

To: All Residents

From: Lady Marshall

**MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN REPORT**  
**JANUARY 1995 - JANUARY 1996**

Again I report the garden to be in good condition with all routine and general maintenance tasks having been completed during the year.

The hot, dry Summer presented difficult gardening conditions but most of the planting flourished and benefited greatly from the sprinkler system and the goodwill of gardeners who hand-watered where necessary and on the two occasions when the sprinklers developed minor faults.

A photograph of the garden was chosen by Westminster City Council to illustrate the beauty of the Borough's Squares in their new promotional brochure. I think this should be acknowledged as a compliment to the standard we have now achieved.

No tree surgery was necessary but the sorbus on the north side started to show signs of deterioration in mid-July and by Autumn appeared to be dead. A virus is known to have been affecting similar trees throughout the country and if the tree does not show signs of life in the Spring it should be removed and replaced.

Madame Deschamps has generously donated three rhododendrons to the garden and these have been used to replace existing plants which were old and deteriorating. They have been a feature of her balcony for many years and we thank her and look forward to enjoying them in the years to come.

The teak garden furniture was overhauled, cleaned and oiled in the Spring. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter one of the seats disappeared and must be presumed stolen.

The Parks Manager of Westminster City Council kindly agreed to inspect the swing. He reported the framework to be in good condition but suggested we purchase a new chain and rubber seat assembly to enhance safety. This was arranged and duly fitted. The framework needed refurbishment and is being painted at the same time as the railings.

There were difficulties with painting the railings and therefore the hedge was tied back for far longer than was intended or desirable. However, it has recovered well and it is hoped that the painting will be successfully completed as soon as weather conditions are suitable.

Mrs Mackay-Lewis decorated the Christmas tree which gave much pleasure during the Christmas period - we thank her for her time and effort particularly as it had to be done on one of the coldest days of the Winter. Approximately 50 residents enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and singing carols around the tree. It was a particularly successful evening and the Salvation Army were most appreciative of the £233.00 which was collected and contributed to their Christmas Appeal for the Homeless.

In the coming year the compost bins need to be replaced. Originally of a very poor chicken wire construction they have been an essential but unattractive part of the garden and have now worn out. Spike Jackson has designed a far superior wooden construction as a replacement which will be more practical, more durable and will look more in keeping with the Square. I recommend that his suggestion and quotation be accepted and regarded as a capital expenditure which will give service and benefit in the future.

Spike Jackson and his team continue to give excellent service. A new contract is due to start on 1st April, the price to be held for three years from that date and again I recommend that we proceed with this. Inevitably costs have risen as the garden matures but all expenses are carefully watched and considered. It is impossible to predict the coming year but I hope that we can continue to work within our budget and all enjoy an attractive, well-kept garden.

January 24, 1996