

**NEVERN SQUARE GARDEN LIMITED
NEVERN SQUARE GARDEN COMMITTEE**

**AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022
NEVERN SQUARE GARDEN AGM**

Dear Garden Member,

This is an invitation to attend the Annual General Meetings of Nevern Square Garden Ltd. and the Nevern Square Garden Committee of Levy Payers, which will be held in the Ground Floor Meeting Room at Inkerman House, no.14-18 Nevern Road, **at 7.00 pm on Monday January 9th 2022**. All Garden Levy-Payers (whether or not they have a key) and all subscribers who have paid their subscription for the 2022-2023 year qualify to attend the meeting.

The Garden Sub-Committee

The current elected members of the Garden Sub-Committee are: Annabel Campigotto and Armin Venencie. Karl Moffatt was co-opted onto the Committee in the course of the last year. Eva Gleeson and Fidel Salgado have resigned. The Sub-Committee Members who have indicated that they wish to stand for election for the coming financial year are Annabel Campigotto, Armin Venencie and Karl Moffatt. Geoff Teague and Juha Raymond have been proposed and seconded for election as new Committee Members.

Annabel Campigotto, the current Chairman, intends to resign from the Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee at the AGM, but will remain as Chairman of Nevern Square Garden Ltd. for the time being.

Very sadly Martyn Probyn, one of our most long-standing Sub-Committee members, passed away on October 20th 2022. For over twenty-five years he served as our Treasurer and voluntary accountant. He gave up the accountancy in 2018 when the management of the Garden was handed over to WBM, but even after that was most helpful with advice on financial and legal matters. His was an outstanding example of public service to his local community and we are most grateful for everything he did for the Garden.

We are always on the lookout for new Sub-Committee members. If you are a resident of Nevern Square who pays the garden levy or a paid-up subscriber you are eligible to become a Sub-Committee member. You must be proposed and seconded by two residents, using the form appended to this letter, to be returned to WBM not less than 48 hours before the AGM.

Garden News

The Garden hosted several events in the course of the year, including Christmas carols, a party for the Royal Jubilee on June 4th, and the end-of-year sports day for the children of the Snowflake School and their families on June 22nd.

At the end of June all the fob keys in circulation were deactivated and all key holders were asked to give back their old key and collect a new one (on production of the required documentation). We realize that this is tiresome but it enables us to take out of circulation any keys that have been illegitimately passed on from people leaving the area to new, unrecorded residents.

In November a new tree was planted in the garden, on the East side, between the horse chestnut and the cherry tree. It is a crab apple called *malus hupehensis* and will have white flowers and cherry-sized red apples in autumn. The tree was planted in memory of Clare Heaton and was donated by her relatives and friends. Clare (whose previous surname was Drewett) used to live in Nevern Mansions in the 1980s and loved spending time in the garden with her young children.

Problems in the course of the last year

In the summer months we had considerable problems with non key holders getting into the garden, in particular in the evening hours. The gates were vandalized several times by damaging the electrical connections to the locking mechanism, which meant we had to spend a lot on repairs. The green bench by the play area was moved to the fence to enable people to climb over (it has since been fixed to the ground) and the same thing happened with one of the tables. Apart from advising the police there is not much we can do to prevent this.

The exceptionally dry weather was also a problem, both because of the risk of plants dying for lack of water -- fortunately we have had very few casualties -- and because of the danger of fire. As everyone will be aware, at a certain point we had to ban barbecues to avoid the risk of accidental grass or tree fires. From September onwards a hosepipe ban was imposed, so we were unable to use the automatic watering system.

In June and July several residents complained about noisy parties with large numbers of guests. Next summer we may decide to take specific measures to manage this.

Form of ownership of the Garden

As you may remember from previous AGMs, the Garden Sub-Committee has been considering for some time the possibility of changing the form of ownership of the Garden to secure its future and simplify its administrative arrangements.

Following a legal consultation with Robert Barham, who specializes in matters relating to Garden Squares, we have decided to proceed with this operation. The rationale for doing this and the legal steps necessary to achieve it are described by Robert Barham in a memorandum entitled "Nevern Square Garden - New ownership proposals", which can be consulted on the Nevern Square Garden website.

The Garden Levy

On the basis of the financial results for the 2021-2022 financial year (which you can see in the accounts enclosed with this letter), and bearing in mind the current and expected level of inflation, the Committee has decided to increase the levy by 3%, from £40,700 to £42,000. This represents an average increase of £4.54 per levy-payer. The budget for the 2023-2024 financial year (also enclosed) incorporates a contingency allowance of £4000.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who work so hard to keep our garden looking good: Hamish and Joe the garden managers, Sebastien our regular gardener who comes each week to cut the lawn, rake up the leaves, weed the flower beds and look after the plants in general, Marcelo and Danilo who trim the hedges, put in new plants, do the pruning and take away the green refuse, Hristina who changes the bags in the dog bin and picks up the rubbish twice a week, Adam who cleans and oils the garden benches, and, last but not least, Salvatore Giorgio of WBM who organizes all the hard landscaping works, gets the gates fixed when they stop working, registers the dogs, and many other things besides. Other specialists perform other roles such as tree surgery, pest control, servicing the watering system, and so on. It is surprising how many things you need to do to look after a garden.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on January 9th.

On behalf of the Nevern Square Garden Committee

Annabel Campigotto (Chairman of the Sub-Committee)

