

MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
1992/1993

No major work was scheduled or necessary in the garden in 1992. It was an active year but the concentration was on thorough, regular maintenance and replacement planting in areas where old stock needed to be renewed.

A selection of well grown shrubs were purchased and planted in the NW and SW corners, both areas which were below the general standard of the garden. Additional bulbs were added on the East side and three shrubs planted under the lime tree in the NE corner on a trial basis. This is proving a very difficult area in which to get any shrub to survive - if this trial is successful planting will be completed in the Autumn.

We now have a large number of Spring bulbs in the garden and have made a further attempt to establish a good display of crocus. Last year's efforts failed, probably due to the persistence of a hungry squirrel! The tubs were planted with Winter-flowering pansies but ongoing heavy rain has made the result disappointing.

The hedge is responding to heavy pruning and the young privet planted last year is now established and growing well.

Generally the trees appear to be healthy but during the last week the ivy-covered ash tree behind the garden shed has "moved" badly in the high wind and is leaning on the shed. It is a very old tree and I hope to arrange a meeting with a tree surgeon and report further on this at the AGM.

A new contract was negotiated and signed with Spikes, the garden contractor who continues to give excellent service. This is for a three-year period and a rise in the annual cost reflects inflation, the purchase of shingle for repairs to the paths and the use of a leaf mulching machine which reduces the bulk of the compost heap. We are now mulching annually with our own leaf compost.

The signs were repaired and repainted but the garden furniture was not oiled as planned. It is difficult to find people willing to do small jobs and whenever a man was available to do the work it rained. However, the furniture does not appear to have suffered and further attempts will be made this Spring.

Once again our thanks are due to Mrs. Mackay-Lewis who devoted much time and effort to purchasing the materials and making the Christmas tree decorations. Twenty additional lights were purchased and we hope to have achieved the correct proportion of lights to tree size.

One cannot foresee the unexpected but 1993 should be another year of continuing maintenance and care of the big investment we have made in the Square. We were unplaced in the two Best Kept Garden Competitions we entered but our garden is admired, enjoyed and appreciated by many.

GARDENS CHAIRMAN
25.1.93