engagement))

During this past year of pandemic, the Gardens have proved to be more important than they have perhaps ever been since their inception. We benefit from our mid 19thC forebears vision each time we walk in the gardens. After staring at a screen or four walls all day, the landscape changing with the seasons has given us a dynamic, sensory beauty when there has been little available. These seasonal changes can be seen on our new **KGS Instagram account**, created by Jan Kremer. It was welcomed that Natasha volunteered to contribute to this further. Perhaps most critically in 2020, it's been a

delight and also a reassurance seeing others around us. The carefully managed, socially distanced bulb planting weekends were, indeed, such a set of occasions

Coffee Mornings, Garden Parties, our Annual Party & Open Gardens events are much looked forward to when we can meet each other again with this possibility looking more optimistic in the latter half of 2021

2021 plans: We have been approached by a group of well credentialed actors looking to create theatrical experiences in garden squares with them having thought through how this would work, including with social distancing. Should the company come back with a proposal for next summer, Judith & Caroline will be speaking to you to see if this is an event which you would like to trial, volunteer to help with & for which you would be prepared to buy advance tickets to fund the actors. A wonderful opportunity for us to enjoy a performance, a picnic & a glass of wine

Our Garden Rules reminder that the rules are predicated on:

- Government advice: to enable all of us & specifically those physically vulnerable to be confident that they can enter the Gardens effectively socially distanced
- Diverse group of residents: to enable those of different interests to enjoy the space
- The Gardens: to safeguard the trees & planting now & for the future

Exercise in the Gardens: The issue of the gardens being used by residents exercising on the lawns was raised by Shaw Warnock during the AGM specifying concern over the use of personal trainers & garden furniture/ trees for exercise. The Committee agreed to review how exercise is permitted in the Gardens

7. **Land Registry report** (Simon Glucina)

Efforts are being made to gain Possessory title which allows us to register our use & rights to the Gardens, given the ownership is lost in time. The Government has a policy to determine outstanding land without registry which supports our application. Every garden square was set up in a different way which has made this more difficult. We have a new application sent in by our lawyer, an expert on the subject, which is based on policy as well as setting out the legal case. This is now lodged with the land registry and we will revert to the Committee when we hear back.

8. **Treasurer's report** (Judith Schechter)

54 frontages are paying annual rates with 21 frontages of short lets/ hotels not eligible for membership. This produced £33,890 of income with expenditure and reserves more or less the same as the previous year. Considering this sound financial situation, the current garden rate stays at the same level i.e. £640 per frontage with the two social housing members benefiting from a 25% discount. The Treasurer confirmed that she was happy with the service provided by our accountants (TreeTops) and the meeting confirmed their reappointment for the coming year

9. **Election of Committee Members**

Seven current Committee members (Simon Glucina, Judith Schechter, Brigitte Haptops, Jelena Vickovic, Jennifer Felderhof, Susanne Gahler, Caroline Egan-Strang) all presented themselves as candidates for re-election and were re-confirmed as such without any objection. Dieter Wellmann was elected.

10. **KGSGA communications**

Members were requested to keep building the membership to enable effective and direct communications & to encourage a sense of community. The aim is to have an email address for every resident who has the right to use the gardens

Recent communications have included:

- Rules regarding Covid placed on the KGSGA website & at each of the 4 entrances to the gardens
- Bulbs planting invitations
- Instagram account set up showing activity in the gardens

Appreciation: There was an enthusiastic thank you to Simon for successfully carrying us through our first ever AGM meeting on Zoom but also to the committee members for the work undertaken by this volunteer group during the last year. The meeting ended 20:50.