



SPRING: BUSTING OUT ALL OVER?

...well not particularly, given some freezing temperatures a month or so back & occasional lashings of torrential rain. But never mind, there are plenty of social events coming down the track for when the lighter evenings kick in – not just staples of the calendar such as the Wine-Tasting & Bonfire Night but also an increasing number of activities organised by residents themselves which you can find listed on a new page on the Formosa website titled “Community Space”. This year the decision has been taken not to hold a function for adults on the evening of the Family Fun Day but instead to re-distribute the funds across our broader events programme. And please always remember that we welcome outside sponsorship for all & any elements of this programme, so if you know of anyone who might like to help in this way do put them in touch with Westbourne Management at info@WB19.co.uk.

YOU CAN'T HAVE TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING...

Yes our wine-tasting is back for the third year running – on **Saturday 17th June** -- & this time it's been extended further into the evening to run from **5—7.30 pm**. As before the wine will kindly be provided by the Winery on Clifton Parade (www.thewineryuk.com), with a range of cheeses from Provisions London (www.provisionslondon.co.uk). Residents will be entitled to vouchers for two glasses of wine (to a maximum of four per household) & there will be a cash bar for subsequent drinks & for guests (payment by card only). Music will be courtesy of the Cassandra & Rodrigo Just Two Duo who could be seen performing in Regents Park last summer.

To register for the event & apply for your vouchers you can email Sandy David from 29th May onwards at sandydavid0462@gmail.com Closing date is **14th June**.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDENS.....THO' NOT THIS ONE!

Many of you will remember the runaway success enjoyed by the small theatre company Shakespeare in the Squares last July with their staging in the Garden of The Tempest, normally viewed as one of the Bard's darker plays but this time with the comedy skilfully accentuated & some rather good (if not period-appropriate) songs shoe-horned in. The good news is that the company are back again for an extended season this year with a production of Twelfth Night, more obviously suited to the bucolic surroundings of the various gardens! The (slightly) bad news though is that we will not be hosting it this time as it's the turn of our neighbours, the Crescent Garden (we've alternated with them over recent years), where the performance will take place on **Tuesday 4th July**. So that gives Crescent first dibs at the tickets which go on sale on 11th April, but with any luck there will still be plenty left to go round.

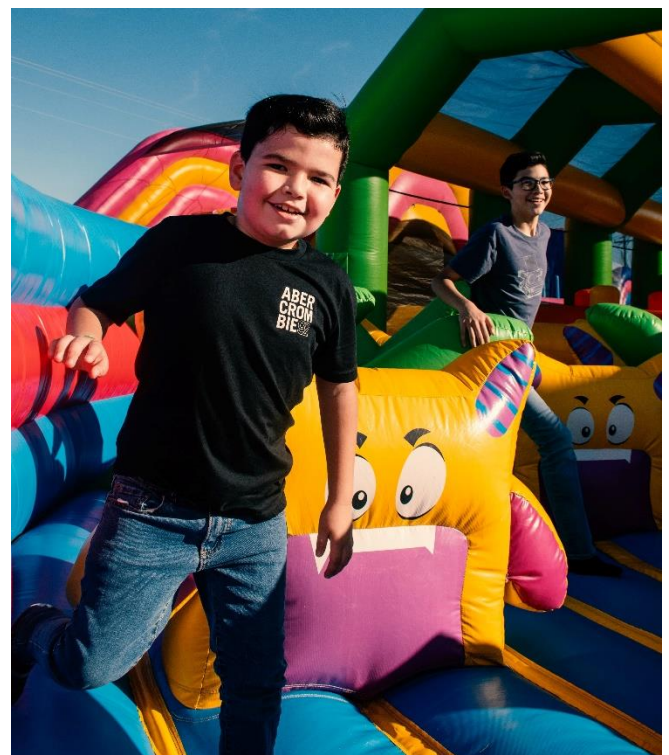
IT'S FUN – AND IT'S FOR THE FAMILY

..hence the name, Family Fun Day, which this year is being staged from **12 noon to 6 pm on Saturday 8th July**. Attractions will include Magic Mikey, the renowned kids' magician & entertainer. There will also be face-painting & inflatables for the younger children & a food vendor, plus the ever-reliable ice cream man Raffaele Raimondo, now heading into his 36th year at this event.

But please note – although there will be plentiful supplies of food it is strictly bring your own booze this year!

FIREWORK NIGHT TO BE BIGGER & BETTER THAN EVER!

This year we are changing suppliers for the event on **Saturday 4th November** (at no extra cost to the Garden it should be said!). We've decided to go with Firework Crazy, a multi-award-winning company with over 35 years' experience of staging professional displays throughout the South-East. They were the winners of last year's Firework Champions event at Hatfield House & did the after-show party at this year's Brit awards in February -- so we can confidently expect the results to be more spectacular than ever! The show will be timed at **7 pm** to precede the two simultaneous shows either side of the Garden in Crescent & Winston Amenity at 7.30 pm. The aim is to make the bonfire a bit more long-lasting – wind & rain permitting! -- & there may also be some changes to the usual lay-out, but these will be confirmed closer to the date.



GARDEN NEWS

After the lights on the big plane tree sadly failed last Winter, we will shortly be installing some new, branch-wrapped, lighting for special occasions such as Bonfire Night & Christmas, plus floodlights in the crown of the tree to provide some gentle illumination in the Garden during the long dull winter months.



At the time of writing the daffodils around the plane tree are in full flower but when these die away we hope that the meadow seed will bring more colour to the area.

Meanwhile the plane trees on the periphery of the Garden had their biennial haircut in February, courtesy of our death- (or at least injury-) defying tree surgeons. As has become the custom they



used a tree chipper to grind down the smaller branches so they could be put on the flower beds as mulch,

which helps to improve the health & fertility of the soil.

When Barbara Milne, Head of Arboricultural Services at Westminster City Council, came to see the progress of the Garden Master plan ahead of giving us permission for the pollarding she was most interested in our diseased trees (mentioned in the Winter NL), which are now marked with green tabs. Her team came up with the Leopard moth (*Zeuzera pyrina*) as a likely culprit for the damage (<https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths/leopard-moth>)

DIDN'T I USED TO RECOGNISE YOU??

The face might seem vaguely familiar but it's at least 45 years since he made headlines as one of the baddest boys of rock, the notorious Sex Pistols. These days Glen Matlock is happy just pottering around his home turf of Maida Vale, with Paulette's on Formosa St one of his favourite pit stops for coffee because he can sit outside & spark a Silk Cut. I've often seen him there engaged in conversations with fans – or perhaps just the odd passers-by with time to shoot the breeze. Favourite destinations on his regular walks also

include the Regent's Canal & Regents Park. Glen sums up the appeal of Maida Vale in just three words: *"Triangular. Cool. Oasis."*



COMMUNITY SPACE

FORMOSA'S BIG LUNCH

Formosa is enthusiastically answering the call from Buckingham Palace for communities to get together on **Sunday 7th May** to celebrate the King's Coronation, & the intention is to hold a big lunch to which residents, family & friends will all be welcome. Activities are planned also for children & in the afternoon there will be the dedication of the little oak tree planted on the Sutherland Avenue side of the garden in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.



To help the organisers estimate numbers attending please register your interest on the new Community Space webpage at

www.formosagarden.co.uk/community

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

The Wednesday Everyman Cinema Club met for the first time at the beginning of March to see *What's Love Got to Do with It?*, an enjoyable if predictable rom-com about the pros and cons of arranged marriages (writes our Woman with the Popcorn Helen Burrluck). The next meeting will be on **Weds 5th April** and anyone interested can vote for their preferred screening on the Community Space area of the website the week before.

FORMOSA BOOK CLUB LAUNCHEDMINUS THE BOOK!

I am happy to report that no fewer than 11 people expressed an interest in joining our Book Club, but given that many of them would be strangers to one another -- or at least to me! -- I decided to turn our first meeting on 15th March into a purely social occasion. Over a couple of drinks it was agreed that we would meet in the early evening on a Tuesday roughly every six weeks, & that our first proper meeting would be on **Tuesday 11th April**. If more people come forward to express an interest we may consider splitting the group into two, though I probably shouldn't be thinking of running before we can walk!



NEWS IN BRIEF:

- This year's London Open Gardens weekend is scheduled for **10th & 11th June** & will feature no fewer than 117 gardens, including our very own Formosa from **2—5pm** on The Sunday.
- A children's sleep-over in the Garden & a possible open-air movie night are both being planned for some time in the Summer -- keep an eye on the Community Space page for further details
- Keep checking online also for a date for this year's Formosa AGM.

The Summer edition of the Newsletter will be published at the beginning of May so please do send any contributions to me at vivvy.robins@gmail.com by May 15th. And don't forget that to receive the Newsletter by email you need to sign up on our website at

www.formosagarden.co.uk/subscribe-to-newsletter.