

Garden report for AGM 2014

After last years AGM we had a winter of relentless wind and rain. We did lose three trees in the storms, one Elm by the South East gate and two Monterey Cypress near the Tunnel. But apart from that the garden stood up remarkably well to the battering it received.

The summer was more beneficial, the balance between sun and rain provided great growing conditions, which kept the garden looking good (particularly the grass) over a long period. The only disadvantage was that it also kept the weeds growing, particularly bindweed which seemed to appear from everywhere.

Unfortunately this summer (as we were expecting), Dutch Elm disease struck again and we lost several more trees on the East side of the woodland. The whole character of this part of the garden is changing as we lose the Elm trees. There are still a few large Elms left and when these go there will be even more open space, which will eventually need replanting. However I am waiting until most of the elms come down, otherwise the new plants will only get damaged when the trees are felled.

Landscaping near the tunnel:

The two trees in The Dell that were lost in the winter storms were part of a group of three trees which had grown up together. The loss of two of the trees left the third one very susceptible to wind damage, it also looked bare and misshapen and on top of that it was suppressing two other trees which were starting to die back. We decided the best thing to do was to fell this tree before it blew over in another storm, in this way we were able to save the smaller trees which can now grow into good specimens.

Because of the space that has been created it is also possible to replant the whole area. It will be replanted with a variety of shrubs and small flowering trees, which will be much more fitting to a Regency Style garden and should create another interesting and attractive area in the garden

Hedges:

The work on cutting back the hedges from the railings continued last winter with the section opposite 1-6 Sussex Square being cut back. This coming year the section Behind the Bus Stop on Eastern Rd will be cut. As usual it will look worse for a while before it thickens and greens up again.

Tree work: All the medium and high risk work recommended in the tree report has been completed, we now need to keep going with the scheduled work programme. The work scheduled for this winter is reducing the large sycamores in the woodland to make them safer and more stable in the long term.

Waste Removal:

Last winter we had 4 truck loads of waste removed from the bonfire site and we will now have some waste removed every year. This helps to reduce the amount of green waste we have to burn and will lead to having fewer and less smokey bonfires.

Borders: As always I will be refreshing and rejuvenating the borders over winter and the focus this year will be on increasing the number of late summer flowing shrubs to improve the look of the garden in August.

Jeremy Mouldsdales