

ARUNDEL & ELGIN GARDENS NEWSLETTER



Dear Residents

While our gardening team are now planting the bulbs that will be blooming for us in spring, it is a pleasure to look back upon 2024's successful social season. Our charitable fund-raising this year went especially well. Our open day resulted in a donation of £950 to the National Garden Scheme, our largest so far. Sales at the tea table were twice what they were last year. In addition, the Summer Party bake sale brought in £155 for Shooting Star Children's Hospices, the local charity our garden supports. Combined with the sale of champagne and strawberries at the performance of Shakespeare in the Squares, we were able to donate £535 to Shooting Star. So, thank you very much to all our resident bakers! Your gifts this year have made a difference.

Our Residents' WhatsApp group has continued to serve as a helpful focus for our community. Through it, neighbours have been able to exchange information and to support one another in matters small and large. Thanks to everyone for making the chat into such a resource. Please encourage new neighbours to join. This issue's feature article is a window onto some interesting neighbourly relationships in the garden's past.

We also have a Flood Resilience Update available. Please see <https://www.arundelandelgingardens.org/flood-resilience-update-autumn-2024/>

During the coming months, we will be gathering information on electronic key fobs and garden path replacement. Our aim is to enable residents to make an informed decisions about each of these projects at the 2025 AGM. Wishing everyone a happy 2025.

The Garden Committee

Events and News

WINTER

Gardeners' World Special - January 31 2025 at 8pm.
'Monty Don's British Gardens' will air on BBC 2
Look for our garden!

SPRING

Garden Scheme Open Day - May 18 2025, 2pm-6pm.
Volunteers welcomed to help on the day.
All sales go to charity.

SUMMER

Summer Party - June 21 2025
Shakespeare in the Squares - June 27 2025
The Taming of the Shrew

AUTUMN

Bonfire Night - Nov 2 2025
Annual General Meeting (AGM) - TBA

This issue is dedicated to Annette

Annette Panter was a well loved friend and neighbour since 1978. She is dearly missed by her family and friends in our Arundel Gardens and Elgin Crescent community.



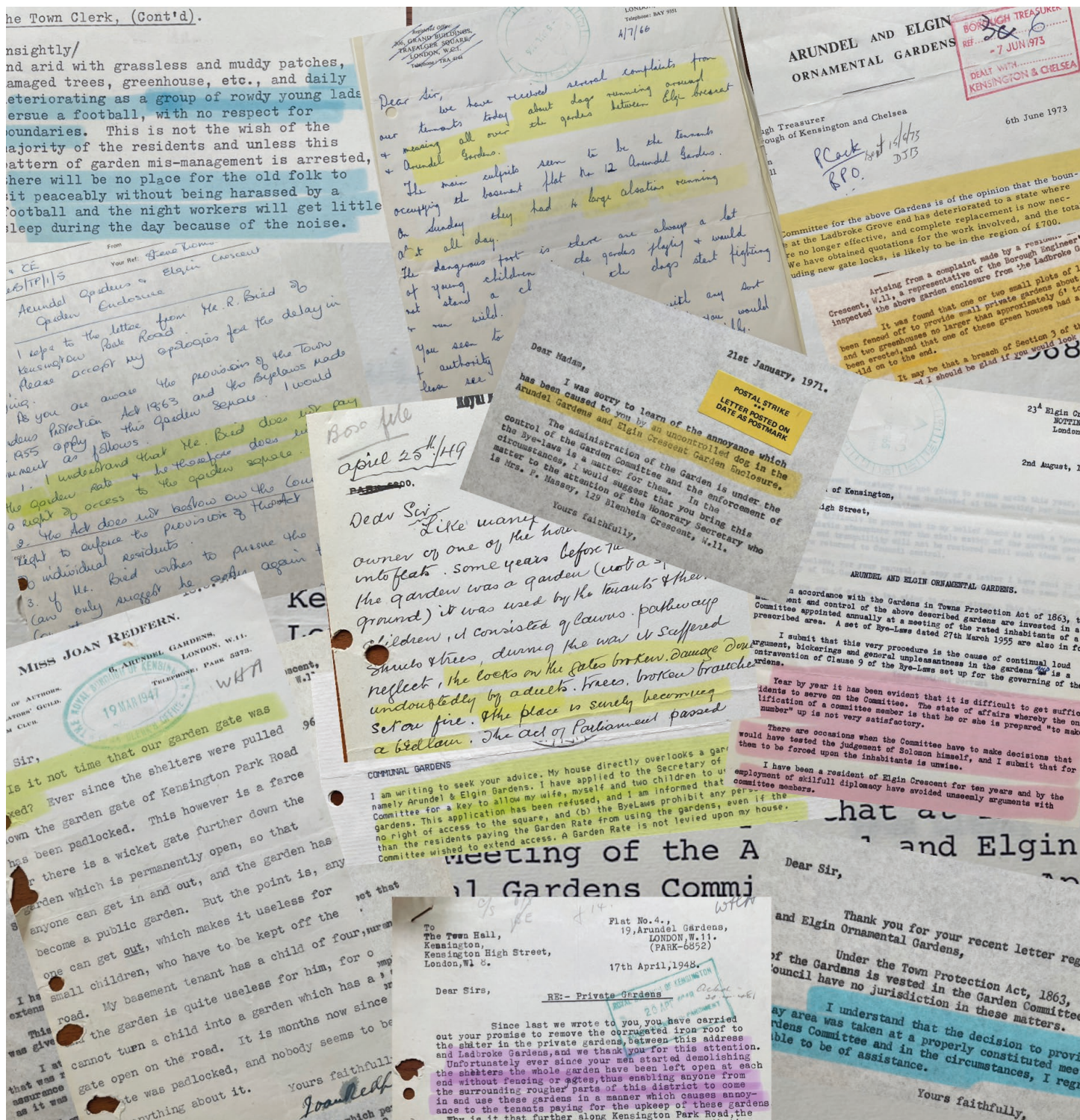
Arundel & Elgin Archives

Did you know that Kensington Central Library has a local studies and archive, holding historical letters sent from Arundel & Elgin Gardens residents to Town Hall and to our Garden Committee?

Reading through the letters, some of the issues our residents encounter are ones repeated through time, and one might conclude, part of the fabric of human nature?

So, as the we mutter under our breath over an annoying broken gate, boisterous kids or wayward dogs, know some things in life are a constant, and that many in the past, who lived in the same spaces as we do now, also shared our same frustrations.

It's the small cost of living in an otherwise beautiful and rare gem of a communal garden in the heart of a capital city.



Urban Wildlife

Gourmet Foxes

The garden team have been testing all kinds of recommendations on how to prevent grey squirrels digging up the tulip bulbs. A top source swore to coating the bulbs in chilli powder. It worked! The squirrels stayed clear. However, the chilli scent flagged the bulb locations as fine dining for our connoisseur foxes, who dug those bulbs for their curry night. We have always had foxes in this garden, but at least one has taken to digging throughout the garden. We keep filling the holes in the lawns but to no avail!

The foxes are also dragging into the garden anything they can eat, including soiled nappies, from rubbish left on the street overnight for the bin collection. Rubbish needs to go into a bin with a secure lid. The bin men and residents don't want rubbish strewn over the pavement and we do not wish to attract more rats and foxes. Thank you for your cooperation.



Pets in the Communal Garden

Our garden is unusual because residents' dogs have more freedom than dogs in other London squares. To preserve the happy environment for dogs and the many dog lovers, please read <https://www.arundelandelgingardens.org/info-rules/dogs/> for do's and don'ts for dogs in the garden.

For both our garden cats and dogs, the Garden Committee invites you register your pets at pets@arundelandelgingardens.org.

Registering your pet can help us contact you if your pet is injured or has been lost or found.

Parakeets into our Garden



This spring's wet and temperate weather resulted in a bumper harvest of fruit in the garden. No one could remember when the mulberry tree had had as many berries. Perhaps as a consequence of this, we were visited by parakeets for the first time. Although they had overflowed our garden for many years, this year they landed, and their presence was felt in multiple ways. They are colourful, social and smart.

Our concern is that they have no natural predators, can cause damage to trees and plants, and make the garden an inhospitable place for other birds, especially smaller songbirds. We will be looking into ways we can discourage them from landing in the garden, and, above all, from nesting here. Our hope is that residents will understand this variation to our usual toleration of wildlife in the garden.

New Friends in the Garden



Pepper

Pepper is a rescue cat who loves Taylor Swift and French buttercream.



Astrid

Little Astrid has extra toes at her back paws and prominent "thumbs" on her front.



Frank and Mouse

Frank is a young Whippet and Mouse a playful, old Lurcher. They are fast, lively and gentle and have lovely new friends in the garden.



Twiglet

Twiglet is a lovely and calm tempered 11 year old Lurcher.

Useful Garden Info

Our communal garden is a private one, for the peaceful enjoyment of the residents who pay for its upkeep through council tax. To keep harmony and mutual respect for all residents, please be mindful of the garden rules. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Keys - The garden is changing its locks, and issuing new keys. See insert for details.

Building Works - A damage deposit of £1000 is required by the resident, before scaffold and/or building material is brought in via the communal garden, including their private gardeners who are doing extensive work in a private garden. The resident is also responsible for ensuring gates are monitored when builders or their gardeners are bringing in/ taking out material. Builders and gardeners must not prop open gates.

Garden Gates - Gates must not be left propped open or attempt to leave it on its latch. This protects children and pets from wandering out, and prevents intruders and thieves from coming into our garden. Propped gates also cause mechanical issues, which can lead to broken locks and limited access for all residents.

Children in the Garden - Please supervise your children at all times.. For guidelines regarding children, please see the byelaws inserted or look on our our website.

The Greenery - is for the enjoyment of all residents. Please keep humans and canines chasing toys and cat scent, confined to the lawns, pathways and playgrounds. This includes the subtly fenced off Wildlife / Meadow areas. All tree/shrub climbing is prohibited. Our Mulberry and Rhododendron are especially old and fragile and must not be climbed.

Private parties and Children's parties, or Gatherings of more than six of all ages, music, and BBQs are prohibited. There are two exceptions- **Bonfire Night**, and the **Summer Party**, are great opportunities for residents to have private parties and picnics within the communal garden.

General Security- Each building is responsible for their own security garden side.

For more information on news and events in
our garden, please visit
www.arundelandelginalgardens.org

To join the Resident's WhatsApp group, email info@arundelandelqinggardens.org

Join our Instagram **@arundelelgin**

Looking Back: 2024

