

To: All Residents

From: Lady Marshall

MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN REPORT
JANUARY 1996 - JANUARY 1997

Routine and general maintenance of the garden continued throughout the year and the garden is in good condition.

I was in hospital for much of the Spring and Summer but I understand the garden looked good and reflected the care it is given. I am most appreciative of the support and help I received from Mr Davis-Gilbert and Spike Jackson and his team during that time.

Additional ground cover plants were added to the North Side. This has always been a difficult area and once the new planting is established we should see an improvement.

At last year's AGM it was agreed to construct new compost bins. This was completed in February - the work was of a high standard but after completion it was felt desirable to stain the wood to enhance the appearance.

The Sorbus tree on the north side (affected by a virus in 1995) did not recover and was removed. Later in the year the tall Robinia tree on the East Side looked unstable in high wind and was reduced in height.

The sprinkler system continued to work well. A minor electrical fault developed and was repaired - no damage resulted.

A new teak bench and table were purchased but later in the Summer the table, together with three other benches and a chair, disappeared. The loss was reported to the Police who recommend that any replacement furniture be clearly marked with the name of the Square. This precaution had been taken with the new bench and this was not taken.

As planned a second coat of Hemerite was applied to the railings and swing framework in early Spring. The contractor did an excellent job and no further maintenance should be necessary for many years.

/...

In November a delivery lorry backed into the railings on the South East corner causing extensive damage. The Swedish driver reported the incident to the Police and Mr Davis-Gilbert has been extremely diligent in following this up and obtaining agreement from the relevant insurance company to pay the repair bill. It would be very helpful if any resident witnessing any future accidents involving damage to the railings or garden will try and obtain the vehicle number of any information which might enable us to make a claim - railing work is expensive!

Mrs Mackay-Lewis decorated the Christmas tree. It gives much pleasure and brings seasonal cheer to the Square - we thank Mrs Mackay-Lewis for her continuing contribution. Approximately fifty residents and friends attended the carol singing around the tree. The weather was excellent and we all enjoyed a happy evening. The Salvation Army were delighted with the collection of £254.00 which was donated to their Christmas Appeal for the Homeless.

This year we need to repair the retaining wall of the rose area on the North Side. I hope that no other major work will be necessary.

January 23 1997