

Rosmead Garden Committee Report January 2012

Dear Resident,

The Annual General Meeting of the Rosmead Communal Garden will be held on Monday, 23rd of January at 7.30pm. The meeting will take place at 71 Elgin Crescent. A glass of wine will be available and all residents are cordially invited to attend.

A copy of the Agenda and the minutes of the last AGM are attached.

FINANCE

The Garden levy (or precept) was £ 26,160 for the financial year to 31st of March 2011 and the accounts, prepared on a cash basis, show a deficit of £ 8294. As I reported at last year's AGM we committed to a number of one-off expenditures during the year under review including works to the Rosmead steps, the fence alongside the main access gates on Ladbroke Grove and major tree works, in all about £19,000. We ended the year with circa £20,000 in the bank but with some payments outstanding which reduce net cash to circa £13,000. We try to ensure that the Garden Party and Fireworks evening break even and I am glad to report that we met this objective in 2010. We have again engaged the services of an accountant to help the Treasurer with the management of the accounts and a copy of the accounts are available from the Treasurer, James Tuckey, at 95 Elgin Crescent.

For the current year to 31st March 2012 the precept was held at £ 26,100, following representations from RBK&C. We will again achieve a surplus, before one-off expenditures. On current estimates we are likely to have net cash in the bank at the end of March 2012 of circa £15,000. For many years your Committee have planned to hold, at any one time, a surplus of approximately one year's precept in order to meet one off expenditures, such as those carried out last year. Any surpluses arising are added to the Reserves which are essential to enable general maintenance projects to be carried out.

For the year to March 31st 2013, we have again received a request from RBK&C to maintain the garden levy at its present level. The basis for this request is that the Borough has been incentivised by the national government to keep council tax flat year-on-year. Though our garden precept is not part of the official council tax system, it is however collected by the council. As such it counts towards the overall number.

It is therefore our recommendation to leave the garden precept at its current level for 2012/2013.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

As per last year's AGM report, the main infrastructure project for the year to March 31st 2011 was the erection of a new security fence by the Ladbroke Grove gates. This project has been completed and we have planted in front of it to improve the aesthetics and privacy.

For 2012, given the limitations on our finances, we will undertake a limited number of infrastructure projects:

- Painting and maintenance of Ladbroke grove railings
- Improved privacy at Ladbroke Grove
- New notice board opposite Ladbroke gate

The Rosmead railings project, as discussed at last year's AGM has again been delayed after the Committee re-assured itself that the railings still pose no immediate danger to residents of the Garden. The need for restoration of these railings and their supporting wall remains present and the Committee will continue to develop a plan of action.

GARDEN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Email, maildrops and noticeboard notification will continue as per usual, but the Committee has asked Mary-Lu Bakker and Amanda Waggot, who run the world famous local website 'pavlovadiaries.co.uk' to construct a basic website where residents will be able to find general information about our Garden, including the rules and notifications. Sensitive information will be password protected. The domain name is: www.rosmeadgarden.info and it should go live in Beta shortly. We would hope this will help the flow of communication and make it easier for residents to register their email addresses. Your feedback would be much appreciated and please spread the word.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our 2011 Circus-themed summer party was a great success. The tireless work and generosity of Amanda Waggott and Valerie and Jeff Montgomery made for a beautiful circus parade and a colourful event, supported by a great band and our resident DJ Hugo Heath. On the whole the new location and shape of the tent, as well as the fan-shaped layout of the tables were well received and we aim to repeat that formula for this year's event. The theme for the 2012 Rosmead Garden Summer Party will be: SUMMER OLYMPICS (Greek Gods and Goddesses!). The fireworks in keeping with tradition were expertly and spectacularly 'administered' by Stefan and Aidan Pinter, who continue to steadfastly refuse to cash their cheques (causing the Treasurer both pleasure and pain) and we thank them for their continued generosity. The Committee is committed to the aim of ensuring the Garden events are open to all residents and are genuinely accessible to everyone. Notices are always posted on the notice boards in the Garden.

PLANTING AND TREES

Following on from last year's major project of Tree Enhancement our chosen partners Bartlett's planted four new trees in the garden in the second phase of the project.

If you remember our focus was threefold, on prolonging the life of many of our older trees, on creating space and light on the Lansdowne Road side of the garden, and on Health and Safety.

We also planted Silver Birches in front of Lidyard House, along with Hydrangea Quercifolia in a couple of nearby beds and a variety of other shrubs. We created a copse of English Laurel and Bay at the corner of Ladbroke and Lansdowne in order to build up our privacy in that area, this is on-going and this year we will add Pittosporums. Increasing our privacy at this end of the garden, along with reducing the noise and air pollution through our planting schemes, is a project we will be working on throughout this year. In order to cover the new security fencing in the opposite corner of the garden, the Ladbroke and Elgin corner, we planted a hedge of Laurels and cotoneaster.

It is the Committee's aim, where practicable and taking into account the opinions of residents, to stay true to the original Victorian layout and planting of our Garden

Throughout last year we had a really big focus on general maintenance in the garden. We continued to repair our gravel boarding and lay new gravel. We also doubled our efforts on the lawns last year. We sow an amenity grass seed, which is used on football pitches so it's perfect for our garden. It was a big job, the preparation is extensive and we were delighted with the result. We are planning to do the same again this year. However if we continue to have hot dry summers we may have to review this as it does require a period of watering in.

We had a very successful Open Garden Squares Day in June despite relentless rain, and we would like to thank Victoria for all her hard work organising the day.

In the Brighter Kensington & Chelsea Garden Scheme competition we were awarded third place in the garden squares category, so that was a great result. We also had two fellow residents who won joint second prize for the best front gardens, so once again congratulations to them and many thanks to all those who entered the competition.

Once again the committee would like to thank Paul our gardener for all his hard work and tremendous dedication, we greatly appreciate it. May we also thank our fellow residents for all their help, input, ideas and support.

COMMUNAL GARDENING DAY

Many thanks to so many of you who joined the raking on the day after our Bonfire party. Removing the autumn leaves is a tough task for Paul our gardener to complete on his own and this year the old saying of 'many hands make light work' was put into practice in a big way. Please do come out at again this year at 10am on the day after the Bonfire party.

COMMITTEE

As at the beginning of January 2011 the Committee comprised of those mentioned below with their respective roles and responsibilities:

Michiel Bakker	Chairman
James Tuckey	Treasurer
Victoria Fordham	Secretary
Verena Chalk	Dogs
Julia Heath	Keys
Nicola Heywood	Trees and Planting
Valerie Montgomery	Events
Michael Staveley	Infrastructure
Christopher Williams	Infrastructure

Christopher Williams and Verena Chalk have left the Committee. The Committee wish to thank them on behalf of all the residents for their selfless contributions in the areas of Treasury, Infrastructure and 'Dogs'. During the course of the year David Fraser ('floating member') and Virginie de Selliers ('Dogs') have agreed to join the Committee to take their places. All members are proposed for re-election

GARDEN NAME

The new 'Rosmead Garden' name is bedding in and will gain further momentum when the website goes live.

DATE FOR AGM

The date for this AGM was determined during last year's AGM. We will propose Monday January 21st 2013 as the date for next year's AGM.

Other important dates for 2011:

London Open Garden Squares Day:	Sunday June 10th
Summer Party 2011:	Saturday June 30th
Bonfire Party:	Saturday November 3rd

We hope to see you shortly at this year's AGM on Monday the 23rd of January at 71 Elgin Crescent at 7.30pm.

Yours sincerely,

The Committee.