

Fitzroy Square Frontagers and Garden Committee: Newsletter April 2016

Dear Frontagers,

We thought of providing you with a short update on the activities carried out by your Frontager's and Garden Committee since the last General Annual Meeting.

In addition, we thought of adding a few news items such as new Freeholders on the Square, the guard/dog security program and other useful information.

The Garden:

The garden continues to be in very good shape. Our long-time gardener Ted Merwood retired in the summer and we were able to give him a proper send off at the Frontager's Summer party.

Our new gardener is David Dubrau, he continues the maintenance program under the expert guidance of Edward Turner.

Planning approval has been obtained for the children climbing fence and hut. The hut has been stained brown to better blend into the vegetation. A question remains whether the roof is too intrusive and should be removed.

The Frontagers Committee approved the implementation of a second gate on the south side of the garden and Planning approval has also been obtained. The Committee is evaluating the impact of such gate on the landscaping, prior to executing the second gate.

Thank you to Neil Phoenix for obtaining those two planning approvals.

The trees were pruned and checked by our new tree surgeon, Modern Arboricultural Services.

A decompaction of the lawn has been done to provide a better environment for the roots of our beautiful trees. In this process holes are drilled to the depth of 1 meter and air is injected to loosen the soil. Such process should be repeated every 7 years.

The north gate, which is hard to operate in warm weather, will be renovated and the committee is evaluating a fob key solution. Thank you to Heide Eyles for managing this project and to Jo Rhys Jones for collecting all the data necessary for its implementation.

Frontager's parties:

We held a well attended summer party in the garden in July and our winter party in December was held at No33 Fitzroy Square. Thank you Rebecca Corrigan for catering those two events and thank you to the owners of 33 for giving us access to this lovely house on the square.

Private events:

Under the able leadership of Heide Eyles seconded by Claire Bruce we allowed private events in the garden in 2015. On the whole the events went ahead without any major issues, in full compliance with the guidelines established by the Committee.

Filming:

Occasional filming continues in the square following the guidelines established by the Committee, and a contribution to the upkeep of the garden is requested from each filming events. One formal complaint has been received with regards to filming activities, and a few Frontagers felt that some filming activities were too big in relation to the Square. The Committee will continue to monitor the filming situation closely.

The budget and proposed Garden Levies:

We will report in detail at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the expenditure situation for this year, which somewhat exceeds our yearly income. This is due to several capital improvement items undertaken.

The committee decided to nevertheless leave the garden levies unchanged in view of our strong financial situation.

Annual General Meeting (AGM):

The meeting will take place on May 18 at 5pm, location to be determined.

Besides the normal agenda items such as the Chairman's report, the Treasurer's report, approval of the accounts and elections, we would like the Frontager's feedback on the window flower scheme currently in effect and paid for by the garden levy.

It represents a significant part of our yearly budget, and it would be useful to receive feedback from residents on how desirable it is to continue with it. So please come prepared to address this issue.

Governance subcommittee and by laws:

The subcommittee has carried out work, but has not reached consensus yet on formal by laws, which are necessary to operate the committee professionally. We will update you on this subject at the AGM.

Miscellaneous:

Security guard and dog:

As you are probably aware a security guard with dog is hired during the spring – fall months. This scheme managed by Edward Turner, seconded by Heide Eyles and Claire Bruce, is now in existence for 4 years and has significantly improved the security situation on the square, as well as the quality of life for all Frontagers and the quality sleep for the Residents. Many Frontagers support the scheme financially on a voluntary basis, and we would welcome an expanded base of support.

Dog Fouling:

Rebecca Corrigan and Heide Eyles have positioned posters on the railing, to highlight the need for owners to avoid having their dogs foul the square. The situation has significantly improved as a result.

New Frontagers, welcome to the square:

No 19 has been acquired by Poju and Anita Zabłudowicz with the intent to convert it into a private residence.

No 26 has been acquired by the Royal Society of Musicians in Great Britain, a charity to support musicians. The house will be fully renovated and will also house the extensive archives of the charity, which has been founded in 1767.

We look forward to see you at the AGM on May 18

Pierre de Weck
Chairman

Rosaleen Hubbard
Hon Secretary