NEWSLETTER
Number 16 - Summer/Autumn 2013

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A year on from the truly amazing and very floriferous Olympic Games, with the Olympic Park now undergoing a serious makeover, Guild members (on their recent visit to the site) were impressed at the transformation taking place. See separate sheet. Meanwhile, many of us reflected on the Herculean efforts of the park's maintenance and management teams in restoring the Royal Parks after the Games during the recent dreadful winter weather.

As I write, the sun has returned and with it, good news. We learn that the Institute of Horticulture has finally gained a Royal Charter, giving it, and horticulture, the recognition it deserves — congratulations to all concerned.

Talking of news, Guild member Ken Crowther has created a ‘first’ with his introduction of the world’s first ‘Online Gardening Radio Station’ which can be found at www.WorlRadioGardening.com. Log on and listen. Ken tells me that comments are welcome.

The Royal Parks’ apprenticeship scheme continues to evolve and one exciting development is the partnership between The Royal Parks, Corporation of London, the charity ‘Roots and Shoots’ and the Guild, which has enabled five young people to gain work experience in horticulture. This will lead to three of them becoming apprentices in the City of London and Royal Parks. The initiative has been Grant-funded by The City Bridge Trust, and I would like to think it is not a one-off but a pilot project. However, for it to continue, further funding will need to be found.

Learning new horticultural skills is not something limited to apprentices alone, and the Guild was pleased to organise its first Masterclass for members when, in early March, a group of members visited Myddelton House in Enfield to be instructed in the art of pruning by Andrew Turvey, the Head Gardener. Building on the success of this we will be offering another Masterclass next year, based at Hampton Court Palace — watch this space.

Finally, I would like thank everyone for their continuing support of the Guild and especially a belated thank you to Peter Scott of Bluebird Boats for his contribution to the cost of publishing the Spring edition of the newsletter.

Mike

New border for Greenwich

Award-winning garden designer and TV presenter, Chris Beardshaw (left), is to provide the new design for London’s longest herbaceous border in Greenwich Park. The popular presenter of Beechgrove Garden, and Gardener’s Question Time, is to tackle the project fresh from winning the ‘People’s Choice Award for Show Garden’ at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show for his Arthritis Research UK garden.

The border had become infested with bindweed, which is difficult to treat and usually requires the removal of all surrounding plant material. The Royal Parks Foundation is looking for a sponsor to cover the planting of what promises to be an exciting new design.

Graham Dear, Greenwich Park Manager, said: “We are very excited to have a renowned garden designer producing a design that complements the historical features surrounding the herbaceous border.”

Sara Lom, Chief Executive of the Royal Parks Foundation added: “We are hoping to attract a sponsor to support the planting costs and help return the herbaceous border to its former glory by 2014.”

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SEPARATE SHEET

Guild Visit to the Olympic Park
PART TWO: Surprise invitation to lunch
Award-winning former Royal Parks Apprentice Ergun Ahmed continues his story

In the last Newsletter, I told of how I was invited to a very special lunch with the members of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. Initially, I thought that this was just going to be a very nice lunch, but then I realised that seven members of the Royal Family, including the Queen, would be present. The day was getting closer and I was becoming more nervous, especially as Prince Harry was sitting on my table - and I was to be interviewed live on television!

The big day arrived. After a train journey to Westminster Station, I was directed through the crowds. With my invitation in my hand I sailed through the airport-style security checks and entered the amazing halls of Westminster Palace. The first thing I noticed was the magnificent hammer-beam roof, absolutely amazing to see the largest medieval timber roof in northern Europe. The detail is exceptional.

As I was admiring the hall, a representative from the BBC approached me and introduced me to Fiona Bruce who would be interviewing me on the live coverage. She put me at ease - the live broadcast was set to take place at around 11:45am.

When I got to my table, I met fellow guests including William Baxter (an apprentice at the Horniman Museum), and Jonathen Ensell (Horticulture Instructor at the Manchester College Centre at Stafford Prison and HMP Brinsford). Just moments later, The Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, Daniel Caspi, and his wife Avril, arrive. I look round and notice the hall is quickly filling up. Daniel was called away for a briefing as he was to sit next to Prince Harry.

I was then called away for the live BBC interview with Fiona Bruce. I have to say that I was quite nervous, but everything went smoothly and I was able to mention The Royal Parks Guild. It was over in a flash and I was very relieved. Now I can relax and enjoy the lunch.

By this time the rest of the guests on our table had arrived. To my right, was LT. William Dixon, who had been badly injured when a bomb went off under his vehicle in Afghanistan in 2009. This resulted in having his left leg amputated below the knee. We had something in common as I'm a double below knee amputee of six years.

I have a lot of admiration for William. He took the bold decision to be part of the crew of injured servicemen on the Row2Recovery expedition, a 3000 mile epic journey across the Atlantic, from the Canary islands to Barbados, the route taken by Christopher Columbus 520 years ago. But William did it in a rowing boat. Truly inspirational.

The State Trumpeters took their position on the balcony of the southern window above the orchestra. The Queen, who was not accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh (very rare) due to his ill health, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Harry all entered the Hall. Mrs Jane Anderson escorted Prince Harry to our table; he was only three seats away from me.

We listened to the Speech of Welcome, Grace by the speaker of the House of Commons, the National Anthem is played, and then the Royal Toast. Master Daniel Caspi introduced Prince Harry to us individually, and the Prince made a point of talking to everyone on his table.

Finally, we can start to eat. I was very hungry by then. The starter was absolutely delicious and the white wine complimented the food beautifully.

Prince Harry asked me what I did. I told him where I worked and he knew the Isabella Plantation quite well as he had been there on some occasions unofficially to enjoy the gardens. I found the Prince to be very easy to get on with.

The main course was served with a Bordeaux wine and was exquisite. Then the symphony of desserts was served, a wonderful combination of taste sensations.

But all good things must come to an end as I took my last crumb of Barry Compote, Prince Harry had a whisper in his ear from one of the royal guards and it was time for him to depart. Very shortly afterwards, we stood up and the Queen and members of the royal family retired.

The Diamond Jubilee Luncheon was definitely a very special and wonderful day. I still find it amazing that I was invited out of all the millions of people that could have been invited. I was chosen.

So I would like to thank Mike Fitt and Daniel Caspi and anyone else who was involved in the process. The Diamond Jubilee Luncheon was a fantastic end to a very eventful weekend of historic moments.

From L to R: Jonathen Ensell, Ergun Ahmed, Master Daniel Caspi, Mrs Jane Anderson, Lieutenant William Dixon and Ted Prior
First TRPG ‘Masterclass’ held at Myddleton House Garden

Report: Dr Sid Sullivan and Nigel Thorne

By special invitation of Andrew Turvey, head gardener at Myddleton House Garden, The Royal Parks Guild launched its ‘Masterclass’ programme on Tuesday 12 March 2013 at this splendid EA Bowles Garden – and what an occasion it turned out to be. This was an equally ideal time to visit the garden to view the wonderful collections of snowdrops and crocus.

Andrew is renowned not only for his horticultural expertise but also as an arch regenerator of plants through skilful and thoughtful pruning. Twenty-two Guild members listened enthralled as he set out the principles of pruning, and chided us gently about some of the equipment that we might still be using, often shaking his head in amusement as people identified with some of the kit he showed us, and then declared it was “... definitely not to be used for pruning.” Through careful and considered explanations, it didn’t take him long to convince us that he was right – and perhaps for us to promise ourselves a trip to the garden centre soon to buy new, and more suitable equipment!

The first part of the day took place in Myddleton House, and all the examples of good practice were illustrated by slides of the beautifully restored garden of EA Bowles. In fact, much of what has been achieved at the garden has been accomplished through the application of the pruning techniques that Andrew prescribed.

The afternoon session saw Andrew guiding us through the garden, pointing out examples of how he and his staff have rejuvenated trees and shrubs through careful and persistent pruning. At a variety of stops along the way, Andrew demonstrated his skills and art, much to our members’ delight. Naturally, he was inundated with questions, which he dealt with humour and sage advice. We also looked out for the pigs that Andrew had so amusingly described during the morning session; alas it was probably too cold for them as they proved to be elusive.

The tour of the gardens also took in the vegetable garden and the splendid glasshouse unit. It was time therefore for members to get their cameras out and take advantage of the many flowering pot plants, all delightfully ‘staged’ for our photographic delight.

The Royal Parks Guild is proud to have been associated with this unique and exceptional opportunity to stage its first in a series of ‘Masterclasses’. We very much look forward to announcing our next one soon.

Great Garlic Gathering, Kensington Gardens

On 3rd July pupils from Northwood Primary School on the Isle of Wight travelled to the ‘Great Garlic Gathering’ held at the allotments in Kensington Gardens to challenge the Royal Parks’ volunteer gardeners on their garlic growing skills. Regents Park, Kensington Gardens and the Holly Lodge Centre at Richmond Park proved a source of proudly displayed garlic bulbs. Set alongside these were the garlic bulbs from across the Solent, raised by the schoolchildren.

This unusual challenge began when the youngsters, led by the school’s garden coordinator Pam Toms, won Gold for their school in the South & Southeast In Bloom schools competition. Working through the link that exists between the ICW and Royal Parks and aided by TRPG, the children were invited to bring an example of their horticultural prowess for comparison with the efforts of the park’s volunteer growers.

Garlic is a signature crop on the Island, so was chosen as the crop, with the ‘seeding’ bulbs being donated by Colin Boswell of The Garlic Farm.

The Royal Parks volunteers visited the Island in June to meet the children at their school in Cowes (pictured) to discuss growing techniques and view the school garden. Acknowledging The Royal Parks’ former responsibility for the grounds of Osborne House a tour of the house and gardens was undertaken, led by Head Gardener Toby Beasley.

Regents Park were joint winners with Northwood School. Judge Nick James of The Garlic Farm presented each team with a Certificate of Commendation (sponsored by Island Printers). Thank you to Toni Assirati, the volunteers and the team at Royal Parks for organising the event.
From the Archives
The Magazine, Hyde Park

Above left is a print of The Magazine, Hyde Park. In the left hand corner is Magazine Cottage, the only building from this period still on site.

The print is taken from the London Illustrated News. Original text with the print reads: The Police Station, Magazine Barrack, Hyde Park used by the first police as guardians of Hyde Park 1866/67, now site of current Police Station.

Of course the Police Station described is now called The Old Police Station, and is currently The Royal Parks HQ (pictured above right). The angle taken is the same in both images.

Below is a copy of the accompanying article from the London Illustrated News of 1906.

VICTORIAN LONDON – Police and Policing – Police Stations – Hyde Park

The Police Station where I served has given way to a more commodious and modern building of that name. (Rebuilt 1902). I will, however, give a brief description of the old place as far as I am able to relate. Anyone walking by the footpath through Hyde Park from the Marble Arch to the Magazine, and when about halfway, would pass on their left-hand side a quaint one-storied old brick building. With its long verandah and grass lawn, surrounded with iron rails, this was the Police Station (Originally used as a Military guard-room) certainly nothing to indicate it being so different to the uniform building we see in the streets with the familiar blue glass lamp over the door, nor one out of every dozen that passed this place — non Londoners especially — ever dreamt that it was a Police Station, but a Police Station it had been for the last forty years at last.

Yes, and some of the worst of characters have been marched under its portals, and placed in the iron oblong dock from the “gentleman got-up thief”, with his dust-coat on his arm, who moves about Society on the side of Rotten Row, to the dirty cad pickpocket who attends large demonstrations and steals all he can from a pocket-handkerchief upwards, the cowardly bully who lives on the nightly immoral earnings of his paramour and who, when she cannot give him the required sum he demands, knocks her with his fist flat to the ground. These and many more of a similar type have been brought to book in that old place. Happily the Park is better lighted now and such characters as the last two mentioned are few and far between.

About thirty of us single men resided in the old station and, antiquated as it may have appeared outside, it was clean and comfortable inside. On entering the doorway, right and left were the Inspector’s (or Enquiry) Office. Charge-room and cells respectively, passing a little further on the right is the mess kitchen or dining room, continuing through brings you into the library, a nice spacious room, with its full-size billiard table and well stocked book cupboards, through another door on the left brings you into the cooking kitchen, following on leads along a passage down a few steps into the yard below, where we find the stables for the horses of the Mounted police. This was the station I made my acquaintance with in April 1874.

Edward Owen, Hyde Park, During 20 years’ Police Service in Hyde Park 1906

Who was Col. Davis?

Does anyone know who Col Davis was, or remember Park Keeper L.A. Hunt? And where is the Carp in a Glass case now!
The Royal Parks Guild visit to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Guild member Chris Sumner reports on our spring visit to the new East London park, and some of its amazing transformations

The Olympic Park succeeded way beyond many people’s expectations when, for a short but glorious time in 2012, the world’s attention was focused on Stratford in East London. The sun shone, the meadows bloomed, and Her Majesty dropped in by parachute. The Park was spectacular, completed on time and within an even more spectacular budget. In the popular consciousness Stratford now definitively conjures up the Olympic Park and Westfield – and not the Bard of Avon!

But the Olympics and Paralympics lasted just a few weeks and the accompanying euphoria lasted very little longer. From the outset a large part of the thinking of the design team, and a substantial proportion of the budget, were dedicated to the enduring legacy of the Games – no less than the transformation in perpetuity of one of the most derelict and polluted areas of London into a 250-acre public park.

The London Legacy Development Corporation took over responsibility for the new park on 1 April 2013. Phil Askew of the LLDC was our guide for the afternoon of 30 May, when a large coach party of TRPG members was driven around the park before meeting at the LLDC’s offices for tea. There we had a presentation from the Executive Director Mark Camley (Guild member and former Royal Parks CEO). The whole Olympic Park site is once again a building site as the infrastructure is re-modelled. We had to stay on the coach and try to imagine what the park will be like once the heavy machinery has left, the remaining buildings are restored and the landscaping is completed and allowed to mature. This was a grey, damp day however, very unlike those images beamed world-wide last summer of clear waters, woods, flowering meadows and drifts of colourful planting. Nor could we easily envisage how it will look in a year or two’s time.

The statistics, however, were impressive:
- More than 1,000,000 tons of soil “washed” on site to remove hundreds of years of accumulated industrial pollutants, heavy metals and oils (90% of it this to be re-used on site, topped with brought-in sandy topsoil)
- Five kilometres of large-diameter tunnelled dug to carry high-voltage cables, and the removal of 52 pylons
- Cleaning and opening-up the River Lea and the creation of planted flood meadows and drainage swales
- Removing acres of Japanese knotweed
- Planting 7ha of flowering meadows with 70,000 perennials, and 2,000 semi-mature trees (some weighing up to eight tons)
- Creating new and varied fauna-friendly habitats
- The building of a new heat and power plant, and
- The installation of an irrigation system using water extracted from treated sewage.

The site master plan was by EDAW Consortium, with the detailed design by LDA Design led by Guild member Andrew Harland with Hargreaves Associates. The planting was by James Hitchmough, Nigel Dunnett and Sarah Price, using both native species and flowers and shrubs from temperate zones all round the world (to celebrate the rich variety of English gardening). As the South Plaza is developed there will also be additional new planting by Piet Oudolf and others.
The Royal Parks Guild visit to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

The buildings on the site range in design from the lovely (the Velodrome) to the dull, to the bizarre – and throughout the visit a tactful silence was maintained about the ArcelorMittal Orbit, which will remain to afford spectacular views over the site and north-east London. The demolition of the remaining steel arches of the Basket Bell Hall was being delayed on account of a nesting crow (which, to the writer at least, seemed to be taking respect for nature a bit too far).

The Aquatics Centre will have its temporary seating “wings” removed, and it will be returned to its elegant shape with a distinctive wave-form roof. And following the signing of a lease with West Ham FC, the Olympic Stadium will also be re-modelled. The former Athletes’ Village is being converted to residential flats; and a commercial business district is being formed around the former Press Centre, which housed some 20,000 journalists during Games (note omission of definite article). In addition, some areas within the South Park will be landscaped on a temporary basis pending future built development. The South Plaza will open at Easter 2014. Between this and the North and South Parks, they will provide what is the largest urban park built in the UK since the 19th century.

Mark Camley, who spoke to us over tea and biscuits, said that his own enthusiasm for the QEOP (which he took over post-Games) was inspired largely by the potential of the new park to transform the quality of life of the inhabitants of one of the most deprived districts in England. Until now this was a poor area with low life expectancy, low expectations, and high levels of unemployment. The new, local Westfield shopping centre is the largest in the country, and the new Park will contain five new neighbourhoods, 8,000 homes, three schools, nine nurseries, seven community spaces, and three health centres. Stratford is now on nine mainline train and tube lines, is seven minutes from St Pancras International, 20 minutes from Oxford Circus, and just two-and-a-quarter hours from Paris.

John Hopkins 1953-2013

In May 2013, a 30’ft high, 25-year-old oak was planted in the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in the newly named Hopkins’ Field, in memory of John Hopkins, landscape architect, who died suddenly in January. John selected and oversaw the team that designed and delivered the 101ha of open space that created a vibrant atmosphere during the London 2012 Games.

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has put Stratford firmly on the map, although questions inevitably remain about long-term funding, and eventual ownership. Guild members visiting on the day, however, were suitably impressed by the sheer scale of the undertaking, and aspirations for the future.

A big ‘thank you’ must go to those people in the LLDC team who had put so much effort into making the visit run smoothly, and enabled this ‘behind the scenes’ view of such an amazing and transformative project.
My World Tour of Parks

PART ONE

During 2012 I decided to fulfill a growing desire to take some time out with a career break. So, after finishing three years as Head of Parks and Open Spaces at Camden, I set off on a seven month round-the-world-trip visiting some of the world’s finest parks and green spaces.

Kings Park (Perth)

I arrive into Australia through Perth, the most remote city in the world. I soon head to Kings Park as it is the largest urban park in the world.

I could not fail to be impressed at its fabulous position high on a hill above the city centre. The amazing eucalyptus tree-lined avenues and views towards the city, and vast expanse of water of the Swan river. From here in the park the Swan river appears more to resemble the Mediterranean sea rather than a river.

Kings Park’s large formal areas were laid out in the early 19th century and form only part of the site, as they are dwarfed by the enormous expanse of natural bushland right in the heart of the city. Incorporated within the park is Western Australia’s botanic garden with its impressive collection of native plants from the region.

I arrived early in the morning to avoid the excessive daytime heat. The park contains many features, all of the highest quality. The elevated walkway above the tree canopy was a favourite of mine, as was the outdoor cinema and some of the themed gardens, such as the garden created for people who have suffered trauma.

I was fortunate enough to spend time with Mark Webb, Kings Park CEO, who came out with some real gems that can’t fail to impress. For example, the park has its own fire fighting crew, and although they have a paid team of around 180 staff they have around some 3000 volunteers, with as many as 300 plus active each week!

Hyde Park (Sydney)

I enjoyed coming across so many familiar location names from back home. Sydney has its own Hyde Park and just like our own Hyde Park it is one of the main city central green spaces. Again like London’s Hyde Park, the Sydney version has played an important role in the city’s development, and is the oldest parkland in Australia.

In 1810, Governor Macquarie separated the area from the Domain (which was my favorite open space in Australia) to the north, named it Hyde Park and dedicated it for the "recreation and amusement of the inhabitants and a field of exercises for the troops".

In its early days it was used for cricket matches and horse races, and today is often the venue for various events.

Hyde Park is an open space and contains some interesting features. I admire the central main avenue (pictured below) with its enormous mature Port Jackson figs (Ficus rubiginosa) that provide welcome shade.

I am amused to find St James’ underground station on the corner of Hyde Park. And the flower garden is known as Sandringham Gardens.

There are great views of some of Sydney’s historic buildings such as the Supreme Court of New South Wales, St. James Church, Hyde Park Barracks, St Mary’s Cathedral, the Australian Museum and Sydney Grammar School.

I’m amused to see the sacred ibis wandering around tourists and scavenging through the borders. It appears to have upped-sticks from rural areas and moved into the city, much the same as our own urban fox.

There are some impressive memorials, the most dominant being the ANZAC War Memorial behind the 'Pool of Remembrance'. This monument was built as a memorial to the Australian Imperial Force of World War I.

Sadly, a major road was constructed through the park in the 1960’s dividing the park into two!

In Part Two, in the next Newsletter, Shaun will continue his tour by visiting Sydney’s Green Park – and some other ‘Royal Parks’!
THE QUEEN'S ORCHARD - GREENWICH PARK
The Queen's Orchard opened in April after being restored, with the inclusion of Heritage fruit trees, new gates, pathways and ponds. Local artist Heather Burrell, along with pupils from The John Roan Secondary and Meridian Primary Schools and The Friends of Greenwich Park, designed the single decorative metal gate, which contains the name 'Orchard' found in park records dating back to 1693.

BROMPTON CEMETERY
The Royal Parks is submitting a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund, for the Brompton Cemetery Conservation Project.

DOG WALKERS
From April, commercial dog walkers must be licensed to operate their dog walking businesses in The Royal Parks.

ANCIENT SWEET CHESTNUTS
GREENWICH PARK
Sweet chestnut trees planted in the reign of Charles II are being safeguarded by park staff in a project for one of the finest and oldest tree avenues in Britain.

TULLIP PLANTING AT LONDON PRIMARY SCHOOL
By Lucy Atties

I am a second year Apprentice at St James's Park, doing a work-based horticulture diploma, working for the landscape maintenance contractor Enterprise - now renamed Amev.

After completing the spring bedding, I noticed we had some tulip bulbs left over. I co-ordinated with The Royal Parks to donate these bulbs to an inner city primary school. I discovered that a Year 6 class at Comber Grove Primary School in Camberwell had been on a trip to Kew Gardens a few weeks previously and I thought this planting opportunity at the school would be a nice follow-on.

So one afternoon in late November I cycled to the school, with my basket full of tulip bulbs. I was greeted with great enthusiasm and excitement from all the children. First we talked about their trip to Kew, what they knew about The Royal Parks (which was a lot!), and whether any of them would love to be gardeners in the future.

The school had raised beds, into which the bulbs were planted, and I showed all the children which way to plant the bulbs and at the right depth. All the children 'got stuck in' and were not afraid to get their hands dirty. I was amazed at the care and time they took to get it right. We had a few bulbs left over so I let them take some home to plant.

The children will hopefully come and visit the gardeners at St James's Park, and I can show them our flowers displays. We had a great time, and they've asked me to come into the school in the summer to do some practical work with them.
IN MEMORIAM

COLIN PAIN 1928 – 2013

Colin, a Hampton Wick resident for nearly 60 years and a TRPG Member, died suddenly on 24 January this year, aged 84.

Part of Colin’s career was with The Ministry of Works, later the Department of the Environment’s Property Services Agency. He rose to be the Director of New Works for London, and had 500 staff. He was responsible for caring for the Government’s 14,000 buildings, structures and monuments including the Palaces of Kew, St. James, Kensington, Hampton Court, Windsor and Buckingham Palace, London’s main museums and government offices, including structures in The Royal Parks. He oversaw the Clore extension to the Tate Gallery, refurbishment of the Cabinet War rooms, and was swiftly at Hampton Court Palace after the fire on Easter Monday 1986, where he escorted the Queen and members of the Royal Family around the still smouldering remains. He retired in 1988.

He was a founder member of the Hampton Wick Association and will be mostly remembered for resurrecting the Victorian festival of Chestnut Sunday in Bushy Park, with his Victorian costumed walks and picnics, where he would be seen every year in his Victorian top hat (below). He was also a member of the Friends of Home and Bushy Parks and helped man the information desk in the Pheasantry Welcome Centre.

Colin was an enthusiastic supporter of The Royal Parks, and the Royal Parks Guild, and will be greatly missed.

SANDOR KINCSES 1937 – 2013

Sandor died on 12 April. He was born in Hungary and brought up in Budapest. When aged 19, soon after the uprising against the Soviets in 1956, he escaped Hungary by swimming across the Danube to Austria. Never knowing if he would ever see his family again, Sandor made a new life in Rhodesia living with relatives. In the early 1960s he moved to the UK to attend University in London. To help pay his way he got a job as a night stoker fueling the boilers in the Central Parks Nursery. After graduating he gained a permanent assistant gardener post in the nursery, and by the early 1970’s was the Nursery Foreman.

By 1974 Sandor transferred to Kensington Gardens as the Garden Foreman and lived in Serpentine Lodge and Prince of Wales Lodge (West) until he moved to Kenilworth Town to live with his partner Joanna. Post-contracting. Sandor worked on in Kensington Gardens until 1995 when he retired early to care for Joanna a few years before she died.

For many years Sandor made regular visits to meet Paul Clark, senior gardener in charge of Kensington Palace. Sandor’s neighbours rallied round to help his Hungarian relatives arrange his funeral. The Royal Parks were represented at Sandor’s final farewell by Theresa Short, Paul Clark, Bennie Connolly, Eleanor & Nick Butler.

The picture below shows the Kensington Gardens team (with Sandor in the centre) taken when he was awarded his Imperial Service Medal in 1993.

JACKIE SHANE

Jackie died in July, and although not a Guild member, had been associated with Richmond Park and the Wildlife Group for many years. Our best wishes go to Jackie’s friends and family.

ALFRED MARKS

An obituary of Bernard Marks, who died in February, refers to his father Alfred who was killed in an explosion in Richmond Park in 1942, while serving as a catering officer in the Home Guard.
NEW TRPG MEMBERS

ExA = EX-APPRENTICE
ExC = EX-CONTRACTOR
ExS = EX-STAFF
CurC = CURRENT CONTRACTOR
CurS = CURRENT STAFF
PA = ASSOCIATED WITH TRPG

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Barrett-Mold, Dr Heather
Links through loft, Training & Professional matters. PA

Cordingley, Jane
Head Gardener, Etham Palace 2001-todate. PA

Firminger, Ms Helen
Worked on the Wildlife Show Garden at The Regents Park Flower Show and through LWT links. Currently Director of the Barnside Open Spaces Trust. PA

Hazleton, Martin John
Apprentice Central Royal Parks 1985-69, Central Parks Gardener 1970-75 ExA

Irvin, George
Promoter of events held in Royal Parks and Member of The Showman’s Guild. PA

Ivison, Mrs Claire
Volunteer at Bushy Park Information Point since 2011, Member of Friends of Bushy & Home Parks. PA

Lane, Ms Jayne
Volunteer Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens. PA

Luoma-Tokoi, Ms Maarit
Chargehand for horticulture team in Hyde Park, 2003. ExC

McErlain, Greg
TRP Director of Programmes, Projects and IS. CurS

PEOPLE...

Congratulations to Paul Akers, former Royal Parks Apprentice and TRPG committee member since its inception in 2006. Paul is also an at archaeological manager for Westminster City Council. In the spring he was presented with an honour at the London Mayor’s RE:LEAF Tree and Woodland Awards. The London Tree Officers Association Individual Commitment Award recognises an individual employed professionally within London who has shown consistent dedication and commitment over a prolonged period. Paul has worked at Westminster for 40 years.

The awards, supported by Boris Johnson and the Forestry Commission, celebrate the community groups, businesses and individuals who have promoted the conservation and management of trees in London over the last year.

The RE:LEAF programme saw 10,000 new street trees planted during Johnson’s first term. With an additional £2m investment this term, the Mayor is continuing his RE:LEAF community grant scheme, which last year saw 750 volunteers help to plant 2,500 trees in projects across 16 boroughs. Plans are underway to plant a further 10,000 new street trees by 2015. The awards came during the first ever London Tree Week.

Ken Crowther, TRPG member and owner of Crowther Landscapes writes: “We have re-emerged from our UK gardening radio station – RadioGardening.co.uk – to become www.WorldRadioGardening.com. This makes us the world’s first online gardening radio station. Why the change? Well, we have had a great amount of interest from the USA and Australia. Log on, listen and email us at post@WorldRadioGardening.com with your comments. Also follow us on Twitter @WRGardening. If anyone wants to get involved, give me a call on tel: 03333 440014; we are always looking for interested people to make it work for the gardeners of the world. Incidentally, advertising with us is very cost effective too, so check out our advertising pages”

TRPG Committee member Dave Ivison retired at the end of July – we wish him a very happy retirement (although his time is being filled already by helping out with exhibitions at the Bushy Park Information Point and working towards updating and modernising the TRPG website)

Guild member Roger Sygrave, Gardens Manager at Capel Manor College, retired at the end of July after some 26 years.

Congratulations to TRPG Committee member Terry Gough, Head of Gardens and Estates for Historic Royal Palaces, who has received an Honorary Doctorate from Writtle (he is an assessor for their countryside courses). We will be interviewing Terry in the next newsletter.

Dr Nigel Reeve has recently taken early retirement. He has been Head of Ecology for The Royal Parks since 2002. We all wish him well.

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Printed by Island Printers Ltd. Ryde - 01983 506249