The strength of the Guild is in its membership, and its commitment to promote and support the notion that The Royal Parks are of international importance as places of horticultural and landscape excellence, rich biodiversity and heritage, including many buildings and artefacts of considerable historic significance. So, it was with great pleasure that I was able recently to visit one of the ‘lost’ Royal Parks and learn how its past royal connections were informing its restoration.

The location was Phoenix Park in Dublin, Southern Ireland. It had been a Royal Park until the setting up of the Irish Free State in 1922. Recognising its former association with London’s Royal Parks, it is hoped that the Guild can form a link with a park whose international importance is equal to that of ‘our’ parks.

Whilst in Ireland I had the chance to travel to Belfast and meet the daughter of former Richmond Park Superintendent, George Thomson MVO. The lady concerned was a wonderful source of information on life in Richmond Park, as a teenager, during the 1950s. Talking to her reminded me of the importance in recording past memories of the Royal Parks and conserving historical items for future generations to enjoy.

To this end the Guild is working with staff at The Royal Parks to develop an Oral History project intended to capture the recollections of those who have stories to tell of the parks of yesteryear. We are also pleased to be working with trustees and volunteers involved in the setting up of ‘The Hearsom Collection’ which is to become a repository of historical items relating to Richmond Park and eventually, other Royal Parks.

So that Guild members are able to keep abreast of such developments, and be kept up to date on the other activities of the Guild, your management committee decided that our website was in serious need of an upgrade. Stepping forward to take up this challenge was committee member Dave Ivison, who has been working hard for some months now to realise that aim, and it is thanks to him we have our new website described by Dave (right). Fear not though, our newsletter will continue to be published and I hope you continue to enjoy reading it. Have a great summer!
My World Tour of Parks

Part Two

Green Park (Sydney)

Green Park is a real gem and is located in the trendy neighbourhood of Darlinghurst in Sydney. It’s not large, but what it lacks in size, it certainly makes up for in popularity.

It’s actually named after Alderman James Green, who once represented the local area. However, popular belief has it that it is named after convict Alexander Green, who once lived in a hut in the park, and later became the assistant hangman in the local gaol.

The park has some lovely mature palms, and huge Port Jackson figs (Ficus rubiginosa) planted in the lawns around a network of paths. The centerpiece for this intimate open space is a very charming and popular ‘between the wars’ style bandstand pavilion café (pictured below). From here there are great views out to the imposing Victorian hospital frontage of St Vincent’s, and on the other side views towards the neighbouring Jewish museum.

I’m told that Green Park has a rather ‘racy’ past, with the usual problems faced by urban parks. This seems a far cry from what is now a well loved and respected local park.

Royal Park (Melbourne)

I left Sydney and headed south to Melbourne. Out from the city centre is Royal Park, an enormous green space that is also the home of Melbourne Zoo. The park has an Australian ‘native grass garden’ which I really enjoyed.

I also came across one of the 36 prefabricated houses, imported from England in the 1850’s to deal with a chronic shortage of housing. It does give a good insight into early colonial domestic architecture. I found it a rather bizarre structure, and pretty incredible that it had been shipped to the other side of the world. It is now used as the park’s centre, and I was just a day early for it to be the venue for the launch of the new city tree strategy.

Fitzroy Gardens (Melbourne)

The prefab house in Royal Park was not the only park building I came across on my journey that had been imported from back home. In Melbourne’s superb city park, Fitzroy Gardens, I came across Captain Cook’s Cottage, nestled among the trees. It had been purchased from its original North Yorkshire village in the 1930s, taken down brick by brick, shipped to Australia and rebuilt in Fitzroy Gardens where it remains a popular tourist attraction.

Those who know me will be aware of my interest in park lodges, so I was delighted to see another lodge, this time in a Victorian Italianate style, and which could easily have been lifted straight from one of London’s parks. It had obviously been constructed from a pattern book, and was surrounded by dense and lush tropical foliage.

I was rather bemused to see many trees with clear plastic wraps half way up their trunks and was interested to learn that this is to stop damage from possums.

Royal Botanic Gardens (Melbourne)

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne are clearly a city icon. I enjoyed the great views to Government House, designed in the Italianate style (and bearing a striking resemblance to Queen Victoria’s beloved Osborne House on the Isle of Wight). It was once the largest Government House in the former British Empire. The garden contains far too many marvelous plants to mention, but the Mexican weeping pine (Pinus patula) was a clear favourite.

On a park management issue I was bemused to learn from the entrance signs that running in the gardens is forbidden, yet dogs are permitted to enter.

Albert Park (Melbourne)

Lastly while in Australia, I wanted to visit Albert Park as it enjoys international fame due to its hosting of the Australian Grand Prix. Before my arrival it was the only Australian Park I had heard of.

I held off visiting as I was due to stay close by during my second week, however my timing was terrible. Ironically, the Grand Prix was due to take place in a few days time, which meant the park was closed.

A tram line runs alongside the park, and I could see why the park was closed. You couldn’t tell it was a park, as the site was completely covered in marquees, stands and a car park, the scale of which you could not imagine. I don’t envy the open space managers that have to put the site back together – just like the London Hyde Park team, I am sure they are used to it by now. Later that week the roar of cars at practice could be heard over much of the city.

Conclusion

Both Sydney and Melbourne are great cities, with some terrific greenspaces. The first thing that struck me is just how English many of the parks and open spaces are in their style. I thought at first that this was due to the familiar trees, as there is an abundance of mature elms and limes dating from way back to when these parks were first laid out. Only recently I learnt that this was a conscious effort to recreate England in this way-off land. And it is relatively recent that the native flora has been embraced and included in the city’s greenspaces.
THE APPRENTICE CELEBRATION EVENTS

Date: 11th September 2013
Venue: Roots & Shoots, London

This annual event is when The Royal Parks give the apprentices their graduation diplomas, and The Royal Parks Guild presents its Apprentice of the Year Awards. Linda Lennon, Royal Parks CEO, regrettably was not able to attend this year, so her Deputy, Colin Buttery, attended in her absence, and joined Guild Chairman Mike Fitt to present the Awards.

For the 2013 Awards there was no 1st year award (owing to no apprentice recruitment in 2012.)
The 2nd year award went to Lucy Attias, St. James's Park. Employer: Amey. Reading out her citation Guild chair Mike Fitt said: "This was a unanimous vote as Lucy has been an exemplary employee showing great care and consideration when engaging with fellow apprentices, work colleagues and the general public. Not only is she a model apprentice but has also been an excellent ambassador for both her employer and The Royal Parks. A truly worthy recipient of this award."

A Special Award was also awarded to Martin James, Kensington Gardens. Employer: Amey. "Martin overcame the challenge of dyslexia and proved that this is no bar to succeeding academically, turning out impressive results in his exams and delivering quality portfolio work. He has also demonstrated excellent leadership skills and team working capabilities."

Deciding on a 3rd year award was more difficult as two students tied neck and neck with no discernible mark between them. It was agreed there would be no 3rd year award this year but instead both candidates would receive the George Cooke Award 2013 (see next column).

A big thank you must go to former Royal Parks Apprentice Linda Phillips MBE (pictured), Founder and Director of Roots & Shoots, for hosting the event. Thanks also go to Louise Simmons at The Royal Parks for enabling a smooth judging process to take place.

Date: 14th November 2013
Venue: City of London

The Royal Parks Guild’s prestigious ‘George Cooke Award’ is presented to a final year Royal Parks apprentice for outstanding achievement over their three years of study and training. The 2013 ceremony was held at The Worshipful Company of Gardeners Autumn Court dinner on 14th November, at the Painter-Stainers Hall in the City of London. The Earl of Wessex was Guest of Honour, and he presented the awards to our two exceptional recipients:

James Parker:
Royal Parks Apprentice at St James's Park; employed by Amey

"James has been a model apprentice, passing all his exams with flying colours whilst maintaining a positive and focused attitude with regard to his academic studies. He has always been highly commended for his professionalism, commitment and quality of work. It is these qualities that have manifested as a positive role model for his fellow apprentices with James always leading by example. He is hard working and conscientious, and is rightly deserving of this award for exceptional endeavour."

Samuel Cumber:
Royal Parks Apprentice at Richmond Park; employed by Fountains

"Sam is passionate about horticulture and strives to deliver the highest standard of work, both at college and in his place of work. He is an inspiration to others and has developed excellent leadership skills. He has also proved to be a good mentor for those apprentices who might struggle academically at college and is always ready to share his undoubted knowledge and skills with others. A dedicated member of the team and committed to raising the profile of horticulture as a career. He is a worthy winner of this prestigious award."

STOP PRESS

Current Royal Park Apprentice Ben Dispirito has been offered a place on the diploma course at RBG Kew. A delighted Ben has said he would like to thank the Guild for the support and help he has received in his time as an apprentice. He said: "I'm looking forward to furthering my career in horticulture, and going to Kew is definitely a step in the right direction."

ALSO...Current Royal Park Apprentice Dan Saul has secured a place in the gardening team at Buckingham Palace gardens.
VISIT TO ALEXANDRA PARK
AND PALACE

Date: 3rd October, 2013

Report by: Claire Ivison

As more than 50 Guild members and guests gathered at Alexandra Park in North London, it seemed that some of us had been there before: there were tales of roller skating, flower shows, horse racing, dinosaur exhibitions and accountancy examinations. But on this occasion, as well as for the AGM, we were here for talks and tours about the past, present and future of Alexandra Palace and its surrounding landscape.

We were welcomed at the pavilion of the Cricket Club, this year celebrating its 125th anniversary, where Mike Fitt presented a plaque to mark the Guild’s visit. Mark Ivison, the Park Manager, gave a presentation covering the 150 year history of the grounds, from its time as the Tottenham Wood (part of the Middlesex Forest) to its present area of 196 acres.

We heard that the first Alexander Palace was opened in 1873, but the building burnt down 16 days later and had to be rebuilt. The park has been, and still is, used for a wide variety of sporting, community and entertainment events.

Landscape architect (and Guild member) Dominic Cole used a series of before and after photographs to show how Heritage Lottery funding of £3.4 million has been utilised to improve the views of and from the Palace, and to make visiting the Park more enjoyable.

Walks and talks

Gordon Hutchinson, chairman of the Friends of Alexandra Park, explained their work in helping people to discover the grounds while meeting the challenge of finding sufficient active members to deliver walks and talks, as well as staff their information point.

We were divided into two groups for tours of the gardens, led by Mark and Dominic. On our route from the cricket pavilion to the boating lake, we saw the line of the horse racing track (closed in 1971), some of the ancient oak trees which had formed part of field boundaries before the park was created, and a tether point for wartime barrage balloons, as well as various landscape features which had been mentioned in the presentations. We also walked through the rose garden, originally planted by World War I prisoners of war, and recently renovated.

After a delicious buffet lunch we made our way to CUFOS (Community Use for the Old Station) on the north side of Alexandra Palace for the AGM and presentation of awards (see page 5). Duncan Wilson, chief executive of Alexandra Palace and Park, explained that, following the work on the grounds, there is now a plan to use Heritage Lottery funding to carry out significant work on the Palace building. Most of the structure dates from 1875 but the western end was severely damaged by fire in 1980. The eastern end contains a theatre (which has not been used since 1938) and television studios (which were abandoned in 1981). The current lottery bid is for £24 million to secure the building structurally and improve the integration of the Palace into the Park.

We were also treated to a behind-the-scenes view of some of the fascinating interior of Alexandra Palace. In the Transmitter Hall, John Thompson (chairman of the Alexandra Palace Television Group) gave us a brief run through of the historic events which took place in the building and showed us examples of the cameras that were used. On 2 November 1938 the first regular, high definition television service in the world was transmitted by EMI Marconi from the studio above where we were sitting. It was broadcast via the 300ft high mast on the roof with a range of 25 miles. BBC News was based here until 1969, then from 1969 to 1981 Open University programmes were produced here, but since then the studios have been unused.

We also had the amazing experience of being taken into the old theatre and on to the stage to look out into the dimly lit auditorium. Nigel Willmott, chairman of the Friends of Alexandra Palace Theatre, regaled us with details of the history and the ambitious project to restore this part of the building which has not been used as a theatre for more than 70 years. It is hoped that the theatre might be back in use by 2017.

Guild tree planting

To celebrate the 150th year of Alexandra Park, a tree planting ceremony – of a grove of birch trees – took place in the old GLC play area. Many key people involved in London’s open spaces attended this ceremony, including Duncan Wilson (Alexandra Place CEO), Linda Lennon (Royal Parks CEO), Mike Fitt (Chairman TRPG), Mark Ivison (Mark Manager Alexandra Palace), Doug Reynolds (winner of TRPG Lifetime Achievement Award 2012), Ron Crompton (Chairman of Friends of Richmond Park), Gordon Hutchinson (Chairman of Friends of Alexandra Park), John Brinkley (Trustee of the Deer Study and Research centre), Dr. Nigel Reeve, Apprentices from The Royal Parks and John O’Conner Grounds Maintenance Contractors.
It was a bright morning on Sat 3rd August. About 30 members of The Royal Parks Guild gathered at the coffee shop in Mile End Park to be welcomed by its former Park Manager, Mike Rowan.

Mike is rather like a gushing fountain in good working order – in that you could listen to him for hours! He captured everybody’s attention – throughout the whole day.

The idea to create a public park in the East End was probably first put forward by Joseph Hume. In 1842 York House, St. James’s, was sold to finance the project. About 290 acres were acquired, including the site of the Manor House of Stepney which was owned by the Bishop of London.

As the sun re-appeared in the afternoon we were introduced to some of Mike’s more recent creations, too many to name here. It soon became clear that Mike not only knows about how to attract people to a park, but knows how to keep them in once they have arrived.

Our lunch venue on the day – the Sports Pavilion Cafe – run by Jamshed Todwala, son of Cyrus Todwala (one of TV’s The incredible Spice Men)

The Jubilee tree planting scheme was most impressive. Mike’s way of managing the wild flower meadows was to cut 80% of the area rather than the entire sward – this definitely encourages a greater range of invertebrates.

This most memorable visit concluded with the group taking refreshments in a very stylish modern art gallery, with huge plate glass windows enabling us to witness the hive of activity on and alongside the Regents Canal.

If Victoria Park has not already featured on your agenda of places to visit, we recommend that you take time out to go there, for you will not be disappointed.
The Royal Park That Was

By Robert Skeoch

Did you know that the east end of London once had its own Royal Park, but one that lost its status after it was caught up in the net of a piece of ambiguous Victorian legislation.

In 1887 Victoria Park was one of several London parks designated by the government for transfer from the control of the Commissioners of Works to the Metropolitan Board of Works. The transfer, embodied in a Parliamentary Bill, was highly unpopular with Londoners because the running costs of the parks would, in future, be borne by local rates rather than direct taxes.

The government was unmoved by the growing chorus of protest from local Vestries (the Victorian equivalent of the present London Boroughs). As far as Whitehall was concerned, the parks, which included Battersea and Kennington parks were "Metropolitan" and "Public," and created with funds from parliament. It was now, they claimed, "right and proper" that Londoners who benefited from them should pay for their upkeep, not the country as a whole.

It should no longer be central government's job to provide and maintain parks; and like many other parks, in other parts of the country, the London parks should in future be funded from local rates.

The government, it seemed, had won, but it had not counted on the strength of the opposition to the transfer of Victoria Park, which had always been regarded as a Royal Park proper, created by The Crown from the proceeds of the sale of a former residence of the Duke of York, the second son of King George III. The government, its opponents alleged, had no right to transfer the park because it was not its to dispose of.

Parliament, therefore, was forced to amend the Bill, while at the same time was determined not to concede its principle.

A new clause (and a rather transparent one at that) was inserted to the effect that: "Provided always nothing in this Act shall be deemed to affect the estate, rights and privileges of Her Majesty in right of Her Crown in Victoria Park."

Thus the burgheers of Bethnal Green, Bow and Hackney, still angry at the prospect of their park losing its Royal rank, won but a hollow victory. Victoria Park, now run by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, became a "Crown Park," but was no longer "Royal."

Perhaps one day this park, named after the Queen-Empress, will be returned to the fold of the Royal Parks.

VICTORIA PARK

Victoria Park was originally laid out by notable London planner and architect Sir James Pennethorne between 1842 and 1846 (Pennethorne's teacher had been John Nash - famous for much work around London, and notably at Regents Park). Victoria Park is full of history. Just some of the significant historical features within the Park include:

- the Dogs of Alcibiades
- two pedestrian alcoves that are surviving fragments of the old London Bridge
- a replica of pagoda that had started its life as an entrance to Hyde Park's Chinese Exhibit which was then moved to Victoria Park before being demolished in the 1950s
- the Burdett-Coutts fountain which has had a partial restoration

In 2010 grants totalling £12 million have allowed major improvements to the Park. This included the demolition of the old Lido (Guild member Ron Bullman remembers running boats from this!). It is now replaced with an amazing children's water park.

MILE END PARK

This late 20th century park was carved out of the devastation of WWII, covering what were once streets of terraced housing and industrial buildings. Because of the narrowness of this park, a serpentine path takes you through an amazing grassland area and gives the illusion of a much larger area (at the last insect count there were 160 species of beetles and 140 species of spiders). Part of the open space is laid out as an Ecology Park with the innovative Ecology Building at its centre. All ages can exercise within this park with its Adventure Park, Sports Park, gardens, woodland and walks.

The Pagoda in Victoria Park
The Royal Parks Guild Awards 2013

**Venue:** Alexandra Palace  
**Date:** 3rd October, 2013

**Wildlife Conservation Award**
In association with The Deer Study and Resource Centre, with support from Robert Holmes Estate Agents

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

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**Presentation of the 2013 Wildlife Conservation Award to Dr Nigel Reeve (second from left). Others are (from l to r) Mike Fitt, Linda Lennon (CEO The Royal Parks) and John Brinkley, Trustee The DS & RC.**

**DR NIGEL REEVE**
Mike Fitt, Chairman The Royal Parks Guild recounted in September 2002 he had the pleasure of welcoming Nigel to The Royal Parks as its first in-house Ecologist, who had previously been Principal Lecturer in the Biosciences at the University of Roehampton.

Comments made by various individuals on the contribution by Nigel to TRP include:

- “Nigel was incredibly valuable to TRP and raised lots of funding which will support the fabric of the parks into the future, including numerous reed beds throughout the parks and other habitat improvement projects.”
- “Recognising an opportunity 7 years ago Nigel made the link with Imperial College and the Opal project, a massive outreach programme aiming to encourage and inspire a new generation of nature lovers”
- “Nigel was a brilliant member and supporter of the Education and Community Engagement team throughout his whole time at the Royal Parks.”
- “His lectures and presentations were stunning!”
- “Nigel should also be applauded for his contribution to conserving London’s wildlife generally, particularly his work on acid grassland and hedgehogs.”

Many people have valued Nigel as not only a work colleague but as a mentor and good friend and it is with great delight that in recognition of his outstanding and dedicated contribution to the conservation of wildlife in London’s Royal Parks and across Greater London that The Royal Parks Guild presented him with the 2013 Wildlife Conservation Award.

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**Presentation of the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award to Tom Moss-Davies (second from left). Others are (from l to r) Mike Fitt, Linda Lennon (CEO The Royal Parks) and Mrs Moss-Davies.**

**TOM MOSS-DAVIES**
Tom started his career with The Royal Parks in March 1973 working for the redoubtable Jim Smith in Queen Mary’s Rose Garden. During the 1970’s he became the chargehand responsible for the ‘Mobile Gardening Gang’, in the days when TRP was responsible for the gardens at The Tower of London, The Law Courts, the Wallace Collection, Public Relations Office and other parts of the Government Estate.

In 1995 Tom was promoted to Foreman and given the job of looking after his old stumping ground, Queen Mary’s Rose Garden, where he continues to this day. Tom has upheld the high standards required of keeping QMG, as it is known, to be one of the best rose gardens in the UK.

His dedication and expertise is worthy of recognition and as a result The Royal Parks Guild was pleased to present him with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

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**The Big Allotment Challenge**
Guild member and former Superintendent of Greenwich Park, Jim Butress, is one of the three main judges on BBC TV’s latest reality contest, The Big Allotment Challenge (which first aired on BBC2 on 15 April). There are just six episodes, so if you missed them, try to catch them on BBC iPlayer.
When and how did the gardening or horticultural bug bite you?
I started working in a local garden centre when I was 13 and that is when I got my first introduction to plants and gardening. I had to learn about all the plants as it was my job to give advice to customers on what was suitable for their gardens. From there, I went on to work in a series of growers' nurseries in the Dorking area as plant propagator. Nursery stock was my main interest.

Where did you undertake your training?
My formal training started when I left the nursery trade to join The Royal Parks in 1975. I got a gardener's post in St James's Park with Fred Mitchell at the helm. He saw my potential and recommended me as a mature trainee to Owen Clarke, who immediately enrolled me on the City & Guilds and Royal Horticultural Society's general courses. Contrary to popular belief, I was never officially a Royal Parks Apprentice.

How did your career develop after that?
I moved through the ranks quickly from becoming a Leading Hand in St. James’s Park to a Charge Hand at Hyde Park. I was then promoted to Assistant Superintendent at Hyde Park in 1982 but transferred to the same position at Hampton Court Palace in 1983. Since then, I was promoted to Head of Gardens & Estates for Historic Royal Palaces in 1990 which is the post I hold to this day.

What is your most treasured achievement at work?
I suppose restoring King William III's Privy Garden at Hampton Court Palace. The other was receiving the Member of the Victorian Order award from Her Majesty the Queen, as a personal gift for my services to Historic Royal Palaces.

I have worked with Writtle College for the past 12 years and I have also worked with the KLC School of Garden Design based at Hampton Court Palace. I was acknowledged by Writtle College last year through the University of Essex by being awarded an Honorary Doctor's degree for my services to the landscape industry, and Writtle College.

What six plants could you not do without at Hampton Court, and why?
Yew trees, lime trees, bay trees, orange trees, heliotrope, lantanas and cannas. This is because these plants are historic and have been grown at Hampton Court Palace for centuries. There are, of course, many others that are connected to our gardens through history and design.

What is your advice to aspiring horticulturists?
Make your dream your vision and plot your journey towards achieving it. Never give up and never be afraid to start at the bottom and try something new. Your talent will shine through and from there, the only way is up.

What is your favourite view of Hampton Court?
The 17th century view of Hampton Court Palace from the east by the Dutch topographical artist Leonard Knyff (pictured). It shows Hampton Court garden at its most magnificent, as the finest garden in Britain.

How do you relax at the end of a hectic day?
Sometimes, with a drink at my local in Hampton Wick but I also like to read, watch history programmes and football on the television and at weekends, I like to go fishing when I can.
MY NIGHT WITH THE ROLLING STONES

Still fired up with enthusiasm after my 2012 Olympic volunteering, I responded to a request to help with the British Summer Time concerts in Hyde Park during July 2013. Following a telephone interview with the organisers AEG (at 7.45 in the morning, when I was barely conscious let alone articulate), my application was accepted, and a few weeks later I found myself amongst an eager crowd of volunteers of all ages.

My role as a volunteer was to mainly assist concert-goers needing access to the viewing and seating platforms provided for those with mobility issues. I was also required to give general information to those attending, or lost on the perimeter of the concert ground.

The reward for this? Two lovely lime green T-shirts, a green baseball cap, and a tote bag to carry my uniform in. Plus, of course, the chance to watch any or all of the concerts for free, once my shifts had finished.

The final day of the five I worked will live in my memory for many years. This was the evening I was promoted to ‘The Pit’. My job was to provide water for fans who had been waiting for up to eight hours to see their heroes perform...The Rolling Stones. I was issued with a set of ear plugs and told “You will need them”. I did! The noise was deafening. The cheering, screaming, shouting was amazing...and this was even before Mick, Ronnie, Keith and Charlie walked on to the stage. The temperature was 30°C, and people were fainting by the minute. These unfortunate souls were manhandled, lifted and passed over the heads of other fans, and then stretchered off to be revived by the wonderful St John Ambulance volunteers. If well enough, the patients would then be allowed back in to the crowd – only in some cases to keel over again!

And then the moment came, and the Stones came on stage. It was pandemonium! I had been on my feet all day, and water-carrying for several hours, but the adrenalin rush was immediate. With renewed fervour I dispensed water and ran back for fresh supplies. Above my head Mick Jagger was gyrating and strutting like a demented pixie whilst singing songs I had grown up hearing. Keith Richard and Ronnie Wood frenziedly played guitar and Charlie Watts was drumming as if there would be no tomorrow.

The Rolling Stones were starting their careers at the Crawdaddy Club in Richmond just as I was taking my first wobbling steps in Bushy Park. This July night, many years on, they played as if it was their first concert. They never stopped smiling, their enthusiasm never waned and the love of their music was obvious to all.

I discovered the following day that all those attending the concert as guests of the artists performing were required to give a donation to The Royal Parks Foundation. I understand a sizeable amount was raised. Me? I kept the ear plugs safe and can’t wait for summer to do it all again.

IN OUR THOUGHTS... Guild members who have recently passed away

EDWARD FAWCETT OBE
Edward passed away at the age of 93 on 19 October last year. He was an avid promoter of conservation and garden history, and had a special interest in natural history, particularly birds and plants. He had a long career with the National Trust. Even after retirement he continued to maintain responsibility for Osterley Park and House, and became the first chairman of Chiswick House Friends. Among his many other hobbies were dowsing and poetry.

MADELEINE CARRITT
Madeleine, who died on 9 February this year, aged 76, loved Richmond Park and had taken a keen interest in its affairs for many years. She was a nature lover and passionate defender of animals, and had opposed the park’s policy of deer culling. Madeleine became a daily visitor to the park to walk her dogs when she moved to East Sheen in the 1980s. She had also participated in the Conference on the Royal Parks Review Group report on Richmond and Bushy Parks in 1996, and took an active interest in the Park Watch scheme set up by the police in the late 1990s.
NEW TRPG MEMBERS
ExA = Ex-APPRENTICE
ExS = Ex-STAFF
PA = ASSOCIATED WITH TRP

NEW FULL MEMBERS
ALLEWAY, Miss Emily
Former landscape Architect for Royal Parks

CALFE, Miss Patricia
Volunteer at The Holly Lodge Centre, Richmond Park

CUMBER, Mr Samuel
Ex Apprentice 2010-2013

DOWBIGGIN, Mrs Marjorie
Links through Capel Manor and Worshipful Company of Gardeners, Flowers in the City

FOSTER, Mrs Rachel
Worked at the Bushy Park Education Centre 2007-2012

HAMILTON, Mrs Julia
Volunteer at The Holly Lodge Centre, Richmond Park

KING, Mrs Anna
Centre Manager at The Holly Lodge Centre, Richmond Park

KNIGHT, Mr Philip
Chargehand Gardener Hyde Park 1984-1986

MANDER, Mr Russell
Chairman of the Deer Study & Wildlife Centre, sponsors of The Wildlife Conservation Award

MONTERO, Mrs Valerie
Volunteer in Bushy Park and at The Friends Visitor Centre

MULHOLLAND, Mr Alex
Volunteer since 2000, having donated the Victoria Pharmacy fixtures and fittings to The Holly Lodge Centre in Richmond Park

RILEY, Mr Chris
1967 – 1970 Apprentice
greenwich Park

SCOTT, Mrs Isabel
Volunteer at The Holly Lodge Centre, Richmond Park

SEGALL, Mrs Barbara
Editor of The Horticulturist magazine and association of IOH with The Royal Parks

SHACKELL, Mrs Aileen
Worked across TRP as a landscape architect at LUC

PEOPLE

Congratulations to Mark Wasilewski who has received a commendation from the Metropolitan Police in recognition for his outstanding contribution to the Policing Operation for the Royal Birth in 2013. Mark received the Award at a ceremony at New Scotland Yard on 24th January 2014. You may recently have seen Mark smiling from 1500 bus shelters and digital roadside screens, and 300 digital screens in bars in and around London for two weeks. London and Partners secured a deal for an exciting outdoor advertising campaign to encourage Londoners to make the most of our city, and Mark was featured.

Congratulations to Scott Boydton – ex Royal Parks apprentice – who has taken up the post as the Garden Manager for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford upon Avon.

NEW YEAR’S HONOURS 2014
LADY ANN RICHES MBE
Lady Riches is a founder member of the Friends of Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens (since 1991) and assists at the Information Centre at Hyde Park Corner when time allows. She was awarded the MBE in the 2014 New Years Honours List in recognition of her 58 years of voluntary service helping to improve the health services in London.

ISABEL STEPHENSON BEM (picture)
Isabel, with her husband Ashley Stephenson, was associated with the Royal Parks for over 30 years, latterly through Ashley’s job as Bailiff in the 1990’s. They retired to Seaford in Sussex where they continue to enjoy life. Isabel’s recent honour is for her services to the community, through Seaford in Bloom.

AWARDS
JOHN O’CONNOR (Grounds Maintenance Contractor)
For winning BALI Employer of the Year 2013 and whose apprenticeship scheme was highly commended by the National Apprenticeship Scheme.

THE HOLLY LODGE CENTRE
In autumn 2013, the Holly Lodge Centre in Richmond Park was awarded the “Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge” for providing an outstanding range of outside-the-classroom experiences.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
REEVE, Mrs Kati
Partner of Dr Nigel Reeve

LEIGH, Mr Eric
Partner of Noelle Leigh MBE, having had a long involvement at Bushy Park Education Centre

NEW APPRENTICE INTAKE 2013
Liam Kane – Regents Park
Adams Watts – Bushy Park
Thomas Hilliam – Richmond Park
Bradley Hillyard – St. James’s Park
Adam Stoter – Hyde Park
Jake McGuinness – Hyde Park
Darren Standard – Kensington Gardens
Chris Ratcliffe – Greenwich Park
Luke Arbouine – Richmond Park
William Sherring – Hyde Park

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Printed by Island Printers Ltd, Ryde, Isle of Wight - 01983 566249