

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

COULD THIS BE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

The third stage of Boris's road-map out of lockdown has now come into effect with the re-opening of non-essential shops & amenities such as gyms, hair-dressers & beer gardens. It's been a torrid couple of months since the latest lockdown began just after Christmas, as the rather witty posters outside our local Everyman bear witness (here's Gwyneth having trouble with her "tiers"):



But as we appear to remain on course to cast off all social restrictions by June 21st it seems like a good time to re-visit some of the rules that aim to ensure all those using the garden co-exist in a spirit of harmony & co-operation.

WHILE COVID RULES STILL APPLY...

Please observe the rule of six by which no more than six people or two households are allowed to meet in any outside setting. Social distancing remains in force which means that individuals should stay at least two metres apart or where that is not possible one metre apart with the added precaution of a face covering.

To help enforce this rule in the Garden we have asked walkers & joggers using the pathways to go in a clockwise direction to reduce the possibility of contact. Joggers approaching walkers should overtake them by using the garden turf to ensure a two-metre wide gap. All children under the age of six must be accompanied by at least one parent to ensure the distancing rule is observed.

AND DON'T FORGET THE PERMANENT RULES

These are listed on the Formosa Amenity website (www.formosagarden.co.uk) and are due to be reviewed by the Board at our next meeting in early May. But meanwhile here are a few of the ones most widely invoked:

- Ball games only permitted for the under-10s if it doesn't disturb others
- Children must not be left unsupervised in the garden

- Barbecues are not permitted
- Toys, bicycles etc must not be left in the garden overnight
- Parties involving more than 10 people must have prior permission
- Dogs must be registered with WBM
- Dogs can be exercised off the lead from daybreak to 10 am.

Please can dog-owners note in particular the requirement to register their pets. There has been a huge increase in dog ownership during lockdown with which our website doesn't seem entirely to have kept pace – every dog on the Garden should be featured on it!

BE KIND...UNWIND

Enforcing the rules isn't always easy & sad to say there have been a couple of confrontations over recent weeks when breaches have been pointed out, with tempers often understandably frayed in these difficult times. But please bear in mind that all of us on the Formosa Board are volunteers who have taken on this role because we want to give something back to the community. We have no vested interest in making life difficult for others who live on the Garden - -quite the reverse -- & that being the case we hope we can rely on people's respect & co-operation.

AND IN OTHER NEWS....

A lot has happened in the garden since the last Newsletter. The six plane trees earmarked for removal under the Garden Master Plan were duly felled by our crack team of tree surgeons:



They were also able to identify & fix a fault with the lights on the central plane tree which means they should be good for at least another Christmas!

The perimeter path has finally been given another layer of gravel, the Castellain Road gate has been smartened up & new drainage

works installed to deal with flooding at the Formosa & Warrington end.

We have been pleased to welcome a new member to the Board, Marc Scrimshire, who lives with his young family on Sutherland Avenue.

And last but not least....

...the London Air Ambulance London Air Ambulance once again dropped in to bring urgent medical help to a nearby emergency – in driving sleet that was in marked contrast to the balmy temperatures when first they touched down in July last year.



A SAD EVENT

It is with regret that we have to report the death in January of Robert Player, whose firm Garden Associates was until last Summer in charge of the Garden.



This appreciation has been kindly penned by Formosa resident Ross Pye:

Robert had been in ill health for some time and suffered a relapse after Christmas. For the past 35 years he was a major force in Little Venice, caring not only for Formosa but also Triangle, Crescent and Winston Gardens.

Before the Church Commissioners sold their estate in the early 1980s these were more like formal parks, with perimeter gravel paths, pollarded planes and occasional rather boring evergreen shrubberies looked after by maintenance firms rather than true gardeners. But Robert and his colleagues, urged on by the new breed of enthusiastic owner-occupiers, transformed them into the wonderful welcoming spaces they are today.

Winter and summer he was to be seen in his trademark shorts, an impressive amiable friend to all, ever ready to advise on gardening matters. Highly rated by his peers, he regularly won many prizes for the gardens in his care in the annual London Garden Squares Open Days. He will be sadly missed, but his vision will live on and grow ever more lovely.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's **AGM** will take place on **June 29** – possibly in an actual location that people can attend, since all constraints on social contact are supposed to be lifted on June 21 if Boris's road map out of lockdown stays on track.

Even so the restrictions currently in place make planning our usual events calendar a bit trickier than usual. At the moment it is unlikely that we will hold a massive summer party for obvious reasons but we are busy planning alternatives which we hope everyone will feel comfortable with. Details will be put on the Formosa Amenity website & in the next Newsletter when they



become available.

One near-certainty though is that **Fireworks Night** will go ahead on **November 6** since we managed a scaled-down event last year even in the throes of lockdown.

There's also been a suggestion that we might think in terms of setting up some informal groups covering interests such as chess, bridge, backgammon, language conversation, even a Book Club – anything you like really providing it's legal! Anyone who is interested &/or/ would like to volunteer to set one up can contact me on vivvy.robins@gmail.com.