

Garden Committee Report September 2024

Members	Fiona Colbeck 5	Alison Jay 17
	Claude Perera 18	Jane Shakespeare 12
	Nadine White 15	

Finisterre Sellman resigned in December last year.

The major work last year was the felling of the Minister's Tree in October. Some of the larger branches have been planted upright by the side of No 23 to create a habitat for stag beetles and several stems have been piled by the railway line behind No 18. Seasons advised leaving the site to recover and hopefully the Vinca Major nearby will colonise the space.

A conference pear tree has been planted to replace the Minister's tree.

In November Seasons agreed to reduce noise and pollution by doing more raking and sweeping by hand instead of using petrol powered leaf blowers. They were asked recently to stop using leaf blowers at any time.

The lawns by No's 5-9 and by the side of No 1 were left uncut for no-mow May. As agreed at the last AGM all the grass in front of individual houses was cut as usual.

Seasons are currently working their way round the Green, removing some of the self-seeded grasses and pruning back shrubs. Several shrubs have died and some of the Viburnums by the pear tree and the Philadelphus by No 13 look as if they are about to.

Some ferns and a Skimmia 'Kew Green' will be planted in October in front of No 20 and an evergreen Honeysuckle on the corner of No 19 to stop people cutting through. Bark will be laid to tidy up the areas in front of No 19 and the kitchen of No 21.

An application was submitted to Greenwich Council at the end of July for tree works:

To fell the Prunus by No 1 that has almost completely died back from the top down. Only the very lowest branches are showing any signs of life.

To fell the Silver Birch at the back of No 6. This tree is growing through the fence, it is very oppressive, overhanging much of the garden and growing at quite an angle towards the house. Alan Brignall was asked if it would be possible to prune the tree but he recommends felling a pruning silver birches weakens them and therefore the tree would become unstable and a hazard to the house.

To prune back branches of the Yew tree growing over the garden of No 12.

Fiona liaises with the sustainability committee on issues related to the gardens.

Some plants were wilting during the dry spell in July/early August so volunteers to help with watering in future would be welcome. Fiona has the hosepipe for the communal gardens in her garage (no.14).

New committee members are always welcome.