



THE
PORTMAN
ESTATE

Marylebone Express Portman Square Garden Article

Portman Square Garden is Marylebone's most prominent garden square located on The Portman Estate consisting of approximately 1 hectare originally laid out circa 1780. There are many notable mature London Plane trees which appear to date from 1780, yet there are also many younger specimens of approximately 80 years old which were planted when the square was last re-landscaped in the early 1900's.

The garden square is listed as Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. The square suffered considerable damage in the Second World War with the destruction of Montagu House in the north west corner by bombing, and the removal of the original railings in 1942 as part of the war effort, however, the railings were restored in 1972.

Twentieth century residential and office blocks as well as hotels have now mostly replaced the original Georgian town houses. However, Home House at 19/20 Portman Square survives as a private members club, and is one of Robert Adams finest London Town Houses. The gardens continue to provide a valuable private open space to these surrounding properties.

A proposal for the regeneration of the garden square has been discussed for some time and there is strong support from the surrounding owners and occupiers as well as The Portman Estate itself which owns the freehold in this area. The landscaping works are currently well underway and aim to reinstate the garden to recapture its former elegance whilst making a greater contribution to this area and the West End.

Important elements of the regeneration include improved plantings, upgraded paths, new playground, a modern irrigation system, lighting, electrical supply and new vistas into the garden making it more visually appealing to the greater Marylebone community as a whole.

We are delighted with the progress of the regeneration of Portman Square Garden and the support we have received from surrounding residents and tenants in striving to improve their local area. This supports the importance of the area around Portman Square as a great place to live, work and stay in Central London and the increasing appeal of Marylebone more generally.

Other private garden squares on The Portman Estate include Bryanston Square, Montagu Square and Manchester Square.

Andrew Myers of The Portman Estate, Garden Square Clerk