



GARDEN NEWS

The latest news and updates from the
Montagu Square Garden Trust

MEET OUR NEW GARDEN CLERK - LISA PAYNE

We're pleased to introduce Lisa Payne as our new Garden Clerk. Lisa comes to us with a background in accounting and experience as a school business manager.

Lisa will work with the Committee to handle several key tasks to keep our garden running smoothly:

- Working with the Treasurer to manage the Garden Finances
- Managing Garden Rate collections
- Managing garden key registration and issuance
- Supporting the Committee in an organisational and administrative capacity as well as helping with other aspects of the garden such as the children's play area.



Lisa is undergoing a handover with the current Garden Clerk, WBM and will assume sole responsibility from June 30th. We welcome Lisa to the Square and look forward to working with her to maintain and improve our community garden.

The contact information for the garden clerk is email gardenclerk@montagusquare.org | telephone 07446 759075. Please remember that Lisa only works for us part time so there might be a couple of days wait for a reply.

GARDEN RATES NOTICES 2024

Everyone should have received their Garden Rates Notice for 2024. If you haven't received your notice please let Lisa know by email. If you are renting your flat please check your tenancy agreement to see whether you or your Landlord are responsible for paying the Garden Rate. If it's your responsibility to pay and you haven't received an Notice please email Lisa.

The original designers of the square in 1801 included a communal garden so all residents would enjoy views and the experience of a natural landscape from their homes. The garden rate is therefore payable by all every residence because, regardless of whether they access the garden or not, everyone benefits from the amenity that the garden provides.

GARDEN UPDATE

All that rain has made for a beautiful Spring in the garden. We have enjoyed a beautiful early display of daffodils and tulips, blossoms on our flowering trees, a wonderful array of camellias and now we have a a spectacular show of rhododendrons.



One of the Committee's aims is to improve the sustainability of the Garden and seasonal mulching is one way we are seeking to do this. By applying mulch, we're not only enhancing the aesthetic appeal of our garden, but also fostering healthier soil, reducing water evaporation, suppressing weeds, and promoting biodiversity. It's a small step with hopefully a big impact.

Our garden consultant, Stephen Crisp and our gardeners have been hard at work planting a variety of flowers, shrubs, and herbs creating richer plantings and more seasonal interest. This planting should also help enhance the privacy of the garden.

Following a number of requests from residents we have planted culinary herbs in sunny spots in the garden. If you need fresh herbs for a recipe residents are welcome to take cuttings. We also have a number of bay trees in the garden and residents can take bay leaves for cooking as well.

Please exercise common sense when taking cuttings. If one rosemary bush is looking a little thin, find one which isn't. Please also ensure that you correctly identify plants before eating them!

We are also aiming to create more spaces within the garden where members of our community can unwind, reflect, and connect with nature. As part of this we are working on the the creation of a woodland garden in the north garden. This space will be a haven for shade-loving plants, ferns, and mosses, offering a tranquil retreat for both humans and wildlife alike.

We have had a few issues with people playing football in the Garden. The gardeners have put a huge effort into planting and caring for new bushes and shrubs. A football hoofed into the beds can, in a split second negate all that hard work. There have also been a few sightings of dogs in the Garden. We love dogs but they are not allowed in the Garden. If you see anyone playing football or walking a dog, please let them know about the no ball games, no dog policy and encourage them to respect the hard work of those caring for the garden.



RUBBISH IN THE GARDEN



A squirrel enjoying the rubbish left in the garden by a resident over the early May bank holiday weekend

The Committee and gardeners are working hard to facilitate the creation of a beautiful and peaceful place for all residents but this requires a collective effort from all of us living in the Square. One of the main issues in the Garden is rubbish. This gets into the Garden via two main routes. Firstly people enjoying the Garden and then not taking their rubbish home. Secondly from people leaving rubbish on the street which foxes, squirrels etc drag into the garden. Please help save the Garden from rubbish.

If you use the Garden please

- Plan Ahead: Bring a reusable bag to collect any rubbish you might generate during your visit.
- Pack It In, Pack It Out: Follow the principle of leaving no trace. Whatever you bring into the Garden, take it away with you.
- Educate and Encourage: If you see someone unaware of our take-your-rubbish-home policy, kindly remind them. Your efforts will help maintain everyone's enjoyment in using the Garden.

Rubbish on the street

- General waste is collected by the Council on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please do NOT put your rubbish out the evening before. If you are not able to put your rubbish out, there are large bins for household rubbish that you can use at any time. South from the square, there are rubbish bins at on the corner of George Street and Montagu Street, heading north there are bins on the corner of Upper Montagu Street and York Street. To the east there are bins on Paddington Street opposite Paddington Square Gardens.
- Food scraps attract pests so please consider having a separate food waste bin. You can drop off food waste at the food waste community bins. The nearest bins are on the corner of Marylebone Road and Upper Montagu Street or on Paddington Street opposite Paddington Square Gardens.

FINAL YEAR FOR HANGING BASKETS

It has been decided that this will be the last year that hanging baskets will be supplied for the lampposts around Montagu Square. The annuals within the basket require extensive watering and the cost of supplying and watering them has gone up significantly in recent years (2022 £4,370, 2023 £4,807, 2024 £5,750). This cost has been paid for by voluntary donations topped up by reserves left by the Residents Association when it disbanded, but the reserves have been used up and donations are not sufficient to continue after 2024

GARDEN KEY CARDS

One of the first things that Lisa will be doing as Garden Clerk is reviewing the key card entry system. In particular she will be going through the system removing duplicate and unallocated cards. We are not expecting this to effect residents, but if your card stops working, please get in touch with Lisa and she will arrange a replacement.

Just a reminder about the card system.

1. When you move into the Square you may apply for a garden access card. You will need to provide proof of residency eg in the form of a tenancy agreement
2. Only one card is issued per residence.
3. If you lose your card you can apply for a replacement. This costs £50. Your existing card will be cancelled when the replacement is issued
4. By using your card to access the garden, you are agreeing to the garden rules.
5. The Garden is for residents only, guests are welcome as long as they are accompanied by a resident.

UPCOMING EVENTS

