



**FIREWORKS NIGHT  
UPDATE  
& FOOD BANK NEWS**



**LOCKDOWN EASING  
EFFECT ON GARDEN  
& GARDEN REPORT**



**CELEBRATING THE  
OPENING OF THE NEW  
PLAYGROUND**



**GOOD NEWS FROM  
THE POLICE ABOUT  
CRIME IN THE SQUARE**

# NEWSLETTER



## GARDEN REPORT

It has been a rather difficult Spring in many ways, and a testing time for the gardens due to the driest Spring on record. But nature never disappoints, and we have been able to enjoy a wonderful display of flowers and foliage. A flurry of peonies, mainly in the central bed, blossomed generously during the whole month of May. The iris display along the north terrace and in the pergola bed were surprisingly elegant and sumptuous in colour.



Then the display of roses in pots and beds along the north terrace (see above) was particularly remarkable this year. And the red roses crowning the circle of apple trees have benefitted from a firm pruning by James, and are thriving as a result.

I hope you didn't miss either the wonderful pink and purple, ornamental poppies in the central bed (a few are left, still standing proud), or the box azaleas - the round bushes adorned with white flowers - by the woodland leading to the Japanese garden. The hostas and stunning acanthus (see below) by the double gate entrance are starting to flower.

### **So now regarding a few changes you may have noticed...**

Many large terracotta pots were removed, freeing the garden paths, so we can all walk around more easily. Others were repositioned in the Balloon Bed with the help of Luis Buitrago, a landscape architect, who has been assisting us in the garden.

The smaller pots around the central bed have been regrouped by the benches. And for those of you who like to cook with fresh herbs, there is thyme, marjoram, mint, basil mint and sage still available in the pots surrounding the central bed. Don't miss out!

Other changes include the removal of a small acer tree from the Balloon Bed to the woodland area near the Japanese

## *We need your help*

Following our recent email about the updated *garden guidelines* and *summer reminders*, we need to reiterate and expand on a few points, especially ahead of lockdown being eased on the 4 July, and what will likely be a very busy and social summer in the garden.

We need to call on the residents to share responsibility and help us, as a committee, to care for our garden and community by...

1. Using the garden considerately and in line with the rules and guidelines
2. Saying something to the person/people concerned when you see behaviour that contravenes the rules
3. And of course you can also advise the committee, if you think it necessary

Which leads to having to highlight a number of complaints and issues, that have recently been called to our attention.....

garden, where other acers already thrive. Our gardeners James and Leigh have also taken the time to start reorganising the storage area next to the shed. This will need a bit more attention later on, when time allows. A small and unhappy quince tree was removed from the Balloon Bed, where you can now see some stunning pots filled with lavender and hydrangeas.

After some discussion and advice, the committee applied for and received permission to remove a large overhanging limb from the tall prunus facing in the balloon bed on the north terrace. We hope to prolong this rather elderly tree's life, without reducing its welcome shade. And in an effort to minimise pollution and noise, we are now using some electrical machinery, in the form of a new leaf-blower and hedge cutter.

And finally, the foxes are back. You can often hear them howling at night. The squirrels remain as greedy as always, and magpies have taken up their usual Summer residency.

*Annemarie & Don*



### **Don't Urinate or Defecate in the Garden!**

You might think this would be obvious but it seems not. Adults are doing this, as well as kids! It's unsanitary, and deeply unpleasant for those who stumble across or into it and those who clean it up.

### **Remove Your Litter**

Please take it away with you. Crisp packets and bottles have been found in flower beds & flower pots - not just at tables. This also applies to cigarette butts.

### **Late Night Noise**

Please remember that the garden is not to be used after 22:30. Over the past months there have been some loud, late-night parties. There is a good reason for this rule. Sound in this square is amplified by the buildings, and therefore disturbs many residents who are trying to sleep.

### **Personal Belongings & Toys**

Those left in the garden will be put in the shed for a week, and then donated to a local charity, if not claimed.

### **Garden Guidelines**

[Click here](#)

### **Summer Reminders**

[Click here](#)

### **Covid & the Garden**

[Click here](#)



## PLAYGROUND OPENING ON JULY 4

You may have noticed that although the playground has been built and the safety surface laid for some time now, it has remained closed to comply with government CV19 guidelines. The good news is after this long wait we will be opening it on 4th July.

The Play Inspection Company, who approve and certify the safety of children's playgrounds, have completed a post-installation check on the play equipment, the safety surface and the swings which have all passed their inspection. The sandpit will also open at the same time, and following advice from the play inspectors, it will be raked and disinfected at least once a week. So, after much anticipation around an opening date, we are good to go! We hope the children get hours of fun and play on the new equipment.

### **Celebration and thank yous**

When the government guidelines allow us, we will have a small celebratory event to mark the opening of the playground. In the meantime, we would like to give our thank you's and appreciation to all of those residents who were involved in the initial consultation with residents, parents and children about the building of something special in that corner of our garden. In particular, we would like to thank Suzanne Etherton, Dd Etherton, Jodi Bartle, Mark Fray, Rebecca Reid, Karl Emery, Tomas Campbell, Salim Moolan, Lorraine Connolly and Angus Hudson for their time, energy and commitment. We would also like to thank those residents who contributed to the fund raising for this playground. We will be in contact with you separately over the coming months. *Lorraine*

## BECOMING PART OF THE POLICE PROTECTION ZONE

Many residents will be aware of the anti-social behaviour and drug-taking around the north side of Cleveland Square and Cleveland Gardens. There is also a long-term problem of drug dealing. But at last we have some good news: After much persuasion, including from the CSRA committee, the



police are now taking these issues seriously. The problem chiefly involves groups of youths gathering most evenings to smoke dope and inhale nitrous oxide, (laughing gas - which is contained in the small, silver canisters we see lying about in the streets). Some of our elderly neighbours, who live alone, say they are scared to go out when the youths are about. Lately, with the good weather, this has been almost every evening. Usually, these youths cause little nuisance

except create some noise and leave behind a great deal of litter. On several occasions, police have attended the area and dispersed groups of youths. No arrests have been made that I know of.

### Drug dealing in Cleveland Gardens

However, reports of drug-dealing constitute a more serious issue. Residents living along the north side of Cleveland Square and in Cleveland Gardens have witnessed many drug deals take place over a long period of time. The police have been phoned many times and, when possible, car registration numbers have been passed on. Drug dealing takes place in the evenings, late at night and during the afternoons.

Thanks to continual pressure by residents, the CSRA, and the good work by our local Councillor Andrew Smith, the police are now planning to add Cleveland Square and Gardens to the local Community Protection Zone, which already covers Hallfield Estate and Queensway. These zones, as I understand it, give police extra powers, including the ability to ban individuals from the area.

### Cleveland Square & Gardens are now on police patrol route

The police say local patrols will in future add our area to their default patrol route. Emergency Response Teams will also pay more attention to the area. And, with the drug-dealing element a major concern, the police Violent Crime Syndicates Force will be alerted. We must thank for all this, Councillor Andrew Smith, and our local Constable Zach Ali from the [Lancaster Gate Safer Neighbourhood Police Team](#).

### What to do if you witness something

Constable Ali asks residents to keep a look-out and ring 101 with any relevant information, including car registration numbers or photographs of the youths involved. Let us hope we will see a great improvement to our neighbourhood in the weeks ahead. *Don Jordan*



## PLEASE REMAIN MINDFUL IN THE GARDEN AS LOCKDOWN EASES

After the past 3 months many of us will be suffering from *lockdown fatigue*, nevertheless despite government CV19 lockdown measures being eased on 4 July, **there is still a risk**. We understand there are differing views about the risk and the [government's guidance](#). However, for the time being, the garden will continue to follow it. So we are asking residents to continue being responsible and respectful in the way they use the garden, and to be understanding of the needs of others, who may be more cautious than you, and wish to observe stricter social distancing.

- **You can meet in groups of up to 6 people from different households, whilst following social distancing guidelines.**
- **Gatherings larger than 6 should only take place if everyone is from just two households.**
- **Continue to Socially Distance and keep 2m apart where possible.**
- **When 2m is not possible, please keep to 1m + risk mitigations i.e taking suitable precautions to reduce the risk to yourself and others.**

### Bringing guests into the garden

Please **limit the number of guests** you bring into the garden, and keep gatherings in line with the government guidelines. Sadly **this applies to children's playdates** as well. And if you are bringing children into the garden, who are too young to understand social distancing, please stay with them at all times. If taking exercise, please find a quiet spot away from others and off the paths and please **do not run or jog in the garden**. And please do not use the garden if you show any signs of illness.



## NORTH PADDINGTON'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

The last thirteen weeks have been tough on a lot of people, especially vulnerable families who would usually find more support from local councils, independent support groups, charities and their own families. As the pressure of lockdown grew, so did the realisation that those support organisations weren't going to cope with the growing demand.

I've loved seeing our local community step up and support the [North Paddington Food Bank](#) (NFPB), as well as look out for each other and our wider community. We've collected nearly 200 bags of shopping, many large boxes, individual packets, tins and a good selection of useful items. The NFPB has gone from supporting 60 families a week to 600, so without these additional contributions families would have gone hungry. Your donations have made a positive, direct impact on the wellbeing of many families around Paddington, Lancaster Gate, Westbourne Grove and North Paddington.

*Chris Skarratt*

## UPDATE ON FIREWORKS NIGHT - 5 NOVEMBER 2020



The good news is that there is a dedicated team of committee members and residents, who have begun to make some initial plans for Bonfire Night. We are of course, ever mindful that the government guidelines could mean that we will not be able to hold a large event. And we are in communication with Westminster City Council and local councillors, whose advice we will take on how to proceed. If we cannot hold our normal capacity event, we will try to hold

a smaller event, if government guidelines allow. We will keep you updated and, of course, will call on you for your support to volunteer on the night, if you can.

*Lorraine*

## TO CONTACT US & WEBSITE PASSWORD

Below are the committee members and various emails for contacting the us, depending on the topic. We aim to reply to you as quickly as possible. If our response is not instantaneous, please bear in mind that we are volunteers with jobs and other commitments. Thank you for your patience.

**Chair** - Angus Hudson

**Vice Chair / Secretary** - Jo Moss

**Garden Managers** - Annemarie Landau & Don Jordan - [gardenmanager@clevelandsquare.co.uk](mailto:gardenmanager@clevelandsquare.co.uk)

**Acting Treasurer** - Maureen O'Connor - [treasurer@clevelandsquare.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@clevelandsquare.co.uk)

**Events** - Lorraine Connolly & Mark Fray - [events@clevelandsquare.co.uk](mailto:events@clevelandsquare.co.uk)

**Community** - Sarah Davison & Rebecca Illing

**Keys** - [keys@clevelandsquare.co.uk](mailto:keys@clevelandsquare.co.uk)

**General Email Address** - [committee@clevelandsquare.co.uk](mailto:committee@clevelandsquare.co.uk)

**CSRA Website Residents' Area** - [www.clevelandsquare.co.uk/resident](http://www.clevelandsquare.co.uk/resident)

**Password to the residents' area** - Styrax

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## USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS

### Lancaster Gate Safer Neighbourhood Police Team

Police Sergeant Amy Washington

Police Constable Mohamed 'Mo' Alami

Police Constable Zachariah 'Zach' Ali

PCSO Mahmood Khushi

SNTs [Safer Neighbourhood (police) Teams] are NOT 24-hour response teams. Local contact details should not be used for any communication that might require an emergency response. Nor should an individual officer's email addresses be used because that officer may not be on duty for several days.

- **Emergency calls:** If 'persons or property' are in immediate danger always dial [999](#) [or [112](#)]
- **In case of domestic abuse** and you fear being overheard on [999](#), when the operator asks "which service?" press 55 on your keypad and the operator will conduct the call in a way that you don't have to speak.

- **To report a recent crime** to the Met Police:  
Click on [Report a crime](#) or call 101 or tweet [@MetCC](#)
- **To report a crime anonymously** via the charity Crimestoppers:  
Click on [Crimestoppers](#) or call 0800 555 111
- **To report a scam or fraud:**  
Click on [ActionFraud](#) or tweet [@actionfrauduk](#) or call 0300 123 2040
- **Contact your relevant local Safer Neighbourhood police Team (not 24/7):**  
Email: [LancasterGate.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:LancasterGate.SNT@met.police.uk) or tweet: [@MPSLancasterGte](#)

## Our Local Councillors - City of Westminster - Lancaster Gate Ward

[Councillor Andrew Smith](#) - [asmith@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:asmith@westminster.gov.uk)

[Councillor Margot Bright](#) - [mbright@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:mbright@westminster.gov.uk)

[Councillor Susie Burbridge](#) - [sburbridge@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:sburbridge@westminster.gov.uk)

## Our Member of Parliament - Westminster North

[Karen Buck MP](#) - [buckk@parliament.uk](mailto:buckk@parliament.uk) - 07514 132 039

## South East Bayswater Residents Association (SEBRA)

The South East Bayswater Residents' Association is our local amenity society which was formed in 1970 and works to protect the special character of our area. A non-profit, non party-political, voluntary organisation, we represent more than 1,000 people. SEBRA is consulted by Westminster Council on both major developments and all Council activities which affect the daily lives of residents. [www.sebra.org.uk](http://www.sebra.org.uk)

## Westminster City Council

[www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)

City Hall Main Switchboard: 020 7641 6000

Westminster City Inspectors – General number: 020 7641 2000

Congestion Charge: (TfL) 0845 900 1234

Environment and Noise Hotline: 020 7641 2000

Graffiti and Flyposting Removal: 020 7641 2000

TfL Highway problems: 0343 222 1234

Paddington Library: 020 7641 1300

Parking Hotline: 020 7823 4567

Highways Defects and Lighting: 020 7641 2000