

MINUTES **OF ANNUAL GENERAL** **MEETING 2007**

Date 5 February 2007
Held at 3 Montpelier Square

Committee members present Mr Bernard Asher, Chairman
Lady Marshall, Garden Chairman
Mr Daniel Quirici, Treasurer
Mrs Avril Cox
Mrs Jean Fletcher, Secretary

Apologies for absence:

Mr Nicholas Davy-Thornhill
Mr David Eckhardt

Members of the Association present were
Mrs Jane Bradbury, Mr Steve Kordas,
Lord Marshall, Mr and Mrs Yoshi Nishio,
and Mrs Ilaria Tosato

1. To Consider the Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 23rd January 2006 were distributed and approved and the Chairman signed them.

2. Garden Report

Mr Asher introduced this by announcing that the garden has won a Bronze Certificate in the London Squares Garden Competition's 'small, private' category. Mr Nishio said our success should be celebrated, possibly by a plaque in the garden.

Lady Marshall began her report by saying that 2006 had been a 'one-off' year, with a hosepipe ban and hot July demanding watering by hand, which was labour-intensive and expensive. She would be most grateful if residents of the Square offered help with hand-watering should we have another such crisis. Please telephone the Secretary (7584 5262) if you would like to enlist as a volunteer.

The automatic watering system would be used less often in future, in the hope of accustoming the plants to drier conditions. Thirsty plants such as Hydrangeas would be avoided, except those in the

large S. border, so beautiful that they deserve the special treatment of a perforated hose beneath them.

Mr Edward Davies-Gilbert, ex-Secretary of the Committee not only helped with the watering most gallantly but gave us an extremely generous donation upon his retirement, to be spent on plants.

Despite adverse conditions much progress was made in the garden last year. In the N. border shrubs stricken by honey fungus were replaced by resistant species and some aged Camellias were removed. The S.W. corner was transformed by clearance and new planting. The W. border was thoroughly pruned and cleared.

Mrs Tosato and Mrs Bradbury commented that our tree surgeons pruned too severely, losing the 'feathery' look. Lady Marshall pointed out that Westminster Council requires a 3 meter gap between tree and building, and that Tree Care's skill could be appreciated when the recent gale caused no damage

Lady Marshall was thanked by the Committee and Members of the Association for the 20 years of excellent care she has dedicated to the garden.

3. Financial Report and Precept

Mr Quirici pointed out that 2006 had been unusually expensive in the garden, due to tree surgery, railing-painting, hand-watering, and replacement planting. But our Reserve Fund remains very healthy and is enough to cover most horticultural disasters. So the precept for 2007 will remain unchanged at £450 per household.

4. Any Other Business

Mr Asher proposed that Mr Yoshi Nishio should join the Committee. Mr Nishio was welcomed unanimously.

Summing up the Meeting, Mr Asher remarked that the garden promoted neighbourliness. He praised Mrs Bradbury for giving an example of this with her Carol Party. She said the 2006 party had raised £1500, partly thanks to several big donations. This goes to the Regent Street Salvation Army, whose band plays at the party and whose work for the homeless has recently been much increased by refugees.

Signed _____

TO RESIDENTS OF MONTPELIER SQUARE

GARDEN COMMITTEE A.G.M. MINUTES:

THE GARDEN PRECEPT FOR 2007