

Report of the Gardening Committee 2001.

a) Garden contractors

Since last year's AGM we were all very sad to say goodbye to Dave Chandler and Ron after their many years of looking after the Green. Their skill, good nature and kindness will be long remembered.

After long deliberation, we appointed Seasons as the new gardeners. They also look after the Cator Estate and various other Span estates. We are, on the whole, very pleased with their work so far.

b) Replanting

The replanting plan (drawn up by Derek Ellis, an architect/landscape architect whose clients include Hampton Court and Oxford University Press) was designed to provide year round interest, low maintenance and above all to preserve the ethos of the original planting of our award-winning houses and gardens. We are very grateful to Derek, who has been exceptionally generous with his advice and time for a very modest fee.

Seasons completed stage 1 of the replanting, in front of Nos. 16-23 last winter. Most of the plants are flourishing and beginning to fill out the base gaps nicely. The bamboos, however, are in rather a sad state. If they have not recovered by the autumn, Seasons have said they would be happy to replace them.

Stage 2 of the replanting for the rest of the Green will be completed this year, and we will take Seasons' advice on the most appropriate time to plant for successful growth.

c) Tree replacement

The next major project will be tree planting. This is necessary to replace trees we have already lost. Also, looking to the future, we need to assess where trees and large shrubs are nearing the end of their natural life, and replacement would be desirable.

The Gardening Committee