



Mulberry Close Residents Society Newsletter

January 2007

A happy new year to all residents

Mulberry Close-Milton Road environmental improvements

Residents using the alleyway to Milton Road may have noticed that we now have a new sapling hedge. This has been funded by the City Council Sustainable City Project Grant reported in the last edition of the Newsletter, together with generous support from a number of the Milton Road businesses.

This is the first part of the scheme to improve the area and we hope to put up a couple of lights behind the Close garages if this can be afforded with the funds left. Finding an electrician who is even willing to price the work has proved extremely difficult - there is so much building work now in Cambridge!

The hedging has been chosen to be tough and to be wildlife friendly. It is a typical East Anglian mix of quick thorn, black thorn, hazel, oak, field maple and dog rose. For colour interest and extra berries there is also a mix of spindle, dogwood, privet, sea buckthorn, hawthorn and scotch rose.

It would also be good to add a little holly to the mix. **Anyone with a holly bush who would like to donate a few stems should contact Katherine at No. 51. they will be much appreciated.** At this time of year a plain stem set in the earth should strike to add to the colour and spikiness of the hedge.

Many thanks

to Jim and Liz (No.25) for soup at our bonfire last November, to Steve (No.1) for expertly building the pyre and to Ellen (No.33) for providing mulled wine and sparklers.

to Ellen and Elliot (No.51) for helping plant the hedge.

Thanks also to the many residents who passed misdirected Christmas cards and packages around the Close.

New Year's Resolutions

Please don't drive on the Green and make clear to any contractor working for you that they must not drive or park on the Green!

Please keep your dog on a lead whilst you are on the Green. Please also clear up after your pet....

Please take your blue/black box in after collection day. If you are short of your blue box Renata Sayers at No.13 has a spare which blew into her driveway just before Christmas.

Fixed Gates

Many thanks to Steve Willis for fixing the ever-breaking gates around the Close with new combination locks. He has informed regular users of the combination code. If you need access and are not a regular user contact him at No.1 for the code.

Date for 2007

The first date for your 2007 diary - **Mulberry Day, Saturday 21 July 2007.** Jim (No.25)

reports Professor Poppycock and his Punch and Judy Show already booked! Bouncy Castle! Mulberry Band already in rehearsal!

Contractors

Recent heavy rain has shown a number of gutters needing attention. November's Newsletter offered guttering services by: Chris Stephenson, 07881 932 552.

If you are looking for landscape work, the contractor who did the digging and soil work in the alleyway is Jason Cockbill of JC Building Services on 07919 202 871.

Planning for the future

A reminder that the Mulberry Close Residents Society Annual General Meeting will take place in March/April. Full details will be circulated before the meeting.

The AGM decides and sets the Annual Maintenance Payment all owners pay for the upkeep and improvement of the Close. As the original plantings and fittings in the Close mature they need regular attention to keep them attractive and safe. This gives us all a good, secure environment to live in and maintains the relative value of houses in the Close.

In recent years the income collected has only just covered the costs of maintaining the Close in a basic way and we have been nibbling into the small savings accumulated over many years. It also means that improvements requested by residents above basic maintenance cannot be afforded. For instance, the strong fence

down the side of the entrance to the Close agreed by the last AGM to keep out prowlers is just not affordable within the current budget (as reported in an earlier Newsletter).

Improvements to the entrance to the Close, also requested by the 2006 AGM are also unlikely to be affordable.

At this AGM we will need to think about what is required to keep the Close properly maintained and to balance the books!

For sale/wanted

Jim/Liz (No.25) need occasional evening IT help. One hour max. in exchange for payment/other skills.

Liz Quinn (No.6) seeks spare storage space or a Close garage to rent (Tele: 560384)

Liz Quinn also seeks a pair of hands for piano duets - about Grade 5/6. Rusty fingers ok!

For sale - electronic keyboard WK-1630 with stand, box and manual. £100. Juan and Judith Acevedo, 14 Mulberry Close.

Next Newsletter due early March 2007. Please send copy to Katherine Brown No.51 or use newsletter@mulberryclose.org.uk

You may find it helpful to know that an email to newsletter@ goes only to the editor, not to the Close email circulation list.

Thank you.

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