Good fortune was with us for our first two events of the year. With the sun beaming down we observed the magnificent aeronautical display from the kingfisher at Crane Park, and we viewed the changing landscape of an ‘Arcadian’ Thames in Richmond.

Following the visit to Lullingstone Castle our next trip will be to Greenwich on Saturday 30th October. We assemble at the new Discovery Centre within the walls of The Old Royal Naval College for the Royal Parks Guild AGM and lunch. Afterwards, we will have a conducted tour of the College itself which will take in the many splendours of the Georgian Chapel and stunning Painted Hall. Then we visit the Queen’s House, Greenwich Park and Royal Observatory before finally, returning to the old town.

This is the Guild’s fourth year with a membership of over 300, and I’d like to express a very big thank you to all those who have made donations towards Guild Funds – which amounts to £980 this year so far. With our 5th year, in 2011, we are hoping to organise something special for the autumn to celebrate this milestone. More news in next year’s event list!

The first students of the relaunched apprenticeship scheme have just completed their 3-year course and news of this is covered later in the newsletter. We wish them all well in their future careers. Sadly, we have to say a goodbye to Matt Robinson, TRP Apprenticeship co-ordinator, who has been a key element in the running of the scheme and now returns to his native Australia. He will be greatly missed (see below).

Kensington Garden and Regents Park supported new allotment sites this year and, again, I’d like to record a big vote of thanks to all our members who gave their time to be ‘Garden Experts’, advising visitors on the importance of growing your own food, and how to do it.

I hope you have all had a great summer. First it was dry, and then we had typical British weather – a fair amount of rain. But I doubt the gardeners amongst you are complaining!

Mike Fitt

GREEN FLAG AWARD WINNERS 2010/2011

Congratulations to The Royal Parks Agency, and particularly to the Park Managers, staff and contractors of the following parks for achieving Green Flag status this year:

Bushy Park
Greenwich Park
Hyde Park
Kensington Gardens
Richmond Park
St James’ & Green Parks
Regent’s Park

FARWELL TO MATT ROBINSON...

I am returning to Melbourne after a year in the job to join my brothers in a landscaping business. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with TRP and it has been a privilege to work alongside truly talented people. I would like to thank the Guild for all its support, particularly Mike, Sid and Bob who have given a lot of their own time and effort into improving the scheme. It has been very much appreciated by both myself and the apprentices. I wish everyone the very best for the future, and I’ll be staying in touch through the Guild!

DON’T FORGET OUR AGM...

including a visit to Greenwich Park Saturday 30th October

AGM held in a lovely venue within the Old Royal Naval College ● RPG member Geoff Belcher (World Heritage Site Co-ordinator at Greenwich) will lead a walk ● Visit some of the College buildings ● The Queen’s House on the edge of the park ● The Royal Observatory (fantastic views across London and Olympic site) ● And back to Greenwich old town.

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SEPARATE SHEET

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On a gorgeous spring morning, 18 Guild members converged at the famous Shot Tower in Crane Park (on the border of the Boroughs of Hounslow and Richmond). We were met by RPG member Alex Robb of the London Wildlife Trust, and Crane Valley Conservation Projects Officer Sarah Garwood.

Alex began the morning's visit by explaining a little about the Park and its heritage, as well as its position within the Borough (it is only three miles from London Airport). We learned that the Shot Tower, built in 1826, was used for making lead shot (widely used as ammunition for weapons, and is still used today in shotgun cartridges).

There followed a group stroll through the 4.5acre-Crane Park Island Nature Reserve. It is home to a wide and fascinating variety of wildlife, including dragonflies, butterflies, rare water voles and kingfishers (which performed well for us on the day). Breeding colonies of marsh, edible and common frogs were especially noisy, basking in the sun on this warm, spring day.

At the end of the walk the RPG members were treated to a sandwich lunch and drinks. And an enjoyable time was had by all.

Above: RPG members standing in front of the Crane Park Shot Tower  
Far left: Richmond Area Manager for the London Wildlife Trust, Alex Robb  
Left: A peaceful section of the River Crane as it winds its way through the park  
Right: Crane Valley Conservation Projects Officer, Sarah Garwood
The Thames Arcadian Adventure

Date: 5th June, 2010

Our group of Guild members assembled at Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park before embarking on an Arcadian adventure. Our guide for the day was Guild member Jason Debney, the Co-ordinator of London’s Thames Landscape Strategy, the Arcadia Project being part of this.

The weather was hot and we started with a visit to Henry VIII’s Mound, with its unique view to the east, and of St. Paul’s Cathedral in the City of London. Then, scrambling downhill to Petersham Meadows, we stopped off at Petersham churchyard to see the burial place of Capt. George Vancouver (who, with Capt. Cook, sailed to Antarctica; they were together on the last fated voyage to the Pacific; Vancouver also discovered the island in British Columbia that is named after him). We also took a look at the horticultural gem that is Petersham Nursery.

The initial conservation plan for the meadows was to preserve the existing habitat, but with rising water levels in the Thames the whole ethos of the plan for this area has sensibly been changed to a water meadow. Jason explained the reason why boardwalks had started to appear along the Thames: “to allow people to make their way off the pathway up to higher ground when the Thames floods”.

It was then on to Ham House and Gardens, a 17th century treasure trove. The gardens were maintained by The Royal Parks (until the early 1990s); the Parks were involved in the first phase of the garden being returned to its 17th century layout. A picnic lunch was served on the lawn in front of the Orangery.

Restaurant – a welcome chance to rest our weary legs. The return leg of the journey began with a glimpse of Ham Lands, before heading towards Hammerton’s ferry for our trip across the Thames. Now on the opposite bank, we were able to view Marble Hill House and then back to see Orleans House and Woodland Garden. The Tea Rooms at Orleans House proved to be a welcome respite (with ice creams, coffee, cream teas etc eagerly consumed), and it is with a sigh we all noted it was yet a long way to go before we would arrive back at Pembroke Lodge.

Walking back along the riverside path toward Richmond, Jason showed us the special street lights that had been designed in a way such as not to disrupt the night-time activities of the local bat population. Sensors allow the lights to come on when users of the footpath approach, thus no light at other times to disorientate the bats. What innovation!

Our walk finally led us back to Richmond Bridge and on to the popular Terrace Gardens, recently beautifully restored with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. At this point one or two members walked back to their destinations, while the foot-weary troops remaining made the journey up through the Terrace Gardens to Richmond Hill. We were then able to “fall through the door” of The Roebuck and sample its wares.

Then it was just a small walk to Pembroke Lodge. Jason had given us a fascinating insight into the landscape, ecology and heritage of the Thames. A great day was followed by a wonderfully long sleep that night!

SNIPPETS...

• The Magazine, the former Georgian munitions store in Kensington Gardens, and the Nursery in Hyde Park (80,000 square feet of greenhouses), have been offered up to the open market for use as contemporary art sites or other commercial ventures.

• Following Britain’s general election in June, much newspaper coverage has been given to the possible take-over of The Royal Parks by London’s Mayor, Boris Johnson. No final decision has yet been made.

• Hyde Park now has a ‘senior playground’, with fitness equipment chosen specially to provide gentle exercise for the over-60s. Use of the equipment is free.

• This spring four young tawny owls were spotted in Kensington Gardens.

• Heritage Minister John Penrose has axed plans to introduce car parking charges in Richmond and Bushy Parks.

• Two water rails, birds previously unknown in The Regent’s Park took up residence last winter.
CHESTNUT SUNDAY (BUSHY PARK)...

Representatives from The Royal Parks Guild enjoyed a productive day at the Bushy Park Chestnut Sunday festivity on 9th May 2010. The annual event celebrates the flowering of the park's distinctive horse chestnut trees, and has been a popular occasion for the local community since Victorian times. The highlight was a parade of bands, classic cars and forces vehicles, in recognition of the park's military history. Throughout the afternoon, people were able to explore the multitude of stalls representing local organisations, and take part in activities for all ages.

TRPG Committee member David Ivison

Right: The parade included a 'parliamentarian march'. After the death of Charles I most of the parkland had been sold; but in 1653 Cromwell was given the title 'Land Protector', and Hampton Court - a suitably grand residence. The land was bought back (at a huge loss to the exchequer of £1200) and Cromwell made good use of the palace and park until his death in 1658. He improved the Longford River and, in the Eastern part of Bushy Park, made the Hare Warren Ponds (now the Heron and Leg of Mutton Ponds). His son Richard was Protector from 1858-1859. A few months after succeeding his father, Richard was in Bushy Park and had shot just a single deer when a messenger arrived from the Commons ordering 'None were to be killed'.

Fancy searching for bats this autumn?

A series of guided walks have been taking place this summer and autumn in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens - and there are just a couple remaining. These fun and informative walks for people of all ages will identify the bats commonly seen in central London and help to explain some of the fictional myths that have arisen from their close proximity to humans.

Dates & Times: Thurs 23 September (6.45pm to 8.15pm); Thursday 7th October - 6.15pm to 7.45pm
Booking Details: Numbers are strictly limited and bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Please telephone or email to book a place.
Contact Nick Lane, Education & Community Engagement Officer on Tel: 020 7298 2083 or Email: nlane@royalparks.gsi.gov

STEPHENSON'S ROCKET: Built in 1829, the 'Rocket' was seen in Kensington Gardens this spring, as part of the Science Museum's Easter 2010 events programme. It offered rides ... but it was not the original! This was a full-size working reproduction of the world famous steam locomotive, on a specially laid track adjacent the Albert Memorial.
A Masterclass in JUDGING

Date: 23rd April 2010  Report by: Paul Todd (Green Flag Awards Manager)

St George's Day this year saw the first Judging Masterclass for more than 20 Apprentices from The Royal Parks and the London Boroughs of Newham and Islington. The day was held at Capel Manor College in Regents Park and was the brainchild of Mike Fitt, who also provided the motivating force ensuring the day was a huge success for both Apprentices and contributors.

The day included an introduction to show judging from Jim Buttress (RHS Senior Show Judge), then Peter Holman (Trustee of London in Bloom) spoke about Britain in Bloom judging, and I provided an Introduction to judging the Green Flag Award Scheme. I was delighted when Mike called me and asked me to get involved as it has been an ambition for a number of years to not only help people understand the standards they will be working towards and consequently increase their employability, but also to encourage and engage with the next generation of Judges.

Following the presentations Apprentices carried out a practical judging exercise under the guidance of the experts, making assessments of a show exhibit and of Regents Park. What was impressive was the breadth of knowledge displayed by the Apprentices and their thoroughness when making their assessments, clearly all potential future judges.

Following the Masterclass a number of the Apprentices have volunteered to shadow judges over the coming year, and it is hoped that many will sign up to be judges in the future.

 Contributors to the day also included; Geraldine King – City of London, Alison McAtamney – Enterprise, Roy Clark – Serco, Bob Ivison – Consultant, and Matthew Robinson, Nick Biddle and Toni Assirati – all from The Royal Parks Agency. It is hoped to expand the programme in future to Apprentices from other regions.

Assessing a Chelsea Flower Show exhibit, in the Regents Pk greenhouses with Geraldine King (Park Manager at West Ham Park, City of London, and Roy Clark (Serco GM Contractor)

Apprentices from Islington, Newham and Royal Parks, out judging in the Nesfield Gardens, Regents Park with Park Manger Nick Biddle (far left) and Bob Ivison (far right)

MY NVQ3 JUNGLE BORDER

Third-year Royal Parks Apprentice Zoe Basham explains how she created her special Jungle Border in Greenwich Park

This bedding scheme (below) was designed for a flower border in Greenwich Park. I have planned, designed and planted it as part of a project to complete my NVQ 3. I was given a plant list and a design brief (by the assistant park manager) which stated that I had to design a jungle border, incorporating colour, scent, size and attraction to pollinating insects. I found my inspiration from i) bright colourful jungle birds that live up in tree canopies, and ii) the dark mystery of a jungle on the ground. I needed to work out the amount of plants, and the cost. I had several meetings with the assistant park manager (this was required for my NVQ 3). The plants that I had selected were then ordered. On 16 June the planting started. I worked with a second year apprentice and the assistant contract manager. The plants are planted very close together to achieve the required effect, and the job took just under two days. A display board shows the design, and shows which plants are which.
The Royal Parks Guild (TRPG) continued its series of Masterclass workshops in June, this time at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park. This was an Apprentice Leavers’ workshop for 3rd year apprentices and their managers. The aim of the workshop was to bring together leading industry figures to present their advice on career opportunities for the apprentices.

The event was organised by TRPG Committee member Bob Ivison, and was introduced at the start by TRPG chairman, Michael Fitt. The day was chaired by myself, as chairman of the TRPG Education and Training Sub-committee.

This was a special event in many ways. First, it was a pilot and had a specially invited audience, bringing together for the first time senior figures from commercial horticultural, historic and botanic gardens, and the horticultural press, all who shared with the audience their passion for their particular branch of horticulture.

Second, it provided the apprentices with an opportunity to consider their careers as a ‘portfolio’ of different mini-careers in horticulture. Finally, the participants had an unrivalled opportunity to listen to how the experts’ careers had developed, and to question them about their experiences.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the speakers: Kevin Hobbs – Hilliers, Andy Bunt – Squires Garden Centres, Kate Lowe – Horticulture Week, Mark Gregory – Landform Designs, John Watkins – English Heritage and Tony Kirkham – Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

What was notable about the event was the enthusiasm and commitment of the speakers, and their undoubted knowledge and willingness to share their experiences with the audience – warts and all! This pilot workshop was such a success, that planning is already underway for this to be an annual event (and we have our first speaker booked for next year!).

The next TRPG workshop is planned for 2011.

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**APPRENTICE UPDATE**

*Rosemary Gray* (right) was the winner of the 2nd year Apprentice of the Year Award, 2009. Now, after successfully finishing her Royal Parks apprenticeship, she has left her position with Enterprise in order to visit Peru to help with reconstruction work following a major earthquake. Rosemary will then be heading off to Bolivia to follow up on a personal interest in organic gardening by working on an organic farm in the region. Hers will certainly be a career to watch!

*Other TRP apprentices who have completed their three year apprenticeship include:*

**Tom Clark** – working in St. James’s Park full time for Enterprise.

**Danny Stafford** – working in Richmond Park for Connaught.

**Steve Britner** – working in Regents Park full time for Veolia.

**Phillip White** – has left TRP to take up a landscaping position in the private sector.

*Zoe Basham (above) was the winner of the 1st year Apprentice of the Year 2008) will continue working at Greenwich Park for Turfsoil*
Brian Groom worked in Regents Park, and emigrated to Australia in 1971 where he started his own wholesale plant production nursery. His son Colin is now the manager. The nursery covers some 10 acres and employs 20 staff.

On his website, Brian says: "We are growers of a large range of Native and Exotic Trees, Shrubs, Climbers, Conifers, Perennials and Ground Covers. These are sold in pots ranging from 130mm-200mm diameter plus several species in 305mm pots and standard Grafted Grevilleas in 430mm pots.

“Our Production Nursery is based in Hacketts Guily, 8 minutes from Kalamunda and 45 minutes from the Perth CBD in Western Australia.” Visit Brian’s website: www.domusnursery.com.au.

This photograph was sent to us from Western Australia by Brian Groom, a former apprentice from the 1960s. It was taken at RHS Garden Wisley, and must have been during the early to mid 60s. There is no mistaking former apprentice Paul Akers (on the left), but who is he scrapping with? Could it be fellow apprentice Sid Sullivan? Time to own up!!

Life in Hyde Park Corner Lodge

This is the description written by David Dukes who called at the Lodge in the Summer 2008.

I think I must be the last person alive to have actually lived for a time, albeit only during the school holidays and before I was of school age, in the Lodge at Hyde Park Corner.

In 1933 my Grandfather secured position of Chief Artificer of the Royal Parks and took over the small lodge of Hyde Park Corner where he lived with my Grandmother and their daughter my mother, Frances Thelma.

Inside and around the Lodge

Entering the front door the visitor came into a very small parlour which consisted of a fireplace with grate, fender and coal scuttle, a small hall type table which we still have, an aspidistra stand and plant, one upright chair at the table and two easy chairs, one by the door and the other by the window. This chair was great for standing on when you are very small so that you could see out of the window to watch the mounted Horse Guards and Life Guards as they passed the Lodge.

However, the one big memory of this room, and consequently the bedroom above was the tube that went from floor to ceiling in the middle of the room, it contained the dropping weight for the dual-faced clock on top of the Lodge. Every week one of the Park employees would come along with a large right angled key, rather like a canal lock key, and wind up and set the clock.

In front of the house were flagstones and an iron fence. Through the side gate and down into the basement was a favoured route of many a Police Constable on a cold winter’s day where he would be guaranteed a hot cup of tea in my Grandmother’s warm scullery. In fact, if Sergeant Cecil Pollard, who was in charge of the tiny Police Station which was situated in Wellington Arch wanted one, it was my Grandmother’s kitchen he tried first.

David Dukes as a child, outside the front door of Hyde Park Corner Lodge, holding a policeman’s hand

Inside and Around:
Part 2
The front door was rarely used and the outside steps led to the yard and backdoor. Within was a large room in the cement floor of which there is set a large safe. A small cloakroom and toilet led off and also a large walk-in larder, scullery and kitchen as well as a further store room. Stairs lead up to the ground floor with a small entrance hall with front door. The main room has windows on three sides and a fireplace on the fourth. Running from floor to ceiling near the centre of this room is the tube containing the dropping weight for the double faced clock at the top of the building. The upper floor has two rooms a low ceiling and the tube and the workings for the clock. A flat roof tops the building off which in times past was frequently used for crowds to see the various pageants etc: taking place in Hyde Park and HP Corner. Once a week an employee from the Park would come and wind the clock. Now this is electrically operated.

Occasionally, in anticipation of a large event and to spot any unwanted activity, Police will climb on to the roof. The ceiling in the upper room will dip ominously with the weight of coppers’ boots.

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BEAU BRUMMEL - The Farm in the Park

In Green Park is a small pond, surrounded by lovely trees which cast their pleasant shadow over the walk that was called "Queen's Promenade" not far from Clarges Street. A rustic house blending with the surrounding countryside...a tiny farm...a stable where a few cows were kept, with rambling roses everywhere. Belonged to an aged lady farmer - a Mrs Searle, who lived there until 1815, walking about in an old fashioned dress and a tall bonnet, swaying with grace.

During the American Wars, George III had entrusted Mrs Searle with looking after the place, and one of George III's daughters had herself decorated the rooms. This royal patronage had made Mrs Searle à la mode, and the maids of honour and ladies in waiting of the Queen used to visit the charming cottage after their duties at St. James's Palace.

One day in 1793 the Prince of Wales and the Marchioness of Salisbury crossed the Green Park and entered Mrs Searle's farmyard. Her ladyship pulled up her skirts and went to help, or at least to watch Mrs Searle milking her cows, while the Prince remained in the yard chatting affably with a striking and pleasant young lad of about 15 years of age.

"This is my nephew, George Bryan Brummell your Highness", called Mrs Searle from the stable. "He has just finished his schooling at Eton and this very year he will go to Oxford. A very good boy is my nephew, and clever too." The Prince asks George what he wants to do. "An Officer in the Army!" The Prince says: "When you come down from Oxford I will give you a commission in my regiment, the 16th Hussars."

And so began the career of Beau Brummell, the Regency Dandy.

Extract from an old book title unknown.

THE ROYAL PARKS RIFLE CLUB

Following the item about the Royal Parks Rifle Club in the Summer 2009 edition of the Newsletter, we have had two contributions from members...

From TRPG member and Richmond Park Manager Simon Richards:
These trophies were passed to us at Holly Lodge by Mike Lewis, gardener at the Isabella Plantation following his retirement a couple of years ago. It would be good to know more about people named on the two trophies. The shield says: 'The Richmond Park Rifle Club - Annual club champion'. It was awarded as follows:

1972/3 Mrs M Gubbins 1976/78 P Williams 1979 M Lewis
1950 H Barton (96) 1952/3 R Eady (96/97) 1954 P Elliot (90)
1955 W Greatrex (97) 1956 T Lloyd (93) 1957 T Lord (94)
1958 T Humphreys (92) 1970 J Beer (96) (John Beer, chargehand gardener at Pembroke Lodge)
1971 W Brown (91) (Buster Brown, the Richmond Park game keeper?)
1972/3 Mrs M Gubbins (98/97)
1976 R Poulter (86)
1977 D Roberts (90)
1978 R Poulter (93)
1979 M Lewis (85)/(Gardener, Isabella Plantation)

Mike Lewis informed me that he believed some of these people worked at Hampton Court Palace, but it would be good to confirm this - particularly the identity of the supreme crack shot Mrs Gubbins!

From TRPG member Chris Miller:
"Between 1965 and 1968 I was a member of the Greenwich Royal Parks Rifle Club. The entrance to the Park's rifle club was a green door situated at the right of main gate at the Blackheath entrance; the rifle range was 25 yards long. The Hon. Secretary was Robert (Bob) Clarke who was employed as a gardener within the park. During this period we won the City of London Rifle Association Div. 8 team championship. Bob and I represented the Club, in the Kent County Rifle Championships at Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells (I forget the year). Bob won the Class C or D championship, and I came 5th."
The Royal Parks Constabulary, then headed by Superintendent Peter Gilbert, who reported through the Royal Parks Bailiff, Ashley Stephenson, to me, were managed through an RPC Committee, on which we were advised by a retired Deputy Assistant Commissioner from the Metropolitan Police. I got ticked off once by referring to the Met as “the police” and was told firmly by my boss (Genie Turton) that the RPC were the police (to me, they were the Constabulary and the Met were the police).

Peter Gilbert always had a fund of funny stories. Two I remember in particular:

- One afternoon, a gardener in Regent’s Park discovered an unexploded bomb from World War II. He happily dug it up, put it in on a wheelbarrow and wheeled it into the park’s yard, to ask his boss “What shall I do with this, governor?”
- On another occasion, a man was arrested boring a hole between the ladies and the men’s toilets. He was easily caught – he did it from the ladies’ side!

The Constabulary had to deal with a wide range of problems, both of physical security and different types of crime. The RPC were also responsible for security throughout the parks on all the big occasions, e.g. the routes through St. James’s Park for the Trooping of the Colour, State Opening of Parliament etc.

Security was also a constant worry in the Parks. I had been in post only a few weeks when the two IRA outrages in the parks took place. We had a message during the morning that a car bomb had exploded in Hyde Park, when the Blues and Royals were on their way to the Changing of the Guard. Fortunately, there was no loss of human life, but there was a public wave of sympathy for the horses that died. Ashley (Stephenson) and I went to the park and satisfied ourselves that staff were OK, and that there was nothing we could do. We returned to headquarters at Marsham Street and I had only just reported on the outrage to the Secretary of State, when we heard of the explosion on the bandstand at Regents Park. This time there was a horrific scene and a significant loss of life. I recall that, when the lake was drained for maintenance a couple of years later, body parts were still being found. I attended the unveiling of the memorial to the bandsmen who died.

A constant topic was the problem of parking for the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. The London Tourist Board pressed for a change in the time of the Changing, on the grounds that it made it difficult for day coach parties to get to it and the Tower of London; and even pressed for morning and afternoon Guard Changing to cater for more tourists. They simply did not understand why the Lord Chamberlain’s Office regarded this as totally inappropriate, if not lèse-majesté!

Four of the Royal Parks have herds of deer: Richmond, Bushy and Hampton (all with both red and fallow) and a tiny herd in Greenwich. There was an annual cull (males in the autumn; females nearer the end of the year). There had been two cases where people had been killed or injured accidentally outside firing ranges (one military and one police), so the then Minister, Neil Macfarlane, wished to be reassured that this could not happen during the cull, and instructed me to inspect it. This meant a series of very early morning visits to the various parks. I did not enjoy seeing healthy animals killed, but it was necessary for the health and continuity of the herds. Although I was satisfied that the animals were killed cleanly, expertly and safely, the decision was taken to close the parks while the cull was in progress. One of the first people to complain about this was the Permanent Secretary, George Moseley, seeking to walk his dog before going to work!

Richard Boston of The Guardian asked to witness the cull and to write about it. When Ashley and I asked for the opportunity to vet what he proposed to write, he said that conflicted with the freedom of the journalist and refused. We said: “In that case, no visit, no story”. His response was “then that would be my story”! Needless to say, we had to give in.

Brian Strong is the former Head of Parks, Palaces & Central Services Division of DAMHB.
NEW TRPG MEMBERS
(those joining between Feb 2010 and end Jul 2010)
A = APPRENTICE of Ex-APPRENTICE
PA = PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARKS
CurC = CURRENT CONTRACTORS/CONSULTANTS/
CONCESSIONAIRES ExC = Ex CURRENT
CONTRACTORS/CONSULTANTS/
CONCESSIONAIRES ExS = Ex STAFF

NEW FULL MEMBERS
Ainsby, Peter – Since 1997 has worked in Hyde Park for
Enterprise. CurC
Banks DL, Mrs Elizabeth – Inolved with various historic
surveys of The Royal Parks in 1980s, President RHS. ExC
Bentley, Michael – Volunteer with The LookOut education
centre in Hyde Park, since 1997. PA
Brodie, Ray – Apprentice (1981-84), CRP Tree Team (1985-
90), chargehand gardener in Hyde Park (1990-92); park supervisor
Kensington Gardens (1992-95); park manager Kensington
Carpenter, David – Long time volunteer with the Education
& Community Team in all TRP and Brompton Cemetery. PA
Connolly, Bennie – Manager for Enterprise in Kensington
Gardens. ExS/TC
Dear, Graham – Park manager Greenwich Park. CurS
Ducker, Paul – With CARE Space, developed national skills
strategy for the green space sector, just when TRP was in the
process of relaunching the Apprenticeship Scheme. PA
Gates, Mrs. Vivien – Volunteer with Education Team, guided
walks, events and allotment support, 2008-today. PA
Holcroft, Cliff – Worked in Richmond Park as a tree-topper
from 1973-92. ExS
Kirkham, Tony – Head of the Arboretum at RBG Kew. PA
Knight, Kevin – Apprentice Regents Park (Sept 1961); trained
by Jim Smith; still working in Regents Park in St. John’s Lodge
garden. A/CurS/TC
Maitney, Paul – Worked as gardener/estate worker Hampton
Court and Bushy Park, 1978-80. ExS
Pearce, Graham – Printer of TRPG Newsletter. PA
Todd, Paul – Green Flag Awards Manager and support of the
Apprenticeship Scheme. PA
Tossell, Darren – Volunteer at the Wildlife Garden in Regent’s
Park since 2007. PA

Apologies for the two typing errors in the last newsletter;
new members at the time were:
Mary Bowman (not Bowden) – Gustafson Porter, Diana
Memorial Fountain 2002-03. ExC
Ian Benson (not Henson) – Volunteer at St James Park
Allotment 2007-09. PA

TRPG Chair Mike Fitt was interviewed and appeared on The Great British Home Movie Show on
14th August (BBC2). He says: “A few Guild members will remember me wittering on about the old
Cine films I had dug out of our attic. Well, a friend took a small selection to put on disc and then sent
a copy to the BBC. Subsequently, a film crew came down to the Isle of Wight to film me about the
old films my father had taken in the mid 1920s.” Below are scenes from the programme. Mike is
seen with film archivist David Ellery, viewing some of the films for the first time. In the centre is a
shot of Mike’s grandfather, setting up his market stall in London’s Portobello Road in the 1920’s.

To start with, we are delighted to welcome to The Guild Mrs Elizabeth
Banks (left). As a high-
profile member, they don’t get much higher than this. A renowned landscape
architect and plantswoman, Elizabeth was this year
elected as the first woman President of the Royal
Horticultural Society. She is familiar with all of the
Royal Parks, and has worked on a number of
historical surveys of the Parks.
Elizabeth is known for her pioneering work on
both historic and contemporary gardens in a
professional career spanning 25 years and three
countries. Following an international career with
Land Use Consultants, in 1987 she set up her
own consultancy, Elizabeth Banks Associates,
which she chaired until 2005. EBA has won five
Gold medals for gardens at the RHS Chelsea
Flower Shows. With her husband Lawrence
Banks, who is a Vice President of the RHS, Mrs
Banks owns and manages the Hergest Estate and
Hergest Croft Gardens in Herefordshire, which
extend to over 70 acres and contain national
collections of Acer, Betula and Zelkova. She is
also on the Arboretum Advisory Committee for
Westsibn Arboretum and Bedegbury Pinetum.

CONGRATS TO MARK GREGORY WHO
ACHIEVED HIS 3RD GOLD MEDAL AT THIS YEAR’S
CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW, WITH HIS GARDEN FOR
THE CHILDREN’S SOCIETY.

CONTACTING THE GUILD:
BY POST: 14 Nelson Place, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 2ET
TELEPHONE: 07973 402 810
EMAIL: info@theroyalparksguild.org WEBSITE: www.theroyalparksguild.org
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Graham Slaake – 01239 675 657 graham.slaake@virgin.net

Former Guild member
Kenwyn Pearson
has received the ‘London Spade’ from
the Metropolitan Public
Gardens Association in
honour of outstanding
services to horticulture.

TRPG Patron Alan
Titchmarsh (above)
has been appointed as
the new President of
Plant Heritage, the
National Council for
the Conservation of
Plants and
Gardens.

Joyce Bellamy
appeared on TV on 2nd
August when she
accompanied Dan
Cruickshank, both on
horseback, trotting
along Rotten Row as
part of Britain’s Park
Story (BBC4).

We would like to send
our best wishes and a
‘Get Well Soon’ to
Arthur Tait who has
recently had a heart
bypass operation, and
to Steve Reid who has
been on his back in
hospital.