

WESLEY SQUARE GARDEN REPORT FOR AGM FEBRUARY 2015

Since many residents are not able to attend the AGM I felt it would be helpful to send everyone a report on the garden and our plans for the coming year. First I would like to thank you all for your careful and considerate use of the garden and for your support to the whole team.

During the last year we completed the entrance arches and installed new signage at each of them. We also installed and planted trellises at the Church entrance. The large border near that entrance was cleared of overgrown shrubs and gradually new planting is taking form and this will be further planted this year. The herb beds which border the lawn will be extended into the lawn this year by about a metre to allow for more flowers and herbs in this sunny area. Some big shrubs will be reduced or removed throughout the garden to allow for more colourful and appropriate perennial flowers and better views.

Two of the trees in the main garden – Box Elders in front of number 47 and number 26 - will be reduced to give more light to the front gardens and the lawn as well as to the beds below them. The Box Elder behind number 26 is dying and will be removed and replaced with another tree.

All fences and paths are being renovated, repaired or replaced. At the two main entrances, Lancaster Road and the Church, new surfacing will be introduced and we are aiming to define more clearly our boundary and parking places at the Lancaster Road entrance. We are also looking at ways to green and improve the Bartle Road parking area and investigating the possibility of having a large planter near the gorgeous London Plane tree at the bottom of Bartle Road to prevent that area's use as a dumping ground.

This year our garden was second in the Brighter Kensington and Chelsea awards for the north area of the borough maintaining our position in the top three for the last three years. We are for the first time to be included in the Open Garden Square weekend – an annual event for all of London's renowned communal gardens not open at other times to the public. Visitors have to buy tickets to enter the gardens and ours will be open on the Sunday only, 14 June, from 10-5. If you would like to take part we would be very grateful for volunteers. We are able to 'sell' (through raffle tickets) refreshments, home-made produce, plants and anything else residents may wish to suggest. We will be contacting everyone near the time in order to gather suggestions and organize our activities. Information about the event can be found on: www.opensquares.org. I am more than happy to discuss any concerns or questions you may have. Wesley Square will be included in the brochure they produce and on the website, helping establish us as one of London's most attractive places to reside and celebrate our award-winning garden. Urgent request: if anyone has good photographs of the garden they can share we would be very grateful.

Finally, a number of people have suggested that unwanted visitors use the brick circle for activities that are of great concern so we should consider removing this 'seating' and plant the area. Resident architects created this and it is a well-liked and established feature so we do not want to make any change without full discussion.

Thank you for the privilege and pleasure of gardening here.

Hilary Arnold