

WINTER 2023

Houndwood Community Group

Newsletter

For the Residents
of Icon &
Houndwood

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Christmas DECORATION COMPETITION



Prizes to be
won for:
Best window /
balcony,
best house
& best street.

Committee Member Judges decisions will be made on
Friday 22nd December

Let's Clean Up Our Estate
We all have a role to play

Saturday 10 AM - 12 PM
16th December | 20 Couture Grove
(via back gate on Eskimo Court)



Everyone is welcome!

Free tea &
coffee

cancelled if raining!

Houndwood Community Group Supported by STREET

Spooktacular Halloween

Another Halloween and the Houndwood estate did not disappoint! Well done to all the children and accompanying grown-ups who braved the rain. Once again, we saw some spectacular costumes with witches, skeletons, demon doctors and grim reapers taking to the streets. It was great to see so many houses dressing up their homes as creepy crime scenes, along with some very impressive pumpkins - from the vegetable-eating kind to artful floral creations. **Congratulations to Elgin Grove for being the 'Best Halloween Street 2023'** and **27 Californian Parade for the 'Best Dressed House'**. The spooky skeleton construction worker at **5 Californian Parade** was a particular highlight (earning them the 'Those with Flat Roofs' prize!) and we saw some spooky originality, with a special congratulations to **7 Bosun Walk for 'Best Creepy Creation'**.



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Gardening & Ecology Updates



Gardening Update

What a splendid Summer we had!

Plenty of lovely flowers for bees and insects - most grown from seed or from cuttings brought on in the greenhouse. We have also had some great donations of plants from people and have been busy on many areas of the estate. Of particular note we have worked hard on the areas at the entrance to Bullmead Parade, the herb garden and one of the old lavender beds in Oberon, the lavenders had got very old and leggy and have been replaced by Russian Sage and homegrown ice plants - should look lovely next summer.

Unfortunately when gardening it is not only weeds we find but all sorts of things dumped on the beds, rubble, grass, toys and rubbish - Please respect our communal areas so that everyone can enjoy them.

Ecology Update

Bird Boxes - A check of the bird boxes was done recently and 12 were found to have been used so will need to be cleaned. Help doing this will be greatly appreciated so we will let you know when a date has been arranged. During the check a number have gone missing, please if you find any on the ground, please let the committee know via Facebook.

Pond - The committee are investigating what can be done to get the pond back to where it should be, which is 60% water being visible.

Bats - We will be organising another bat walk once the bats come out of hibernation.

If you would like to be more involved with either the gardening or ecology group - do get in touch with us - contact details below.

Antisocial Behaviour

Many residents will be aware of the increase in thefts and antisocial behaviour across Street in recent weeks. We would like to take this opportunity to remind residents how to report incidents to the police.

To report antisocial behaviour by calling 101 or online at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/anti-social-behaviour/. **If a crime is in process or you are in immediate danger, call 999.**

In our Community...

Who else bought into the dream?

I first came to the Icon / Houndwood Estate in May 2019, whilst house hunting in the area. Immediately, I felt this was somewhere I wanted to live, it was like no other estate I had been on - beautiful architecture, fabulous green spaces and room for nature to live alongside the community. I went away to do my homework, and found out that it was

multi award winning - Landscape Institute Awards - Best Medium Scale Private Development 2013, Civic Trust Awards - Commended, Housing Awards - Overall winner 2010 and CABE Building for Life Standards - Gold Award. *Wow... there are not many, if any places that can have this said about them!*

The reality of living here does not always live up to my dream, or those who created this unique place that we all call home. As a whole community we need to understand that **we live somewhere very special, and to keep it that way we need to respect our environment and our fellow residents, and to invest in its future.** *We all have a role to play!*

"Living in a housing scheme which has been well designed adds to quality of life. Good design can provide opportunities for social interaction, opportunities to get outside and do things, opportunities for children to enjoy their environment and an uplifting place to come home to."

Wayne Hemingway MBE, Chair of the Building for Life, Talking about our estate in 2013.

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