

ALBANY GARDENS NEWS - JANUARY 1992

Dear Resident,

I am frequently asked by Residents for information on what Garden Plans and developments can be expected and so your Garden Committee have encouraged me to produce an occasional News Report.

We are very lucky to have a large area of Garden, probably one of the largest attached to Blocks of Flats in Kingston. It is a considerable asset which not only gives pleasure to walk in and enjoy, but also increases the value of our properties.

I must thank the many residents who have given us donations and to those others who have given their time - dead heading, pruning, watering, etc. Offers of regular help are always welcome. Thanks are also due to our Garden Contractor, Ian Grisenthwaite and his team, although only with us one day, or in summer two days a week, he has made a welcome change to the appearance of the lawns and flower beds.

Frank Armstrong  
Chairman Garden Committee  
4 Brunswick Court

## NEWS ITEMS

LAWNS Much time and money has been spent on feeding, weeding, spiking and scarifying as well as routine mowing. The compliments of the Residents are much appreciated, but it was a pity that British Gas had to dig up such strategic areas - at least we can all feel safer. Restoration work will commence in the Spring.

IRRIGATION The opportunity was taken whilst the new gas main was being laid, to also lay a new water main. A need for many years it gave a saving of around £2,000 on earlier estimates.

BORDERS We hope to have a further section of the service road border replanted about March. Some 500 daffodils were planted in November and with a further 475 crocus donated by a resident we should welcome Spring with plenty of colour. The three tree peonies (*Lutea ludlowii* and the Photinia - red robin, planted just over a year ago in York Main Border are rather slow in settling, but should eventually bring extra colour to this area.

THE BRUNSWICK MAIN BORDER is a problem. A beech tree was removed many years ago, but the roots were not fully disposed of and have been the cause of the spread of (Armillaria) honey fungus. This has resulted in the death of many trees and shrubs, including a delightful ornamental cherry and more recently a laburnum. The eradication of the fungus is extremely difficult and could be very costly and so we are trying to find resistant plants.

ROSES along the river have been replaced on most of the wall, mainly with the cluster flowered trumpeter (previously known as Floribunda), a bright vermillion red which has drawn a large amount of favourable comment.

TREES Our 80 plus trees continue to need regular attention. Several are subject to Tree Preservation Orders, including the 2 cedars, probably between 150-200 years old. An interesting investigation is in hand to establish, as far as possible, the original dates of the cedars and other developments in the gardens.

FOYERS Our sincere thanks to the three volunteers:

Mr F. Pountney, York Court,

Mr P. Temple, Ulster Court

Mrs B. Armstrong, Brunswick Court,

for their continued attention to the 3 foyers including the Christmas Trees. Considerable thought and effort is required to keep the foyers attractive for a very small cost.