

**Annual General Meeting of the Earls Court Square Garden Committee,  
Wednesday 11 January 2017.**

The Chairman's Report for the year ending 30 November 2016

I would like to thank the members of the Sub-Committee for their time and effort during the last year: Stacy Bouvier, Kevin Colgan, Richard Rollefson, Victor Smith, Nadine van der Meulen and Heidi Bradner.

**Garden Sheds:** The garden's sheds were broken into in December 2014. The sheds have been reinforced and we are still researching the replacement and held off on the purchase of these because of the freehold situation. The local constabulary have commented favourably on our security upgrade. We have also managed to get insurance cover for the buildings and contents.

**Matters Horticultural:** Anna moved to Oxfordshire in the summer but has returned to work for Charles Wood Landscape Design and is back caring for the garden on a weekly basis. We are pleased to have Eyre Sykes who visits the garden with the specialist pruning skills we have been so lucky to benefit from over the past few years. Spring is coming and we hope that the north-west corner will witness a topiary phoenix appearing there. It has been very cheering to see our home grown compost and mulch being used.

The opening up of the south east corner has been a great success. The removal of the tree has allowed the cherry and the prunus to develop. It has also allowed us to re-seed the lawn and move the birdbath and create a flower bed around it. It did have a rather shaggy appearance during the summer but the lawn has now taken.

**Water Feature:** We are grateful for the donation of the water feature in the North West corner of the square by the Bouvier family to celebrate 30 years of living in the square and Stacy's 29 years of close involvement with the garden committee.

**Wildlife:** The fox population continues to enjoy the square. The squirrels seem less abundant and this is probably due to the domestic feline population! The bird population does seem more prolific and thanks are due to those members of the community who keep the feeders full and clean the birdbath and nesting boxes.

**Irrigation and Lighting:** Both systems continue to be attractive to the fox population but the lights are currently working and are being armoured as we repair them.

**London Squares Open Day:** Our Square was open on June 18 and 19, with over 900 visitors viewing the Garden over the two days. Musicians from the Royal College of Music entertained us on both days. We did receive over £100 from the organisers for taking part as well as the money generated by the sale of tea and coffee and cakes which goes to fund things in the garden. Thank you to everyone who helped on the days. The garden Committee will continue to support this event in 2017.

**London Gardens Society:** The London Gardens Society awarded us a Bronze Certificate of Excellence in The London Squares Garden Competition and Brighter Kensington and Chelsea awarded us 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their garden squares division.

**The Residents' Association:** The Residents' Association annual BBQ was enjoyed by many and the summer weather behaved to as was the tea party for the Queen and the Christmas Tree lighting.

**Behaviour in the Garden:** I would like to remind all Members that it is the responsibility of all garden users to maintain civilised and considerate behaviour to allow everyone to enjoy the garden.