

Rosmead Garden

Annual General Meeting

Committee Report

January 2013

Dear Resident,

The Annual General Meeting of the Rosmead Communal Garden will be held on Monday 21st of January at 7.30pm. The meeting will take place at 95 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 2012 and the accounts for the same period, prepared on a cash basis, show a surplus of £1838, compared to last year's deficit of £8294. Income was unchanged but expenditure during the year was about £10,000 lower than in 2010 as we had less 'one-off' expenditure so we ended the year with circa £22,000 in the bank. We try to ensure that the Garden Party and Fireworks evening break even and I am glad to report that we met this objective again in 2011. We engaged the services of an accountant again 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 2013 the precept was held at £26,100, following more representations from RBK&C. However, we will again achieve a surplus, before one-off expenditures, which in 2012 have included: removal of the Japanese Elm, replacement notice boards, repainting the Ladbrooke railings and spring closures on both Ladbrooke and Rosmead gates, about £7,000 in all. On current estimates we are likely to have cash in the bank at the end of March 2013 of circa £20,000, up from £15,000 at the same date last year. 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 over the last couple of years. 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 2014, 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 and as such it counts towards the overall number. However having followed the Council's bidding for 3 years, your Committee is proposing an increase of 6% in the precept for 2013, an increase of £1570, which will not quite cover inflation over the last 3 years.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

As per last year's AGM report, the main infrastructure projects were as follows.

- Painting and maintenance of Ladbrooke grove railings
- Improved privacy at Ladbrooke Grove
- New notice boards

All of the above projects have been completed although the privacy at Ladbroke grove will improve over time with the growth of the trees and bushes which have been planted. Other works undertaken were the installation of automatic gate closing mechanisms on the Ladbroke and Rosmead gates. We have also carried out some work on the concrete ramp under the large Ladbroke gates for ease of access.

We will be taking a closer look at security this year particularly near to the Rosmead gate and beside the large gate on Ladbroke grove. There have been a number of occasions when bikes have been stolen from back gardens during the year and at least one burglary where access has been gained via the gardens

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 ponder a plan of action.

GARDEN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Email, mail drops and noticeboard notification (on our brand new boards) will continue as per usual, but we would like to remind you there is a basic website where residents are able to find general information about our Garden, including the rules and notifications. The domain name is: www.rosmeadgarden.info Your feedback and contributions to the site would be most welcome.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our 2012 Olympics/Gods and Goddesses - themed **Summer Party** was a great success. As always the irrepressible Montgomeries took the organising lead supported by Amanda Waggot and all members of the Committee. The garden and the grass looked lovely and the food was great this year and because of that we could have perhaps done with more of it. The theme for the 2013 Summer Party will be: "Wild West" with barbecue and rodeo-style play and dinner entertainment of country music first, then moving towards dance music later. Date 29th June. Yee hah!

The **Bonfire Night Firework Display** was once again created and lit by Stefan and Aidan Pinter. We are very lucky to have both of them so enthusiastically delivering these spectacular displays. The tension in the air beforehand was palpable and lots of ooh's and aaah's and wow's followed. The Committee wishes to thank Stefan and Aidan for their continued generosity!

PLANTING, TREES AND GENERAL GARDEN USAGE

Last year we concluded the second phase of our 'Tree Enhancement project' with tree experts Bartlett's. Our focus was t(h)reefold: to prolong the life of our many elderly trees, to create space and light on the Lansdowne Road side of the garden and to consider Health and Safety. Last spring after due consideration and consultation we took the decision to remove the old Ash tree from one of the central lawns. Sadly, shortly afterwards, in May during a weekend of extremely strong winds the Japanese Elm on the Rosmead Lawn lost a major limb. After many weeks of consultation with expert advisors and residents, the Committee decided to remove the remaining tree. It had reached maturity, having been planted in the mid 70's after a request from The Council. This was during the period of Dutch Elm Disease. This spring we will once again check our trees against disease. Unfortunately, we must now add the Ash trees to our list.

On a happier note this year both our Horse Chestnuts and our Plane tree were checked by Bartlett's and given the 'thumbs up'. Given how diseased many central London trees are, ours are really looking quite healthy.

In terms of planting, looking back now it is hard to imagine that as we began the year we faced drought warnings, and indeed a hose pipe ban came into force last spring. So, to allow watering we invested a modest sum of money into permitted 'leaky hose pipes', as did our neighbouring gardens. Once again we focused on general garden maintenance, including gravel boarding the lawn edges and new gravel on the

paths. We also concentrated again on the lawns, aerating them, applying sand and 'amenity' grass seed. Luckily as the year moved on we did not have to water this in! As the railings on the Ladbroke Grove end of the garden were being painted and restored we took the opportunity to plant a Laurel Hedge alongside the railings. This will increase our privacy as discussed at previous AGMs and help protect us against noise and pollution. Prior to the painting a great deal of work took place to clear the ground immediately adjacent to the railings. This year we planted new shrubs throughout the garden, and we focused on one of the central beds replanting the perimeter of it.

The sun shone and we had a very successful '**Open Gardens Square**' day In June. We welcomed over 400 visitors to the garden, many of whom return each year. Both the Garden and the 'Pop-Up' charity Cafe organised by Anita Dent were a great hit. This year's date is Sunday June 9th.

Once again we won **third prize** in The Brighter Kensington & Chelsea Garden Scheme competition, in the Garden Squares North category. A great result. The Committee would like to thank Paul, our gardener, for all his hard work and his tremendous dedication throughout 2012. We also thank our fellow residents for all their help, support and ideas.

Garden Housekeeping: may we remind all residents that we can only deal with our communal garden-waste, we cannot cope with individual garden-waste. Unfortunately someone dumped 30 large Tomato plants and an enormous bag of garden waste which was too heavy to move at the bottom of the ramp just a few days before the Summer Party. This was quite a hindrance to all those who had to deliver equipment for the party. Please use the free 'green bag' service provided by our Council. Residents can apply for your free Green Bag on 0207 361 3001 or email: streetline@rbkc.gov.uk. They will also supply Bio-degradable leaf bags in Autumn/Winter at a small cost of £8.10 for a pack of 25. Again the contact details are as above or you can pick them up from The Market Office at 72 Tavistock Rd., W11 1AN (just off Portobello) Tel: 0207 727 7684.

We had a few reports of broken glass this summer in the Garden. Plastic glasses would be better or extra vigilance please. If you see any glass, please help us remove it.

Dog waste – Please only use the dog bins for dog waste. If the dog-waste bins are full, please take your dog waste home.

Rubbish bins - again these are really meant for light use primarily by the children. This summer we found all sorts in the bins and they were overflowing frequently. Please can we encourage everyone to take there rubbish home with them. This problem is most prevalent with the bin at the corner of Ladbroke and Lansdowne. The problem is that foxes then pull the rubbish out and root through it.

Finally, your help please: for some months now someone has been putting trays of cooked meat around the Ladbroke pedestrian gate steps. The problem is not only the rubbish and its attraction to the foxes, but we are encouraging rats. If anyone can help us stop it that would be great.

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 2012 the Committee comprised of those mentioned below with their respective roles and responsibilities:

Michiel Bakker	Chairman
James Tuckey	Treasurer
Victoria Fordham	Secretary
Virginie De Selliers	Dogs
Julia Heath	Keys
Nicola Heywood	Trees and Planting
Valerie Montgomery	Events
Michael Staveley	Infrastructure
David Fraser	'Floating'

David Fraser has left the Committee. On behalf of all the residents, the Committee wish to thank him for his brief but productive stint on the Committee. During the course of the year Natali Bottoli ('floating member') has agreed to join the Committee to take David's place. All members are proposed for re-election.

DATE FOR AGM

The date for this AGM was determined during last year's AGM. We will propose Monday January 21st 2014 as the date for next year's AGM.

Other important dates for 2013:

London Open Garden Squares Day:	Sunday June 9 th
Summer Party 2011:	Saturday June 29 th
Bonfire Party:	Saturday November 2 nd
Communal Gardening Day:	Sunday November 3 rd

We hope to see you shortly at this year's AGM on Monday the 21st of January at 95 Elgin Crescent at 7.30pm.

Yours sincerely,

The Committee.