

TO: ALL RESIDENTS

FROM: LADY MARSHALL

MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN REPORT
FEBRUARY 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991

1990 was a year of "small works", maintenance and consolidation in the garden. Expenses were kept as low as possible in accordance with agreement at last year's AGM that reinstatement of the railings should be the main project for the year.

Further improvement was evident. The regular mulching and fertilising programme produced results and most of the new shrubs and plants are now established and should grow well. There were a few casualties due to heat and lack of water but this was inevitable. We have been unfortunate that the new planting has had to stand up to two consecutive hot, dry Summers.

Spikes, the garden contractor, continue to give good personal service and have been particularly helpful with the necessary hand watering - always an unpopular task. A heavy duty hose was purchased and was very beneficial until the hosepipe ban came into force. For two or three weeks in mid-Summer the mowing was not up to standard due to wet grass. The sprinkler system was adjusted and the standard of lawncutting returned to normal.

500 mixed daffodils and narcissi were planted in the NW corner and 200 daffodils were added to the South border. I have collected used indoor flowering bulbs from various residents and plan to use them to enhance the Spring bulb display. Hyacinths, daffodils, narcissi and crocus usually naturalise easily and bloom freely in future years. If anyone has any unwanted bulbs they would like to contribute please let me know.

Two young ailanthus trees near the shed were vandalised and had to be cut down. A few months later attractive regrowth appeared which was again beaten down. This appears to be deliberate damage and is disappointing and discouraging. The particular area is bare and needs the cover of trees.

Emergency repairs were made to the shed roof but the contractor was unable to complete the painting before the onset of wet,

winter weather. This should now be left until the railings and any other extra work is completed.

The garden swing was moved and an area of bark chippings laid beneath in an effort to provide extra safety and improve the area generally.

Three areas need attention in 1991. The paths have deteriorated further and are now in very bad condition. I am obtaining quotations for this work. A small amount of the original landscaping plan has not yet been done and should be included with the paths.

Steps have been taken to minimise damage to the hedge during the installation of the railings but some replacement will be necessary. I recommend that the entire perimeter hedge be fertilised to try and promote healthier growth.

Watering and irrigation will always be a problem. The existing system is adequate for the lawn but ineffectual for the borders. The tank and pump need replacing. I am investigating alternative irrigation methods and hope to have quotations ready for the AGM.

If the work on these areas can be undertaken this year the three year refurbishment programme will be completed. The garden will then be in good condition and should need only regular and thorough maintenance for the future.

GARDENS CHAIRMAN
28.1.91