

**INTRODUCTION** - What a joy it is to manage this beautiful garden! Year on year I can watch the maturing of the plants and prune the shapes of the trees and shrubs, slowly improving them. This is what I absolutely love to do and I'm so thrilled to have the opportunity.

**OPEN GARDEN SQUARES WEEKEND** - One of the super things about being the Garden Manager is sharing the garden by opening it to the public at events like the recent Open Garden Squares Weekend. It's brilliant being part of a team of friends, neighbours, residents who give up give their time and all their different skills to make the event such fun.

**CAKES, DRINKS, & GARDEN VOLUNTEERS** - I particularly want to thank Clara and Esme for holding the longest and chic-est cake sale ever done in the square. Simply delicious cakes were whisked into reality by Fiona, Henry, Ivan, Barbara, and Lorraine. Gardeners Pamela, Susan and Sophie put the garden in order, volunteers served delicious drinks all afternoon and a rotating team of garden representatives ushered in the visitors.

**GARDENERS** - None of this would have been possible without the amazing discipline and support of our wonderful gardening team. Honestly, we've never had it so good, they're fabulous.

**TREES** - I want to talk briefly about trees partly because it is such a big item in the budget. We're also extremely fortunate to have so many mature trees in the garden. We have an ongoing commitment to maintain and preserve our trees, just like other plants in the garden. And like so many trees in the UK they are under threat at the moment. A fungus called Massaria is starting to impact on London's plane trees and we need to monitor it and should we find it remove any branches affected by the fungus. The trees in Cleveland Gardens and on the east side of the square were checked earlier this year. The trees on the south and west side of the square are being inspected and pruned during the dormant season over the next year.

This is highly skilled and dangerous work done by qualified arboriculturists: we have a responsibility to manage our trees. At the moment Westminster are insisting we pay over £2,000 just for the parking for that work to be done. We will keep on negotiating...

**IVY** - After the nesting season is over, we'll be removing much of the ivy from the plane tree on the south side. It had been booked for the winter just gone but severe weather made it impossible to carry out the work.

**CATCH UP** - I am usually gardening in the square on Tuesdays and Fridays, so if you have any plant-related questions, please do come and find me. I'm always happy to help.