

NEWSLETTER

Number 11 – Winter/Spring 2011



THE
ROYAL
PARKS
GUILD



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Wishing you all a Happy New Year, and so begins the Guild's 5th year, which we hope to celebrate later in the year at one of our events. Most will, of course, be aware of changes afoot in The Royal Parks, and its likely transfer to the GLA. Also the Parks are due for a large cut in funding (36% in real terms over five years, with at least 10% of the cut in the first two years). Staffing will be cut from 130 to under 100.

This will see a reduction in marketing, finance and HR; and a withdrawal from education delivery (e.g. the Environmental Centre in Bushy Park), as well as cuts in arts support and from sports out-reach and some sports facilities. This is coupled with a reduction in Park management posts, wildlife officers and ecology unit staff, plus other specialists. Many will have strong views on this, but I hope you will agree that the role of the Guild in supporting the underlying purpose and heritage of The Royal Parks is therefore even more essential during these difficult times. The changes are obviously ongoing and we will keep you updated in future newsletters.

In stepping up its support, the Guild held a series of annual award presentations last year. This saw the giving of four apprentice awards: to the best 1st, 2nd and 3rd year apprentices, and to the overall student shown to be most outstanding over their 3-year apprenticeship and thus receiving 'The George Cooke Award' (awarded for the first time in November).

The Guild also launched its 'Lifetime Achievement Award' and, now in its second year, the presentation of the 'Wildlife Conservation Award'. As you will see from the articles in this newsletter, the awards were all well deserved.

Members have been very generous again this year in their donations to Guild funds, including the awards and bursaries fund, so thank you for this. The Awards programme, plus other initiatives in train, will draw heavily on our resources and it will be important for the Committee to look to increase fund raising opportunities, but again all donations are very gratefully received.

A number of successful events were held during 2010, together with our 'Garden Experts' helping out on allotments in both Kensington Gardens and Regent's Park. We are now putting together the programme for 2011, and hope to send this out before long.

This year The Royal Parks celebrates 160 years since they were made completely accessible to the public (a time which coincided with the Great Exhibition of 1851, held in Hyde Park). We will be celebrating this in the next Newsletter.

I do hope you will continue your membership of the Guild. A renewal form is enclosed and you will note that the fee remains the same as last year.

I look forward to catching up with many of you during the coming year.

Mike Fitt

SNIPPETS...



MAGAZINE BUILDING, KENSINGTON GARDENS

A contract has been agreed between The Royal Parks and the Serpentine Gallery to establish a new gallery in The Magazine building in Kensington Gardens. It was built in the early 19th century as a munitions depot for the army in the event of a foreign invasion or a local uprising; it has not housed munitions for the last 50 years and has recently been used for storage. It will be known as the Serpentine Sackler Gallery and been made possible in the main by the generosity of The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation. The building will be fully renovated by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid who will 'create a new destination of contemporary culture'.

● Former Royal Parks Guild member Nic Gray remembers, in connection with his Honourable Artillery Company role, collecting blank shells for the Royal gun salutes in the early 1950's. "The only problem," he says, "is that the storage area was so damp, only 50 per cent of the shells went off!"

● The Serpentine Gallery began life as a tearoom. Lord Palumbo, chairman of its board of trustees, recalls being taken "as a wartime child by his mother to sit on the roof terrace, eating a 3d block of Wall's ice cream and looking out at Churchill's anti-aircraft guns ranged below."

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SEPARATE SHEET

The Royal Parks Guild

Awards 2010

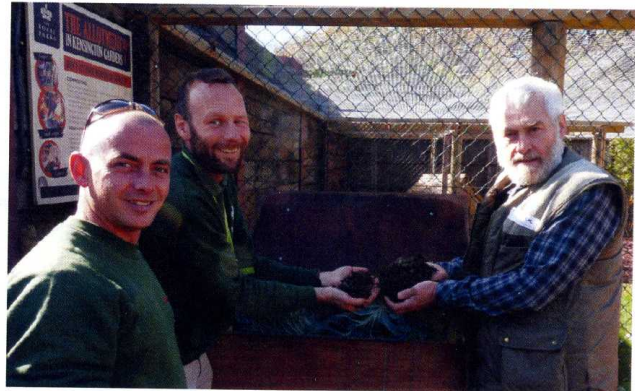
9 and 10

Meet the experts at Kensington Gardens and Regent's Park

Report: Toni Assirati



Guild member Geoff Hyde and Andrew Williams (TRP), tending the crops in Regent's Park



Guild member Nick Butler (right), with Nick Lane (TRP) and Richard Griggs (Enterprise), placing worms in the compost in Kensington Gardens

In 2009 the St James's Park 'Dig for Victory' allotment was dismantled, after three years. It provided most of the physical materials that were used in the construction of two new allotments, opened in 2010, at Kensington Gardens and Regent's Park. Both aim to keep the recycling philosophy going, and to showcase a variety of vegetables and companion planting. The two new allotments provide a more permanent environment where messages of 'grow- your-own'; 'container growing' and 'learning new skills' will be continued for many years to come. Both sites are open to the general public.

The Royal Parks Guild once again supported The Royal Parks by providing day sessions where experts in vegetable growing and horticulture would meet with the public and give good gardening advice.

The Kensington Gardens allotment was designed with a wide variety of raised beds, and focused on using small spaces to grow vegetables. Guild members attended for a number of Saturdays and Sundays throughout summer, and answered lots of questions. The Regent's Park allotment was run in partnership with Capital Growth, and provided lots of training opportunities for people who have just developed their own growing space. There were also days when people could come along and meet Guild members. Members also supported the Harvest Festival days held in both venues. The Royal Parks would like to thank all of the participants of the project and look forward to 2011 and the next round of 'Meet the Expert Days'.

Richmond Park Open Day

Date: 19th September 2010 Report: Nick Butler

This event was a fun day out for all the family, featuring the park's history and daily activities. Children had the opportunity to scramble over a JCB tractor digger and sit at its controls. Nearby, the star attraction was the working horses with a demonstration from the park's blacksmith, fitting shoes on 'Jedd'. The new shire horse 'Massey' joined in, and small children could stroke both horses and, by return, receive a gentle nudge or kiss from above. Many children were actively involved with pond dipping, and Guild member Toni Assirati, (TRP Head of Education), was on hand with volunteers to help the children identify the rich collection of pond fauna.

The Victorian classroom had artefacts from days gone by, that showed how home life was before the electric iron and washing machine. A restored chemist's shop opened to visitors for the first time. Alex Mulholland, a retired pharmacist, had donated a permanent display of antique chemist furniture – with potion bottles, obscure surgical accessories and pill making equipment.

An added attraction was a show of classic MG sports cars and 1960's Japanese motor bikes. Among the exhibits, the RPG stand attracted the curious visitor. Thanks to Dave Ivison and Sid Sullivan, and their wives, for their assistance in manning the stand on the day.

Congratulations to Simon Richards, TRP staff, all the volunteers, Friends of Richmond Park and the many exhibitors who enthusiastically welcomed everyone. It was a very successful day with more than 2000 visitors – all helped by extremely good weather!

Right: Guild member Phil Swallow with his wife's beautifully restored Routemaster bus, currently operating with Arriva Buses London. With the generous support of Arriva he organised a free bus service around the park for visitors to the Richmond Park Open Day



AGM & GREENWICH PARK VISIT

Date: October 30th, 2010

Report by: Paul Akers

The Royal Parks Guild's 4th Annual General Meeting was held in part of The Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich Park. A warm welcome was extended by Chairman Mike Fitt to some 60 attendees, and following the formal business we consumed a most enjoyable buffet lunch courtesy of Marks & Spencer. After this we were placed in the very capable hands of our guide for the afternoon, Geoff Belcher.

He led us to some truly amazing buildings which form part of his portfolio as World Heritage Site Co-ordinator. Rather than giving us a guided tour of each building he allowed us to absorb at our own pace many of the sumptuous features that we were able to discover within them. The Old Royal Naval College from the outside was our first port of call where we were able to admire some of Christopher Wren's wonderful craftsmanship. Despite being three centuries in age they still seem to be in pristine condition.

This certainly whetted our appetites for more, and Geoff duly obliged by taking us to The Georgian Chapel and The Painted Hall. The sheer quality of the features, including the ceiling artwork, was awesome. Most of us agreed that we needed to visit again on another occasion.

Onwards to Queens House, a masterpiece of Inigo Jones, completed around 1638, and once a richly furnished summer villa for Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of King Charles I. The building now contains a collection of world class paintings which must surely satisfy virtually every taste.

An uphill stroll through Greenwich Park was a pleasant contrast. This enabled us to absorb the incredible view from General Wolfe's statue at the top. The contrast between the space allocated for the buildings in the Park compared with the assemblage of modern architecture in the City, where buildings almost seem to have been built on top of each other, is guaranteed to stimulate debate. We also gained good views of The Dome & the new Olympic site.

Anyone with a penchant for scientific instruments, and particularly of the horological variety, would definitely be in their element at The Royal Observatory, where they could also admire the famous meridian line.

Perhaps this was a fitting place to end not only what was a most enjoyable day but also a year that has seen the Guild explore many new pastures, and making new friendships as well as maintaining existing ones.



Those attending the AGM, followed by the tour of Greenwich Park, had an opportunity to view the Georgian Chapel (behind the group on the left) and The Painted Hall (on the right), both features of the Old Royal Naval College

RPG visit to Lullingstone Castle

Date: 15th September, 2010

Report by: Liz Goodfellow

We were 30 during the visit to Lullingstone Castle. Owner Guy Hart Dyke greeted us at the gatehouse, and explained some of the background and history of the Estate, once comprising 6000 acres, now down to just 120. Surrounding fields were once a jousting area for Sir John Peche and his good friend, King Henry VIII.

The current St. Botolph's church on the estate dates from the 14th century and contains early stained glass (including a graphic depiction of St. Erasmus' entrails being wound out!). The stunning moulded ceiling was constructed in honour of Queen Anne in 1726. The Country House, once surrounded by a moat, is Elizabethan on the East side, and Queen Anne on the West. We viewed the grand hall, dining room, and Queen Anne's bedroom, reached by a stair especially constructed for her rather large personage.

We then met son Tom (pictured below, talking to the group). He is well-known for his TV appearances, and creator of The World Garden which he conceived while being held hostage by guerillas in the jungles of Panama. Within Lullingstone's 500 year old walled garden, and entered through the original moon gate, The World Garden celebrates plant hunters, and aims to contain 10,000 plants, grown in beds representing their origins

around the globe, juxtaposed with man-made cultivars. Tom's enthusiasm was boundless and infectious as he took us through the garden, and enclosed areas housing frost-sensitive plants and cacti.

Encouraged by Granny, who introduced Tom to seeds at the age of three, and who (at the age of 93) was still wielding a chainsaw, the garden is now supported by a team of unpaid helpers. These are led by Guild member Jim Buttress, formerly Superintendent of Greenwich Park. A fifth of the garden is dug up and stored each year, although in the winter of 2009/10 they still lost many plants. Some consider the project 'barking mad', says Tom, but progress since planting began in 2005 is phenomenal.

The project is self-funded: half of the plants have been donated, nobody gets paid, and monies are raised by tours, books, talks and nursery sales. This winter work is taking place to create a new bulb garden. Possible future projects include a Tropical House and Orchid House but these will need heating and maintenance.

In thanking Tom, Mike Fitt wondered about apprentices assisting in the garden through a bursary scheme, and aptly summed up our visit to The World Garden as 'amazing and magical'.



IN MEMORIAM

BRIAN DAVIS



Brian, who died in September at the age of 73, started work in Richmond Park in 1968 as a groom for the horses, used by the then Parks Police. He had worked with horses since a boy and was an excellent horseman. He enjoyed exercising, training and re-schooling the horses, and teaching others to ride.

He enjoyed the then 'rural' life, and there was a sense of family about working in the Park. In his day if you owned a gun and had a license you went pigeon shooting with the Park Superintendent during the day. Brian's degree in Fine Art and his painting and drawing, added flavour to the Holly Lodge yard workforce.

Brian had to retire due to a chronic back condition in 1980. He then painted, and reviewed books for *Time Out* magazine. He had intended to write and illustrate a book about his life in Richmond Park but alas he never did.

GEORGE GROVES

George, who died in November, left The Royal Tank Regiment in 1947 to join The Royal Parks at Richmond Park. He spent the next 36 years working in the park and carried out many jobs now consigned to history. He would assist the thatcher in thatching the park's hayricks; he would gather cereals (such as oats) grown in the park for deer feed; and he would help the gamekeeper in breeding game birds used to populate the park. During his retirement he regularly kept the Park Superintendent informed of his shortcomings! And he still attended open days until quite recently. George loved working in the park and was dedicated to it. He will be sadly missed.

JOHN BEER

Johns' family moved from Devon to New Malden in the 1930's. Following service in the Royal Navy, John joined The Royal Parks, working first at Hampton Court and Bushy Park before arriving at Richmond Park where he was promoted to Foreman.

He worked at Richmond until his retirement in the 1980's. Such was the mark he left on the park, he is commemorated by the John Beer Laburnum Walk situated in the gardens at Pembroke Lodge.

The Laburnum Walk is in the process of being replanted this winter, and we hope that John's family will be able to attend a planting ceremony during the spring.

POMP AND CEREMONY...



After six years, on 27 April 2010 a special ceremony was held to celebrate the return of police horses as a Mounted branch in newly refurbished stables, Old Police House, Hyde Park. HRH The Duke of Kent opened the stables. In attendance were Superintendent Simon Ovens, Commander, The Royal Parks OCU and Sir Paul Stephenson, Commissioner Metropolitan Police Service.

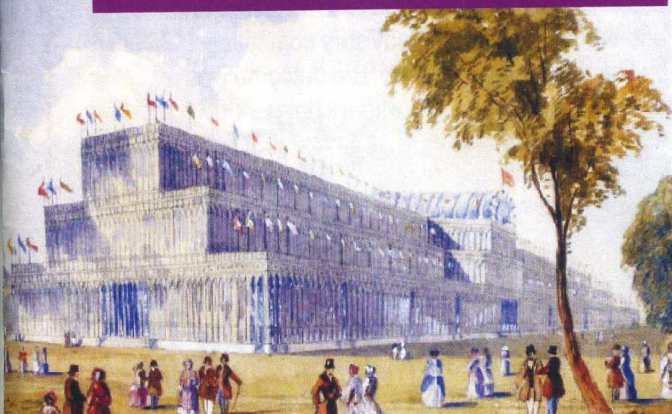
NATIVE FLORA

Rob Dowling, Acting Park Manager, Hyde Park, has created a bed in the Rose Garden at Hyde Park Corner, dedicated to British native wildflowers. Rob has been keen to show the use of wildflowers (non-invasive of course), to demonstrate a long flowering season, attractive forms and good biodiversity.



DR NIGEL REEVE

THE KNOWLEDGE



Did you know that the current vigorous test for London's cab drivers, called "learning the knowledge", came into being after the poor local knowledge of cabbies became apparent during the Great Exhibition of 1851, which was held in Hyde Park? "Cab" is short for cabriolet and in 1851 would have been a Hansom cab.

Papal Visit

An open air vigil of prayer, conducted by Pope Benedict, was held in Hyde Park on 18th Sept. 80,000 people attended.



Awards 2010

Date: 23rd November 2010 **Report:** Barbara Fitt

2010 saw the launch of the Royal Parks Guild's main awards event, supported by Historic Royal Palaces. It was held in the ancient setting of Hampton Court, in The Clore Education Centre, and the evening was attended by the winners of the Wildlife Conservation Award, the George Cooke Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. Sixty invited guests all enjoyed the first of what is hoped will become an annual event.



THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARD

This award, first suggested by Jeanette Lawton of The Deer Fund, is given in recognition of an individual's outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation in The Royal Parks. This year the nominee for the award was **Roy Sanderson** who has been involved with bird recording and other conservation initiatives in The Royal Parks for more than 50 years. Roy is still an active member of the Central Parks Wildlife Group and continues to volunteer as a bird recorder. An article about Roy will appear in the next edition of the Guild newsletter.

Roy Sanderson (right) receives The Wildlife Award from former Bailiff of The Royal Parks, Ashley Stephenson LVO (left) and John Brinkley, a Trustee of The Deer Fund, award sponsors



THE GEORGE COOKE AWARD*

Zoe Basham was one of the initial intake of apprentices taking part in the re-launched Apprenticeship Scheme, employed by Turfsoil at Greenwich Park. Immediately she made her mark by becoming the winner of The Royal Parks Guild 'best apprentice' of the year award in 2008. John Newton, Chairman of Turfsoil, said: "From the beginning, Zoe has been keen to learn and explore new aspects of gardening and groundsmanship. She was always punctual, never shy of asking advice, always ready to take up the challenge, and she has never backed away from the more onerous landscaping tasks, earning her the respect of her colleagues. Zoe has, during her three years as an apprentice, been a model employee, supporting her managers in whatever they ask of her, and taking every opportunity to extend her horticultural knowledge, both academically and practically."

Zoe Basham (right) receives the first George Cooke award, from Mrs Jean Cooke

*There will be an article on the work of George Cooke in the next Newsletter



Awards 2010

AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

This award is given to those in recognition of their contribution to the quality and traditions of The Royal Parks (and those gardens and estates formerly associated with The Royal Parks), through long service and dedicated support in maintaining the high standards expected of these internationally important parks, gardens and estates. In 2010 there were four recipients.

The presentations were made by Mark Camlev, Chief Executive of The Royal Parks.

BRIAN BATTEN (HYDE PARK – ENTERPRISE)

Brian started work in The Royal Parks around 1963, as a boy gardener, and his career has been with the parks ever since. Initially he spent much of this time in the Hyde Park Nursery, and latterly he worked for the grounds maintenance contractor. Brian's father was a keeper in the parks and was the last person to officially wear the uniform of The Board of The Green Cloth, an office originally set up by Henry VIII.



KEVIN KNIGHT (REGENTS PARK – VEOLIA)

Kevin started his career with The Royal Parks in 1961, and his first job was working in Queen Mary's Rose Garden, Regent's Park. After a while he was promoted to be in charge of the Waterside Area, followed by the last five years working in St. John's Garden (the 'secret garden'). During his career. Kevin has been awarded a long service medal. He retired from the parks at the end of 2010.



BARRY STONE RVM (BUCKINGHAM PALACE GDNS – ROYAL HOUSEHOLD)

Barry started in The Royal Parks in September 1970 and for the first 16 years worked in, what was then called, 'The Tree Gang'. For the latter part of his career with TRP he was chargehand in Hyde Park. In 1986 he moved to work in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. In 2005 Barry was awarded the RVM for services to the crown.



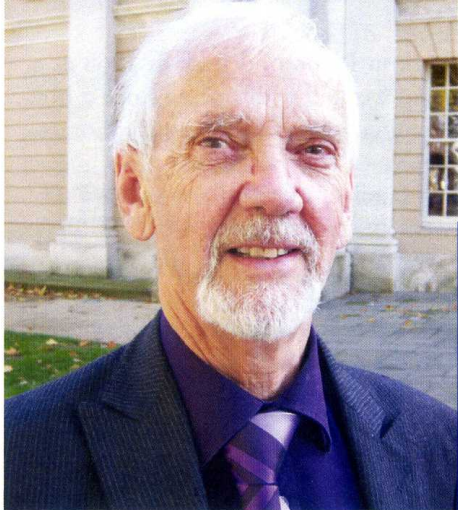
LES STRUDWICK RVM (HAMPTON COURT – HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES)

Les started at Hampton Court Palace in 1964; in 1978 he became Chargehand Gardener on the East Front. In 1994 he changed roles to become the Gamekeeper, the job he did until his retirement in September 2010. In 1975 he received the Queens Commendation for Bravery, and in 2005 he was awarded the RVM for services to HRP.



The Royal Parks Guild would like to extend a very special thank you to sponsors: **Daniel Hearsom, Veolia, Tursoil and SGS Consultancy**, as well as the support of **Historic Royal Palaces** and its staff and volunteers, without whom TRPG Awards 2010 evening would not have been possible.

Part 4: *CHANGE AND A NEW FUTURE*



Brian Strong is the former Head of Parks, Palaces & Central Services Division of DAMHB

In my time, providing appropriate public catering was a constant headache. There were problems with the buildings, particularly. The Rose Garden Restaurant in Regent's Park burned down early in my time and there were major physical problems with the Serpentine Restaurant in Hyde Park, which we never resolved (it has since been demolished). We also controlled the prices and therefore received the complaints.

During my last year or two, I personally tried to resolve the future of the Pembroke Lodge Restaurant in Richmond Park. The building was listed and in a poor state. The restaurant was in part of the house (where Bertrand Russell grew up); the rest was unoccupied. The whole building was leased to the Department by the Crown Estate, with a full repairing lease which was due to expire within 10 years or so. David Chapman, my opposite number at the Crown Estate Commissioners, the lessors, offered a deal which would involve closing the restaurant and making alternative provision near Henry VIII's Mound.

The Department could have escaped very expensive renovation costs but Pembroke Lodge was a very popular facility for local residents and there was strong local objection, which had not been resolved when I left. My last act (technically after I had moved to another post) was to chair a public meeting to discuss the proposals, which were strongly opposed.

It was the intervention of Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, who secured Pembroke Lodge for park use. It has since been refurbished and remains open as a restaurant. I am delighted at this result and that Pembroke Lodge, and the rest of the house, are being used for the good of the park.

The second example was to put out to contract the Richmond Park golf courses, which had been provided for "artisans" at the request of George V. On the Minister's instructions, Ashley Stephenson and I asked Michael Brown, Superintendent of Richmond Park, to produce a

tenders. However, the Permanent Secretary (George Moseley) proposed that we should commission a consultants' study to advise whether contracting out would be viable. We used the specification and arranged for adverts to be published in golf magazines – only to find ourselves overtaken by the General Election.

The Permanent Secretary decided that to continue was "political" (and therefore not allowed during a General Election). But we could not stop the adverts, so we had to then publish a withdrawal of the adverts and start again after the Election.

We did so and received a number of bids from people who clearly saw it as an opportunity to print money! We awarded the contract to a bid from three men: a pro-golfer and two small businessmen who played at Richmond Park. At the last minute we were told the partnership had split up. This was one of the few times when I lost sleep over work worries. We changed the contract to go with the pro-golfer and one of the businessmen, with much acrimony from the other. Despite the problems, it all worked out well. The Department was better off; the staff were all taken on with better terms, and the courses continued to be well run.

Before my time, a series of Historic Surveys had been commissioned, to document the history of the development of each park. By my last couple of years, these were all completed. As far as I can recall the surveys had been commissioned "for the record" and no prior thought had been given to what to do with them.

It was the idea of my boss, Timothy Hornsby, to develop them into individual Park Strategies. These were then developed by Land Use Consultants – Richard Flenley and Elizabeth Banks – working closely with the Department. By the time I left, at least the first two (Hyde Park and Hampton Court) were in hand and developing well.

Meanwhile, in the last few months, Lord Skelmersdale had become the minister and was asked to conduct a review of the Royal Parks and make recommendations. We duly visited them all and I wrote a report, but there had not been time to pursue it before I left. The exercise was overtaken by the transfer of the Royal Parks to a new Royal Parks Agency and the setting up of an advisory committee chaired by Dame Jennifer Jenkins. The outcome was a major review of each Royal Park with recommendations for their future management and design. I hope that the Royal Parks Strategies contributed to the ongoing work of the Review and the setting up of The Royal Parks Agency.

Apology: In my last Newsletter article I said, whilst working from memory, that there had been no loss of human life when a car bomb exploded in Hyde Park in 1982. I have since learned that in fact three soldiers were killed. I apologise for this error.

DID YOU KNOW?...



THE 1st VICTORIA CROSS

The first investiture of the Victoria Cross by Queen Victoria took place in Hyde Park on Friday 26th June, 1857. The first 62 crosses were presented to veterans of the Crimean War, and the Queen elected to stay on horseback throughout the ceremony. The event was attended by large crowds who greeted the VC heroes with rapturous applause.

Apparently the Queen stabbed one of the heroes, Commander Raby RN, through the chest as she pinned the cross to his uniform. The Commander stood unflinching while the Queen fastened the pin through his flesh!

There is a painting by George H Thomas, of Queen Victoria making the first presentation, and a watercolour believed to have been painted by Constantin Guys (who was employed by the *Illustrated London News*).

JOHN GIBSON 1815-1875

Reference to John Gibson has been discovered in an article on Battersea Park's Sub-Tropical Gardens: "Battersea Park's first Superintendent, John Gibson, created the Sub-Tropical Gardens in 1863. His career then took him into The Royal Parks." Looking up archives on Gibson we find an avid plant collector, who at the age of 17 was apprenticed to Joseph Paxton at Chatsworth House. Paxton, recognising Gibson's enthusiasm for the world of 'orchidology', sent him to study their cultivation under Mr Cooper, a successful orchid grower of the day. After his return from a plant collecting expedition to the East, he was appointed foreman of the exotic plant department still under Paxton.



He left in 1849 after accepting an appointment as Superintendent of Victoria Park, then under construction. Greenwich Park and Battersea Park were added "under his supervision" in 1850. Following this, Kennington Park, the grounds of Chelsea Hospital and those of the Royal Military Asylum were placed under his charge; all these places were connected to The Royal Parks at this time.

Gibson was one of the first public gardeners to break away from the formal symmetry of flower gardening, beginning to focus instead on the beauty and form of individual plants and naturalistic groupings. His influence proved lasting

On the death of Mr. J. Mann in 1871, Gibson was chosen to fill the vacant position of Superintendent of St. James Park, The Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. However he had for some time been afflicted with paralysis – a malady that necessitated his retirement soon afterwards. His condition steadily worsened and on 11 June 1875 he died at his home, Argyle Lodge, South Kensington.

THE GOOD...



CINNABAR MOTH CATERPILLAR
First ever sighting in Regent's Park.

THE BAD...



OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH NESTS
Staff, contractors and volunteers spent over 1,200 hours during 2010 removing and destroying colonies of Oak Processionary Moth in Richmond Park. More than 300 nests, or clusters of caterpillars, were found in some 140 trees. All nests were removed and caterpillars destroyed. Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars damage oak trees by feeding on their leaves. Veteran trees, for which Richmond Park is famous, are particularly at risk. The caterpillars can also pose a health hazard because of their poisonous hairs which can cause skin irritation.



Fancy an ice cream?

A little snippet discovered in the book *Changeling: A Memoir of Parents Lost and Found* by Sandra Newman (Chatto & Windus, £12.99). The author dropped out of high school and, during a trip with her father to London, fell in love with a man in an ice-cream van parked in Hyde Park. She moved to England, where she remained for 18 years. Of course, by the time she came, Mr. Whippy had long since left.

Does anyone recall this ice cream man?

NEW TRPG MEMBERS

(those joining between Aug-Dec 2010)

A = APPRENTICE or Ex-APPRENTICE
 PA = PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARKS
 ExS = Ex STAFF ExS/TC = TRP STAFF
 TRANSFERRED TO CONTRACTOR
 CurS = CURRENT STAFF

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Batten, Brian

Worked in TRPs since 1961 and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Guild in November 2010 for 49 yrs service. ExS/TC

Batten, Mrs Pat

Apprentice at Regents Park 1963-68. A

Cooke, David

Gardener at Hampton Court Gardens from 1979-1983, son of late George Cooke RVM. ExS

Ducker, Paul

Associated with TRP through work with CABE Space/Royal Parks to develop national skills strategy and involved with relaunch of apprenticeship scheme. PA

Giddins, Rodney

Historic Royal Palaces Group Director, co-signatory to partnership agreement with TRPs and member of TRP's Audit Committee. PA

Johns, Ms M.P. (Patty)

Volunteer involvement with schools' visits programme. PA

Jones, David

Garden staff at Regents Park from 1959-1973. ExS

Kettle, Ms Lesley

Volunteer with the Education Department at Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens since 2005. PA

Reeve, Dr. Nigel

Head of Ecology at TRPs. CurS

Synge, Mrs. Lynda

Worked in Regents Park from 1988-1990. ExS

NEW APPRENTICES

We also welcome as student members of TRPG the new (2010) intake of Royal Parks Apprentices:

William Boyce, Regents Park

Shaun Staines, Regents Park

Samuel Cumber, Richmond Park

David Young, Bushy Park

Chris Sullivan, Greenwich Park

Charlee Parkinson, Hyde Park

Matthew Hennon, Hyde Park

James Parker, St. James's Park

Jack Connor, St. James's Park

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THE APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The third year of this ceremony was again hosted by The Worshipful Company of Gardeners at their Autumn Court dinner, this year held at The Carpenters Hall in the City of London on 11th November 2010. Joining members of the livery and their guests were the Guild's prize winners, along with their employers and Guild committee members.

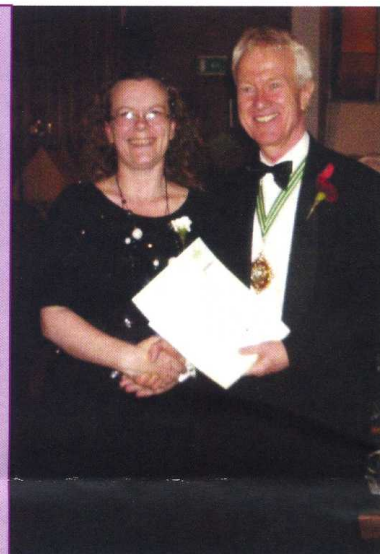
Receiving their awards on the day were:

ROSEMARY GRAY 3rd Year St. James's Park (Enterprise)

"Rosemary always encouraged and helped the younger apprentices as she herself was developing her own skills and was a valued member of the team. She consistently achieved high marks throughout her course and is to be congratulated on receiving this award."



On the awards evening Rosemary (left) was travelling in South America studying horticultural techniques, so her award was accepted on her behalf by her mother Viv (right). Presenting to all of the winning apprentices was Dr Steve Dowbiggin, Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners



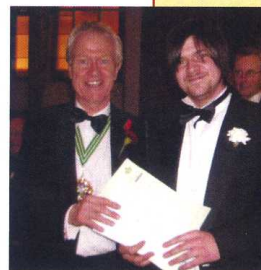
ERGUN AHMED 2nd Year Richmond Park (Fountains)

"Despite the many challenges that he has faced Ergun has always promoted a positive image of himself, his employer and The Royal Parks. He has worked hard to achieve his successful exam results, and is to be congratulated on achieving this award."



ADAM SAVILL 1st Year Richmond Park (Fountains)

"Adam has been an exemplary student, working to a high standard with a keen interest in horticulture and a strong commitment to it. He has performed to a high standard in both his practical work and college studies and must be congratulated on achieving this award."



PEOPLE...

GET WELL SOON: Jim Smith, formerly Assistant Superintendent of Regent's Park, has been unwell but is now making a good recovery and sends his best wishes to all who asked after him.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS: Congratulations to Bill Cathcart, at Windsor Great Park, who received an MVO in the New Year's Honours List.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: To Ted Fawcett and his wife, who both celebrated their 90th birthdays in 2010.

COMING SOON:

Memoirs of Noelle Leigh MBE, former 'Trailblazer' leader at Bushy Park.

"The Man Who Loved Daffodils" written by Kevin Knight recent recipient of the Guild's Lifetime



THE
ROYAL
PARKS
GUILD

**FOUNDING
PATRON**

Alan Titchmarsh
MBE

**HONORARY
MEMBER**

Mrs Jean Cooke