



### HAPPY NEW YEAR...WITH ANY LUCK!

Who would have thought that at the beginning of 2022 COVID would still be very much in our midst, with the number of deaths topping 150,000 at the beginning of this month? However, rates do seem to have fallen now in London & there is hope that this latest Omicron wave could be on its way out.

So in a spirit of optimism, we are forging ahead with our plans for a full social calendar in 2022, buoyed up by the success of our Bonfire Night celebrations on Nov 6, 2021. After the hiatus forced on us by the COVID lockdown in 2020 hundreds of residents were able to enjoy Formosa's traditional bonfire & firework display, followed by a second – almost equally splendid – show in nearby Crescent Garden.



### THOSE 2022 DIARY DATES IN FULL

First up on **Saturday June 4** will be a repeat of the highly successful **wine-tasting** which marked Formosa's official emergence from lockdown in June last year. The date is actually in the middle of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend for anyone who's looking for an extra excuse to raise a glass.

Next in the diary is the **London Gardens Weekend**, scheduled to be back in physical form for the first time since 2019. As a long-time participant we plan to open Formosa to the public from 2–5 pm on **Sunday June 12**. Of course we all know the glories of our garden but likely to be of particular interest to serious horticulturists is the fact that under the 50-year master plan agreed with Westminster Council in 2016 we are gradually replacing some of the more aged & damaged plane trees with new trees, including a couple of groves of silver birch. For more information check out the Garden Squares website at <https://londongardenstrust.org>.

Incidentally under our biennial programme there is to be another round of pollarding this year, probably in late February or early March, although permission from Westminster is still being sought.

Then on **Friday July 1** we are due to welcome back the touring company **Shakespeare in the Squares** – again for the first time since 2019 – with a production of **Shakespeare's The Tempest**.

On **Saturday July 9** we plan to re-instate our hugely popular **Summer Party** – full details to follow in the April Newsletter. The **Formosa AGM** will also take place at some point in **July** -- & this year the **Bonfire & Fireworks** eve will unusually fall on the day itself, **Saturday November 5!**

All this however subject to – dread words – the state of play regarding Covid.

## NOW YOU SEE THEM.....NOW YOU DON'T

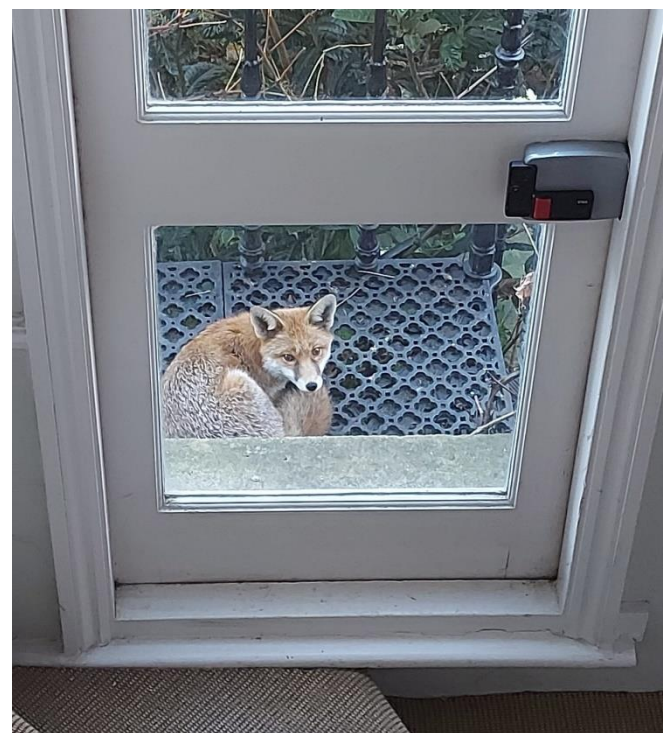


I'm afraid the performance of the tree lights was a bit erratic over the Christmas & New Year period. Basically they performed brilliantly in dry weather but kept on shorting when it rained, meaning they will probably need to be re-strung before December of this year.

## FOX NEWS: THE LATEST BULLETIN

Sightings of foxes in the Formosa Garden continue -- with one showing particular lese-majeste by curling up shamelessly at the house of our Board Chairman. There seems little doubt that the gap under the Castellain Road gate is their entry point of choice, but as mentioned in the last NL the gate is about to get an up-grade (which will include a super-duper new CCTV system), at which point the size of the gap will be reduced.

Meanwhile the gardeners from Gravitas will block up the foxes' warren if they come across it in the course of their work.



## PLEASE PLAY BY THE RULES!

There seems to be a bit of an outbreak of non-compliance regarding changes being made to people's gardens & patios. In particular the regulation black railings are frequently being replaced with wooden structures such as fences & latticework which are strictly not allowed. We know the list of rules is lengthy & perhaps hard to keep in mind but if you are proposing to make changes inside or out it's perhaps safest to check them in advance.



## CALLING ALL DOG-OWNERS



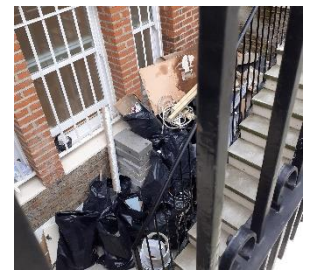
With the big increase in the number of dogs on the Garden since the start of the pandemic we are having up-date our dog register, & to register your animal you must provide a picture of him or her.

We know some people are reluctant to put that in the public domain because of the security implications, but rest assured if you do have those reservations that the picture will not go onto the Formosa website but merely be kept for our own records, in the interests of tracing or identifying a particular dog should the need arise.

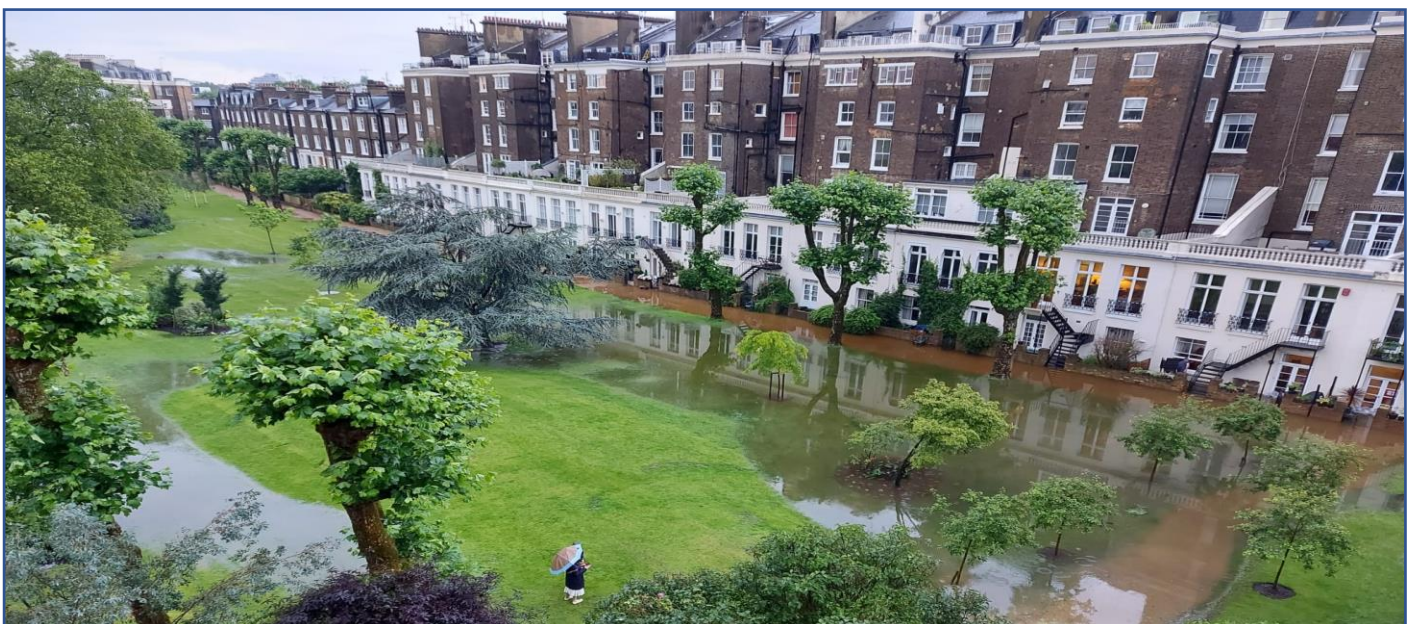
## FLOOD DISASTER: THAMES WATER IN THE DOCK

It's just over six months since the catastrophic events of July 12 last year when a month's worth of rain fell on London inside three hours & many - -tho' by no means all – of the basement flats that were flooded have had their repairs completed, but the post mortem as to why it was allowed to happen is still v much on-going.

Thames Water, which is responsible for the capital's drainage system, has commissioned an independent review which it's hoped will present its findings at a public session sometime in the first half of this year. Thames Water's director of Corporate Affairs George Mayhew has apologised for the company's "unacceptable" response to people whose homes were ruined & agreed that it had been implementing what he called "band aids" for years instead of finding a permanent solution to the problems.



Hopefully this investigation will come up with one -- & soon.



## P.S. (AS IN 'POSTING SORTED')

Have you ever fumed at the message on all three of our nearest letter boxes (one up near the roundabout in Sutherland Ave, one on the corner of Sutherland Ave & Castellain Road & one at the junction of Warrington Crescent & Formosa St) which says that the last collection of the day is at 9 am when in fact it means the *only* collection of the day?



Speaking admittedly as a retired person who prefers late nights to early mornings this strikes me as a ludicrous time which effectively means the piece of mail has to be entrusted to the post the night before. Anyway for anyone who needs to get something off in a hurry it is worth noting that two boxes a bit further afield offer a 4 pm collection – the one alongside Tesco's at the junction with Maida Vale (although this is occasionally stopped up for some reason) & the one further down Sutherland just past the junction with Shirland Road.

## From the Editor.....

If anyone else has any useful tips, or indeed wants to say anything about anything that is printable, please do contact me on [vivvy.robins@gmail.com](mailto:vivvy.robins@gmail.com) before the deadline for the April Newsletter of March 13. And just a reminder that if you want to receive soft copies of the NL you need to sign up via the Formosa website at <https://www.formosagarden.co.uk/subscribe-to-newsletter>.

## 2022 Events for your diary ..

- *Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>, Wine Tasting*
- *Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>, London Gardens Weekend*
- *Friday July 1<sup>st</sup>, Shakespeare in the Gardens – The Tempest*
- *Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup>, Summer Party*
- *July tbc, Formosa AGM*
- *Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>, Bonfire and Fireworks party*