Membership renewal has progressed well, with some of our members making very generous donations, and I send a personal thank you from myself and my committee to you all for your continued support of the Guild and its work in upholding the long-standing traditions of The Royal Parks.

We have just celebrated our first visit of the year – this being a trip on a vintage double decker bus from Hyde Park to Bushy Park, to join the famous Chestnut Sunday Parade which was great fun (see page 3). Our next visit is to Brompton Cemetery, which is managed by The Royal Parks, and it will include an underground tour of the Catacombs!

This year will see several major events, of great national importance, taking place across many Royal Parks. Significant amongst these are the Olympic sporting events, and the celebrations for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Both of these will be covered “from behind the scenes” in future Newsletters.

The Guild itself has been involved with two displays at the Diamond Jubilee event held in Richmond Park on 15th May, at which the Queen was present. It was with great pleasure that I had the honour of spending time with Her Majesty and was able to introduce her to the work of the Guild and some of our supporters, including Royal Parks apprentices.

The Royal Parks Apprenticeship Scheme has been running since its first intake in 1960 and although there will be no new students this year, the Guild is working closely with The Royal Parks, its contractors and the training provider to ensure the continuation of this important training scheme, and the provision of a pool of people with the skills and knowledge to help maintain London’s vitally important parks, gardens and green spaces.

Finally, if and when you are out and about in the parks, take a camera with you and let us have some of your creative shots for publication in the Newsletter – happy snapping!

Mike Pitt

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**Spectacular Floral Crown**

To commemorate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, The Royal Parks has teamed up with its contractors to install a magnificent floral crown on the north side of the lake in St James's Park, just past West Island, writes Dennis Clarke.

The 4m high, 2.5m wide planted floral crown took five weeks to construct and weighs around 5 tonnes. The crown sparkles with the brilliant blooms of 13,500 plants in the colours of the Coronation crown’s sapphires, tourmalines, amethysts, topazes, citrines and gold. The plants were grown in Cornwall by Kernock Park Plants, and took a week to put in place.

The crown even sits on a plump red cushion of flowers, and it is supported by a steel framework.

The plants will be kept healthy with water supplied from the park’s own borehole.

Where is this park lodge? And could it be written about by Charles Dickens in *Great Expectations*? See last page of this Newsletter to discover more!

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SEPARATE SHEET: Royal Celebrations of Yesteryear
As part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee tour of Great Britain, it was on a wet and windy day that Her Majesty, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, visited Richmond Park for the ‘Wild London’ event which showcased the work of all those people and organisations that contribute to making London one of the greenest cities in the world. In this first part of two articles, we look at The Royal Parks Guild contribution to the day which included promoting The Royal Parks Apprenticeship scheme.

An element of this was a small display garden, constructed the day before, under the guidance of the Guild, by apprentices Sam Goodyear, Sam Cannon and Jack Connor. The feature enabled them to present an eye-catching display – and show off their garden design skills.

It was with great pleasure that Guild Chairman, Mike Fitt and member John Dalziel, had the honour of showing the Royal couple around this part of the show.

The garden formed part of a themed area, called the ‘Inspiration Zone’, which was drawn together by the Guild. Pictured are the Guild team who assisted apprentices with the garden build and the three apprentices involved.

Two apprentices – Ben Despirito and Leon Caralambous – joined Sir David Attenborough elsewhere in the Park as he cut the first sod of what will become the Diamond Jubilee Pond. The Guild was requested by Ron Crompton, Chair of the Friends of Richmond Park, supporters of the project, to nominate two apprentices to assist Sir David with the task of launching the pond. Ron later explained “We were delighted to have Ben and Leon there because, as Sir David said, it is they and their fellow apprentices who are the future of The Royal Parks and who will follow in his footsteps in conserving them”.

Her Majesty was introduced to four apprentices by Guild Committee Member David Ivision, who had himself been an apprentice at Buckingham Palace under Fred Nutbeam (whom the Queen said she had known very well). David said: “I was honoured to be able to introduce apprentices Lucy Attias (St. James’s Park), Scott Stuart (Greenwich Park), Robert Kirkham (Richmond Park) and Sam Goodyear (Regents Park), along with Guild secretary, Barbara Fitt. Her Majesty kept us at ease as she complimented the apprentices on their display, and talked of the amount of training they had to do. The short interaction we each had with the Queen was something very special.”
Ding! Ding! “Hyde Park, all aboard! Next stop, Bushy Park!”

With that, the 1948 RT1784 vintage bus, owned and expertly driven by members John and Gill Hinson, pulled off on the Guild’s very own version of Summer Holiday. Cliff was nowhere to be seen, but a beautifully sunny day ensured there were plenty of shadows....

The miles clocked up as we chugged our way through the streets of West London. Some top-floor folk couldn’t resist peering in to the secret, walled gardens as we passed by!

Several renditions of The Wheels on the Bus later (well for a few of us upstairs anyway) and we were entering the gates of Bushy Park. Dillon, the youngest passenger at two and a bit, enjoyed waving to the thongs of people with their picnics, lined along Chestnut Avenue.

They’d gathered to watch the parade of bands, local organisations and vintage vehicles pass them by as a part of the traditional Chestnut Sunday. Toni Assirati meanwhile was entertaining the crowds whilst ensuring we were all ‘ticketed commuters’ with a period ticket dispenser hanging around her neck.

Chestnut Sunday was first established during the reign of Queen Victoria, after which it lapsed, but then revived as a costumed walk and picnic, by Guild member Colin Pain in the 1970s. In 1993 it was enlarged to a carnival-style parade by our very own Mike Fitt, and it is now expertly organised by Asst. Park Manager, Bill Swan.

An hour spent strolling around a fine display of stalls and park information stands and we were back on the bus, heading off to the Water Gardens. This 17th Century feature, that takes water from the Longford River has been faithfully restored recently, and it was shown to us by two Rays – Ray Brodie, former Bushy Park Manager and Ray Allen of Fountains. Ray B told us of the challenges and pitfalls of a project like this. Ray A regaled us with his memories of Bushy Park over 50 years, and spoke of his historic ephemera collection that has won respect for its parks’ heritage.

We ended at the ancient Brewhouse, an attractive red brick building of distinction. Ray A had us enraptured with his accounts of hidden histories from buried tiled floors to winch-lever mechanisms!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a memorable day. I raise my glass – an imaginary pint of long-awaited Bushy Park Ale (BPA) that might one day emerge from a fully operational Brewhouse... well, it doesn’t hurt to dream!

Left: Guild members Toni Assirati and Ray Brodie (front), with Angela Snowden (centre)
FARMER SEES QUEEN DRIVE BY

TAKEN FROM A PERIODICAL OF THE DAY:

When Thomas Smith, retired farmer of Gloucester, travelled up by stagecoach to see the Coronation of Queen Victoria, he paid thirty shillings for a seat in a window in Whitehall. In his carefully bound family diary he leaves a detailed description of his visit to London – this is the final paragraph: “Hard on the Feet – July 9. I started early in Hyde Park in order to see the different regiments marching to this wonderful great review about to take place. All things being arranged, Her Majesty and suite soon arrived. She took her station in the rear of the centre of the line. I should suppose that there were twenty thousand soldiers in the Park.” Two days later, Smith “lay abed rather late, my feet were in such a rage of heat all night that I had but little sleep. Being unaccustomed to walk on the flagging in the streets I found that I must give it up”. He went to the South Western Station in Vauxhall Road and caught a stagecoach back to the country.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE – CHILDREN’S TREAT

TAKEN FROM HYDE PARK BY JOHN ASHTON (1896):

The plans for the entertainment of 30,000 children in Hyde Park were chiefly by Colonel Howard Vincent and Mr. Burleigh. 3000 policemen on duty from 9am, at 11 am a squadron of the 2nd Life Guards and 200 of the Foot Guards arrived to assist in keeping the grounds.

Amusements were various – Punch & Judy shows, eight Marionette theatres, 86 Cosmographic Views and Peep-shows, nine troops of performing dogs, monkeys and ponies and, for the special benefit of the boys, several hundred ‘Aunt Sallies’ and ‘Knock ‘em downs’. There were 100 large lucky-dip barrels, presents to the number of 42,000, consisting of skipping-ropes, money-boxes, dolls, pencil-cases, tin whistles, walking sticks, pop-guns. Ten thousand small balloons. On arriving in their allocated tent each child received a toy, a piece of cake, a meat pie and an orange and silver-plated memorial medal. During the afternoon lemonade, gingerbeer and milk were to be had in each tent and there were four large water carts on site. The trumpets sounded to summon them all together later for the crowning ceremony of the day, the sight of their sovereign.

How did the children all arrive: about 13,000 from south of London schools assembled in St. James’s Park at 12 o’clock. Marshalled by some 30 sergeants from Wellington Barracks, they were marched off to the events, four abreast. A smaller number from the north of London schools gathered in Regents Park at 11 o’clock, along with smaller contingents in Battersea Park and Kensington Gardens, before moving on to Hyde Park.

The children were marched off to different tents, which were ranged at intervals of fifty yards, five on either side. Each tent was 140 feet long by 40 feet wide, but its accommodation was severely tried in ministering to the wants of 2500 children. Each tent was in charge of one lady, who was assisted by eleven other ladies and twelve gentlemen.
Queen Elizabeth II this year celebrates her Diamond Jubilee but, before her, Queen Victoria is the only other monarch to celebrate such an event. And in fact, in stark contrast to the celebrations this year, arrangements for Victoria’s 60th year – 1897 – were marred by the fact that she was reluctant for any celebrations to take place at all. However, she was persuaded that a ceremony of thanksgiving, and a Royal procession would be appropriate. The procession was even captured on one of the earliest “moving pictures”.

Victoria also agreed to open the recently completed Tower Bridge and is recorded as visiting White Lodge in Richmond Park to see her new great grandson.

Things were very different for her Coronation in 1838 (she acceded the throne on 20th June 1837), and when she later celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1887.

THE CORONATION FAIR IN HYDE PARK

The following is taken from Hyde Park, by John Ashton (1896):

"Beef and ham, beer and wine, chickens and salad were all equally plentiful, with the greatest attention being given to the booth erected by Williams, the celebrated boiled beef-monger of The Old Bailey. The pastry cook’s booths offered gingerbread nuts, while in some others were offered the more refined luxury of ices.

Wonders to be seen at this event included: ‘fat boys’, ‘living skeletons’, ‘Irish giants’ and ‘Welsh dwarfs’, and (in jars) ‘children with two heads’ and ‘animals with no heads’.

On the Serpentine a number of boats procured from the Thames had been launched. Watermen were employed to row those who were anxious to enjoy the refreshing coolness of the water after the heat and turmoil of the fair. Games to be played – archery, throw-sticks and rides of roundabouts and swings for the adventurous and for those less daring donkey rides on the outskirts of the fair.

Thousands poured into this event and the first day ended with fireworks that were very noisy and effective. This fair lasted 4 days. Day 2 had the misfortune of a thunderstorm and drenching rain for an hour. Some of the unlucky holiday makers who had ventured onto the vertical roundabouts were in a woeful plight while they were left dangling in the air during the storm, as the men who the machines belonged to took shelter.

Written by Shirley Hibberd after the event: “I see the park a dusty field, with not a blade of grass upon it, and I hear my father say that the grass would grow all the better for being this destroyed.”
TRPG Lunchtime Reception
Pembroke Lodge: 4th April 2012

In Pembroke Lodge's delightful Belvedere Room, 60 Guests and Members gathered for TRPG's Lunchtime Reception. Chairman, Mike Fitt warmly welcomed the Master of The Worshipful Company of Gardeners, Daniel Caspi, and new CEO of The Royal Parks, Linda Lennon CBE to the event, along with a range of people connected with the Royal Parks, including representatives of the Parks' Friends Groups. We would like to record our thanks to Daniel Hearsum, proprietor of Pembroke Lodge, who kindly provided the venue and sponsored the Reception.

THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARD

A welcome was given to John Brinkley, Trustee of The Deer Study Group who presented the Award. This award is sponsored by the DSG and is given each year to a person – member of staff or volunteer – who has made a significant contribution to Wildlife Conservation within The Royal Parks (TRP).

The 2011 award went to Tony Duckett who has worked for TRP for more than 34 years. He was formerly based at Regent's Park, as Wildlife Officer, but now works at Bushy Park. Sadly, Tony couldn't be at the award ceremony but Andy Williams, Asst Park Manager at Regent's Park, collected the award on his behalf.

AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

This Award is given to a person who has played a significant role in supporting and promoting London's Royal Parks in a manner that befits their status, unique heritage and cultural value. The person honoured with the 2011 award is a member of the Friends of Richmond Park - Doug Reynolds. Doug became involved with the Friends more than 30 years ago. He was Chairman of the Friends of Richmond Park from 1993-2000.

When the Friends started offering guided walks, Doug was one of the pioneer walk leaders and, later, when giving talks to local groups, he was able to spread his love and knowledge of the Park to an ever wider audience. By the time Doug retired from his “walks and talks” in 2010, he calculated that he had led more than 250 walks. Doug was also recently awarded the Mayor of Kingston's ‘Community Award’.

At over 90, in the Friends' 51st year, Doug remains active in the Friends' affairs, as a contributor to the newsletter and as a volunteer at the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge.

Doug was presented with his Guild award by the new Chief Executive Officer of The Royal Parks, Linda Lennon CBE. Linda congratulated Doug on his achievement, and warmly thanked the Friends of the Parks for the work they do in supporting the Parks.

Tony Duckett with his Wildlife Conservation Award

At Regent's Park, Tony was responsible for the care of a waterfowl collection numbering around 60 species. He would often be seen in the park on his day off, not only checking on his flock but seeking out the park's wildlife to record its presence.

Tony was keen that anyone should be able to discover and learn about the park's wild inhabitants. To do this, and in his own time, he set up a website www.regentsparksbirds.co.uk where you will find lots of information about birdlife in the park.

Nick Biddle, Park Manager at Regent's Park, commented "that you would not find a nicer man in Tony", and congratulated him on receiving his award.
Opening of Pembroke Lodge’s restored Woodland Gardens

Pembroke Lodge: 4th April 2012

Following the lunchtime reception held at Pembroke Lodge on the 4th April (see previous page), those present were invited by Guild Chairman, Mike Fitt, to join him and new CEO Linda Lennon to a ceremonial ribbon cutting. This opening ceremony was to celebrate the restoration of part of Pembroke Lodge’s gardens, and the naming of “Barry’s Steps”.

The work involved grubbing out old Rhododendron ponticum to clear an area for new pathways, steps, beds and woodland planting, adding an exciting additional feature to the garden as a whole. Fountains Garden Supervisor, Sharon Evans, and her team, along with Jo Scrivener, Assistant Park Manager, Richmond Park were congratulated on this much-needed garden improvement.

Sharon informs us that work started in October 2009 when the long sleeper steps at the top were dug out and placed by the late Barry Day – remembered by many as ‘Barry the Digger’. To finish off the smaller steps at the bottom, and finishing off the sides, took five people five weeks, earlier this year. All the construction material was wheel barrowed down the hill in the old fashioned way! The bench, log edging, wood chip and loggery all came from the park.

Staff present at the opening with Sharon were Robert Kirkham (apprentice), Karl Terry and Yann Vallentin. Unfortunately team member Al Wilkins, who also played a significant role in the restoration, could not be there on the day.

MISTLETOE AT HAMPTON COURT
In February, 63 people turned up at Hampton Court to hear talks given by Guild committee member David Ivison (right), Historic Royal Palaces’ Tree and Wildlife Conservation Manager Nicholas Garbut, and Tyrrel Marris, on mistletoe and how its spread is being monitored within the gardens. A Species Action Plan implemented by volunteers led by David and sponsored by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has been set up for mistletoe as part of a programme to promote the understanding and knowledge of this plant. The annual Mistletoe Walk is organised by the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks. For more detail, visit: www.fbhp.org.uk/fbhp-events/multi-listing-events.html.php
GREEN PARK:
Trench digging has exposed sections of an ancient wooden conduit pipe, possibly linked to the Chelsea Waterworks reservoir, standing once in Green Park, which was fed with water from the Westbourne in Hyde Park. For precise dating, we await more information from the archaeologist/dendrochronologist.

RICHMOND PARK:
Retirement of the Shire Horses May 1993 - May 2011: Eighteen year old Jed is retiring to the Working Horse Trust in Buckinghamshire. Eight-year old Massey joins the Hampton Court shire horses team who will be contracted in to carry out park work such as bracken-rolling and mowing. Full story next issue!

REGENT'S PARK:
New Book - Regent's Park and Primrose Hill by Martin Sheppard £16.99. Did you know old Mother Shipton predicted “The streets of the metropolis will run with blood when London surrounds Primrose Hill”? A book to brush up on your history and learn that Primrose Hill is something special, along with that other famous green abode, neighbouring Regent's Park.

RICHMOND PARK:
A new ‘sand martin bank’ on Upper Pen Pond was completed in December 2011, and it is hoped this will be occupied when the birds return from Africa this spring.

WORRYING SIGNS:
Taken from London Landscapes Spring 2012 edition: “According to an article in the magazine Horticulture Week, recent research carried out across London, has identified that a quarter of senior parks officers, including heads of parks and park managers, left their posts in the preceding 18 months. Restructuring, redundancy, retirement and concerns regarding recent cuts in park services have been highlighted as causes. This trend is also being identified elsewhere in the country.”

GREENWICH PARK:
The playground in Greenwich Park has re-opened following a major refurbishment. The £100,000 project was funded through a partnership between London Marathon Trust, the London Organising Committee of the Olympics & Paralympic Games and The Royal Parks (TRP). Greenwich Park is to host the Olympic equestrian events, and after the games a show jump will be installed as a play feature.

The improvements to the playground include new planting and seating. TRP wanted a strongly naturalistic feel, and to avoid a messy clash of brightly coloured equipment.

A curving path now sweeps around the various timber play features. Park manager Graham Dear said: “I’m delighted the much-loved park playground has been improved. It will remain open throughout the year, but the form of the show-jump feature is being kept secret – for now!”
PART THREE: The Iron Age Hut

"WHAT ON earth is that?" I asked as I looked out of the office window across the meadow. "It's a replica of an Iron Age hut," said Dennis Goddard, Assistant Superintendent. "But what has that got to do with the nature trail and pond dipping?" I replied, feeling somewhat indignant that no one had asked the Trail Blazers if we wanted an Iron Age Hut! Mike Fitt, the Superintendent, had been very impressed with a demonstration of Iron Age Living held in Richmond Park. He thought how good it would be to have a similar hut in Bushy and so here it was! Although not particularly in keeping with the rest of the trail, it was a point of interest for both children and teachers.

It was entirely authentic with mud walls and straw to sit on, and the children loved going in as it felt cozy! We would tell the children that we were going back in time, to when people gathered all their food from the woods and cooked it on open fires. What do you think they would have eaten? we asked. Invariably some bright spark would say "Chips!" But it really did fire their imaginations.

The hut was not the only wonderful educational aid we had. The Grounds Staff had built us a 'Bird Hide' and once it was located in the right place, Land Use Consultants advised us to plant elder, Hawthorn, sloe and guelder rose to give the birds shelter and a feeling of safety. So a group of happy Trail Blazers armed with spades and forks spent an enjoyable day tree planting; the trees thrived and today, as I write, are actually in need of thinning.

Children are not very good at sitting still and it soon became apparent that the slightest movement inside the hide frightened off the birds. We needed one-way glass which was very expensive and we had no money. So we decided to have a similar hut in Bushy and so here it was! We invited some pupils from a school in Teddington to come and help us.

This involved them snapping off the side shoots with secateurs. I asked the teacher if she was worried that they might cut themselves. "Oh no," she replied, "providing I take back 22 children I'm happy!" And of course being so relaxed and not fussy, not a drop of blood was shed!

The wands soon took root, and within a few years we were able to tie them across the top and make a roof. Before entering the wendy house each child had to say the password which was "I love nature", and to exit the password was "nature loves me". One boy adamantly refused to say the password. We looked at our watches and said: "What a shame – it's lunch time." It's amazing what the thought of food will do!

The stall looked a picture, and to crown it all Mike had invited HRH Princess Alexandra to attend Chestnut Sunday and she bought her along to see our stall. What an honour! We sold every single plant and managed to raise £1,000. The one-way glass proved to be the 'cherry on the cake' and it was wonderful to see the birds so close and also to see the delight on the children's faces.

So many teachers reported back to us how valuable their day at Bushy had been. It's hard to believe that some children had never been in a wood before, and there were fears to be overcome. On one occasion one of the Trail Blazers rolled over a log to show a group of Asian children the larvae of some stag beetles – as you may know they do look rather gruesome. One minute the children were there and the next they had dashed back to the gate of the Nature Trail. Gradually we coaxed them back and persuaded them to have a look!

The importance of the Environmental Education Centre and the effect on the Children who visit it should not be under estimated; it is future generations who will save the planet. We planted the seed and we hope that that seed will bear fruit and that the thousands of children who visited us have fond memories of Bushy Park.

These were happy days, and one of the contributing factors was the support we received from Sheila Barrs who started as a Trail Blazer but was quickly snapped up by Dennis and Tony as she was the ideal person to run the office. She was an excellent communicator, keeping office staff on their toes in a friendly and often humorous way. On cold days we often found piping hot baked potatoes ready for our lunch, and on hot summer day's dishes of strawberries! By 4pm, when we had returned the aquatic insects to the ponds and cleaned the classrooms, we were ready for a welcome cuppa and this was a valuable and happy time as we recounted and discussed the day's events.

There is more to tell about our wonderful centre, but here I would like to praise the dedication of the Trail Blazers. Their knowledge of wildlife and endless patience in helping the children to appreciate the natural world, and their willingness to step in at a moment's notice when someone was away. They were a wonderful group and lasting friendships were made and still exist today! We still meet up periodically and reminisce about those 'happy days'.

WILLOW WAND HOUSE

One memorable event was the building of the 'Willow Wand House' (below). A friend of mine showed me a photo of one that he had made for a school, and he agreed to help us. The wands came from The University of Surrey, who regularly prune the willows in their car park. We invited some pupils from a school in Teddington to come and help us.

This involved them snapping off the side shoots with secateurs. I asked the teacher if she was worried that they might cut themselves. "Oh no," she replied, "providing I take back 22 children I'm happy!" And of course being so relaxed and not fussy, not a drop of blood was shed!

The wands soon took root, and within a few years we were able to tie them across the top and make a roof. Before entering the wendy house each child had to say the password which was "I love nature", and to exit the password was "nature loves me". One boy adamantly refused to say the password. We looked at our watches and said: "What a shame – it's lunch time." It's amazing what the thought of food will do!

WILDFLOWER MEADOW

One of our favourite activities was taking the children into the wild flower meadow. Here we would sweep the grass with large nets and then examine the contents to see what we had collected. At first the children would be a little tentative of picking up the grasshoppers and brightly coloured beetles but once they got over that, it was difficult to drag them away!
NEW TRPG MEMBERS
EXA = EX-APPRENTICE
CurS = CURRENT STAFF
NEW FULL MEMBERS
Jonusas, Gillian Mrs
Arboriculturist, Richmond Park since 2008. CurS

Lennon, Linda CBE
New Chief Executive Officer of The Royal Parks
CurS

Phillips, Linda MBE
Founder and Director of Roots and Shoots,
Lambeth ExA

NEW ROYAL PARKS BOARD:
Apurv Bagri, former Chair (re-appointed), with
Ruth Anderson, Sue Moore and Andrew Fenwick
also re-appointed from the former Board.
New members are Lt Col Andrew Ford, Nasim
Ali, Colin Barrow, Chris Roberts, Linda Lennon,
John Swainson, Roger Bright and Lord True.

IN MEMORIAM
We are very sad to announce that
one of our members, David
Carpenter, who has been a
steadfast supporter and volunteer
over a considerable period of time
passed away recently, after a
short illness.

MYSTERY LODGE
On the first page of this Newsletter we
showed this lodge...

...it is Cumberland Gate Lodge, just inside
the Hyde Park boundary at Marble Arch
and Speaker's Corner. The editor of this
Newsletter lived in it for three years in the
mid-1970s!

The clock on its front and rear elevations
is well used by bus and taxi drivers as they
try to keep time in London’s traffic.

In Dickens’ Great Expectations, the
central character, Pip, is said to send the
Avenger to Hyde Park Corner to see what
o’clock it was.” The editor of the book
speculates, in the notes at the end, that
this could refer to “the clock on the lodge
west of the Hyde Park Screen”.

Cumberland Gate Lodge was moved,
brick-by-brick from Stanhope Gate in the
early part of the last century, so whether
Dickens could have been referring to this,
or some other (even non-existent) lodge,
we will never know!

PEOPLE...

Martin Rodman – Congratulations to
Guild member Martin on taking up the position
of Superintendent for the City Gardens & West
Ham Park, City of London Open Spaces
Department.

Jo Gibbons – Congratulations to Guild
member Jo, whose company J&L Gibbons, with
nuv architecture/art, won the President’s Award
in the 2011 Landscape Institute Awards
and were praised for their sophisticated response
to a challenging brief “Making Space in Dalston”.

Dr Pat Ealey – Congratulations to Dr Pat
on receiving an MBE in the 2012 New Year’s
Honours list. Project Director Pat has been
involved with The Holly Lodge Centre in
Richmond Park for 19 years. This year also
sees another special event for Pat – her 60th
birthday! Pat’s endeavours were recognised
also in 2003 when she received the ‘Woman in the Community
Award’, whilst in 2005 the Holly Lodge Centre were successful in
achieving The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.
Congratulations to Pat for this very well deserved award.

Linda Phillips – Congratulations to new
Guild member Linda, a former Royal Parks
apprentice, now Founder and Director of the
charity Roots and Shoots, based in Lambeth.
Linda has also been honoured with an MBE, for
services to young people.

Shaun Kiddell – Guild member Shaun has
taken a year out of his park management career
and is travelling around the planet on a ‘world tour
of parks’. You can catch up with him on his blog at:

DOMINIC COLE – has
topped down from Land Use
Consultants after 29 years
working for them, and he has
now set up his own landscape
architect business. A member of
the Guild, he has worked on
many landmark schemes
including the Lost Gardens of
Heligan, The Eden Project and
Trentham Gardens. We wish
him well in this new venture.

APOLOGY: Laura Bellhouse,
Business Development Director of
Turfscot Ltd should have CurC after
her membership entry, not PA as
shown in the last Newsletter.

LINDA LENNON CBE
We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Chief
Executive of The Royal Parks, Linda Lennon, CBE. She moves from
her previous posting as Chief Executive of the Parole Board.
We were delighted that Linda was able to join us on 4th April to open
the restored Woodlands Garden at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park.
This was the first chance we had to meet her at an official TRPG event,
and we hope to see her at many more.
Linda takes over from previous CEO Mark Camley, who has become
Director of Park Operations at the London Legacy Development
Corporation, to help set up the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

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