

Garden Committee Report September 2026

Members Fiona Colbeck (5) Alison Jay (17) Jane Shakespeare (12)
 Nadine White (15)

This has been a challenging year due to weather conditions again. Even before for the heatwave and drought we lost several old shrubs and even the very hardy Vinca Major ground cover has wilted in the heat.

Last autumn Euphorbia Wulfenii and Nepeta Walkers Low were planted by No 1, Hebe Blue Gem by No 2 and Viburnum Opulus Sterile behind the new pear tree. Unfortunately the Viburnums haven't survived the drought even though they were watered it wasn't enough to save them.

There has been much pruning of overgrown shrubs this year, for example the Forsythias by 6 and 16 were cut down recently. Shrubs in front of No 1 were hard pruned in March and have regenerated. No 1 owners were unhappy about loss of privacy and so were permitted to plant an Amelanchier at their expense to provide cover while the shrubs were growing back.

The grass was scarified and fed in the spring.

The compost bins are working well. Seasons have used some already and there is more ready for use in the autumn.

There are many areas of the gardens where the shrubs are overgrown, woody, past their best, dying or already dead. The Garden Committee asked David Hollick for plans to renovate the Green. Proposed plan attached to this report is a collaboration between David and the Garden Committee. Some of the plants David chose are those thriving in other parts of the Cator Estate. We have also considered the changing climate so they have all been picked for their resilience and drought tolerance. In the attached document you will see that some areas have been costed. These are particularly overgrown or bare and so have been prioritised for replanting this autumn. The rest are to be undertaken over the following 2 years.

We have struggled over the years to get anything to grow in front of the kitchen at No 19. David recommends removing the tall bamboo on the corner as it is taking all the moisture and then not replant until next year to allow the soil to recover. A layer of bark would be laid there during the interim.

Another suggestion from David is to plant 2 birch trees, Betula Doorenbos, on the main lawn. When the Horse Chestnut behind No 18 was felled Greenwich Council stipulated that it should be replaced and this has never happened. We also lost the

Cherry tree by No 1 last year. These 2 trees could fulfil our obligations to the Council.

We accept that you may not agree to the suggested plants particularly those affecting your own houses. We are open to discussion and welcome your ideas. Nothing will be done without directors and residents approval.

A suggestion in last years report for a wildflower garden under the Plane tree by 19/20 has not been followed up.

Many thanks to all of you who have braved the heat and been watering this summer.

Tree works

At the time of the last AGM we were waiting for directors approval for a quote from Alan Brignall for tree works to 2 Cotoneasters in front of No 9 and the plum tree at the back. The quote to carry out a big reduction to the Cotoneaster by the garage was accepted and this was done in December. The quote for the other works was considered to be too expensive so Seasons were asked to undertake the work during their normal working hours. The Cotoneaster between 8 and 9 was pruned in the spring and the plum tree recently

The fig tree growing out of the house at the entrance to CG was pruned as it was blocking light from the street lamp.

A Crab Apple has been planted in front of of No 5 to replace the Cotoneaster that died last year.

At the end of July a large branch snapped off the tree alongside the road behind No 9, fell into the garden of the house on Pond Road and was removed by Alan Brignall. A large log from the tree has been laid alongside the path by No 19, hopefully to prevent delivery motor cyclists reversing on to the plants there. Concern about this was raised at the last AGM.

The Robinia tucked by the side of No 9 garden fence has spread over the garden very close to the house. It could cause serious damage to the house if a branch came down, This tree has a history of shedding branches, it destroyed the family's car several years ago. Directors agreed it should be pruned for safety reasons. A. Brignall has applied to Greenwich council for permission to prune.

A branch on the Plane tree by 18/19 was cut back in August as it was scraping on the roof of No19.

All the trees are under stress because of the heat and drought, one of the Ginkgo Bilobas side of No 1 appears to be dying. The small tree in front of No 22 looks dead but is still green and with lots of water we are hoping it will survive. In view of all this and the extremely dry summer would it be sensible to have a full tree survey?

The gardening committee welcome residents bringing their attention to any concerns/ points of interest in the garden.

New committee members are always welcome.