



Mulberry Close Residents Society Newsletter

September 2006

Here we go round the Mulberry Bush

Jim reports on this year's enjoyable event:

The Day's events began with Alice and Emily completing the 'Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush' artwork which went on display and was so good that it will be used again next year. Then it rained and so events such as the exploding parachute, led by Liz and Barbara, happened a little later than planned. The picnics and BBQs were followed by Professor Poppycock's excellent Punch and Judy which was so graphic that some adults may have had nightmares afterwards. Of course, the children loved it, and screamed their heads off. Thank you Professor, that's the way to do it! Then came Sean's inimitable 'Ugly Duckling' and a 'Happy Birthday' to Guthrie, aged 8, who then entertained us on the piano. Sorry to the others who wanted to perform, but it was high time for the dancing to begin and, as the lights came on, we were ably led by Pat and Rachel Schicker through a selection of international folk dances, beginning with some for children. We thank them both, and also this year's 'New Mulberry Band' consisting of Jim, Liz, Marion and newcomers Jean and Angela. Many thanks to Andy on sound, who also helped dry out some of the PA equipment, Nick for the electricians in the bandstand, Eckhard and the girls for the tree lights, not least of all Mick for the spotlight and Jane for the hairdryer! Thanks to the large numbers who attended and for leaving the Green so tidy. Jim.

New arrival

Congratulations to Richard and Hannah at No. 24 on the birth of Rosie on 4 August. Rosanna Grace Settle weighed in at 6lb 15oz and is sister to Jacob. Mother, baby, father and brother are all doing well!

Handbooks

If you are new to the Close and don't have a Mulberry Close Handbook, do contact Katherine at No.51. The little book has useful information about the area and the rules of the Close.

Bid to City Council

The Directors are going to make a bid to the Council for funds to tidy up and plant a neat hedge in the tatty area between the Close and the back of the Milton Road shops, to the left as you leave the Close. We have support from the local police

and from Richard Allan, our City Ranger but support from residents is crucial. If you can, do drop a note to Katherine at No. 51 or email to newsletter@mulberryclose.org.uk

Any offers of practical or financial support would be greatly welcome as the Council likes to see donations in cash or kind as part of the bid. We already have some donations and an offer of assistance with hedge planting but the more the better.

I'll report the outcome of the bid in the next Newsletter.

Late....

Whilst on the subject of the next Newsletter, apologies for the late arrival of this one... Family holidays and the start of school term left the Editor behind....the next Newsletter is due at the start of November

when normal service will be resumed!! Any items by late October please.

Information from Council

Residents are asked for opinions on Milton Road junction changes and land use at the old Milton Road Primary School site. We are also being updated on the Guided Bus plans and the proposed Park and Ride Relocation. Do give your feedback to the Council if you can.

Garage information

You may recall that the Directors are trying to confirm who owns which garage so when work is needed near the blocks they know who to contact. Most residents have responded but a few are left. Could residents of

houses:
15,16,23,24,27,31,34,36,40,42 & 43 let No 51 know which garage you own, if any. A map is attached to this newsletter for you and many thanks in advance.

Advance Notice of Maintenance Payment change

Residents will know that early payers of the Annual Maintenance Payment get a useful discount on their bill. This year almost everyone paid within a month of receiving their bill and so the Directors have agreed that the discount period for 2007 will be one month. There will be plenty of reminders at the next AGM when the 2007 AMP will be agreed by shareholders, but this is advance notice for those who like to plan ahead.

Beware the Trees

A special warning from Barbara Patterson at No.65:

Some long while ago after a very dry summer we had to have remedial work on the foundations of our house. When the workmen had dug deeply into the foundations they found thick tree roots from a huge sycamore growing at the end of a garden in Highworth Avenue. With cooperation from the owner the tree was removed.

The advice given to us by the surveyor was that no tall tree should ever be planted in the back gardens of the houses in our block (50-65) and this advice may well be relevant to other blocks. Usually the taller the tree the further the roots will spread into the underlying clay.

On our block a main drain runs along in the back gardens about 2.5ft from the back of each house and any tree roots can distort the pipes which may well lead to blockages. In a dry year roots will spread deep and wide searching for water and will eventually have an effect on the foundations of the houses.

The large sycamore which caused us so much trouble was over 6 yards from our property and still managed to affect 2 houses in Mulberry Close. It looks like we may be in for several more dry summers so beware the trees!!!

This message is certainly relevant to us all as trees such as Ash and Sycamore seed prolifically and grow fast. What is a cute seedling one year will be too big to pull up without a spade and fork the next. Insurers are also now refusing to pay for underpinning, they prefer to patch the cracks!

Bins and boxes

The usual plea to take your bin and box in by the end of Wednesday. Additionally this month, please don't put your rubbish into anyone else's bin without asking them! If you need more green bin space this is not a problem - there are 5 extra composting bins around the Close. Just remember to take out the one you used and put it back at the end of bin day.

For sale/rent and jobs offered(sorry these are late)

House for rent: Robin and Tamar at No.4 are looking to rent their 2-bed house from October until the end of June 2007. Contact them on 476828 or ras49@cam.ac.uk

Kitten for sale: Black male kitten with white speck on chest Born 5 July. £20. Contact Dr Lucilla Makin, No58, Tel.no. 353692

Dog minder wanted: John Hammond at No. 19 has a new border terrier pup and is looking for assistance whilst she is young to let her out midday, feed her etc until she is trained up to accompany him to work. Please contact John on 461632 or 07779 732331.

Baby sitting service: Megan Lee at No.33 is now available for baby sitting. She is experienced at nappy changing,

bottle feeding and bathing babies. £10 for 3 hours. Tel no. 572368.

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