



DO SOMETHING AMAZING TODAY

SPRING 2024

NEWSLETTER NO.119

With thanks to our sponsors



Join the Friends today!



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FROM THE CHAIR

Mark Elliott, Chairman

Spring arrived early this year in Regent's Park and in Primrose Hill so we were able to enjoy early displays of snowdrops, bluebells, crocuses, daffodils, anemones, and aconites- some of them planted by our 50 volunteer bulb planters last October and some planted by volunteers in 2021 and 2022.

The Friends is spending a lot of time preparing for our summer activities. Our events manager Vivian Ward has set up a huge programme of 35 walks, talks and tours. To browse and book go to <https://www.frp-ph-members.org/pages/events>.

For music events, the Regent's Park Music Festival team are again planning 45 concerts on the two park bandstands. Saturday Jazz on the Broadwalk and two Sunday bands on Holme Green. In addition, six evening concerts will take place in the St. John's Lodge ("Secret") Garden as well as one for children. A Pied Piper will lead groups of three to eight children around the garden with stops for music and snacks. Mums, dads or nannies will need to accompany them. It should be a lot of fun!

The Friends' walks and talks start in April but a highlight will be The Big Lunch on the Broadwalk on Sunday 9 June -a successor event to the 2023 Coronation Big Lunch when some 700 attended and many watched and listened to the entertainment. This year, the free entertainment will be a celebration of British music and folk dance as you have never seen it performed. This event will be open to all. To book a seat or a table, go to www.frp-ph-members.org/events/the-big-lunch-in-the-regents-park-a-summer-celebration

Another community event, free and open to all, will be a Mamma Mia singalong at the bandstand on 6 October, kindly sponsored by Wallacea Living. There will be a huge screen showing the original Mamma Mia film and everyone will be invited to join in singing the Abba songs. It should be terrific fun!

We have been busy planning lots of volunteering opportunities too. Weather



permitting, the gazebo at Clarence Gate will go up every Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holiday from 22 June to 29 September. For this to operate, we need eight volunteers per weekend making a total of 132 for the season. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people.

We are working on replacing our canvas tent with a Citroen van that Benugo and The Royal Parks are kindly donating to the Friends. But using it will be subject

to finalising the transfer agreements and completing its modernisation. Realistically, it may not be ready until next year. This project is in the capable hands of Friends' Committee member Gerald Hyam assisted by Robin Black and Ronwen Emmerson, as well as local artist Jesse Brown who will decorate it. We will be looking for a garage to store it over the winter so, if anyone has one they can let us use please contact Chair@friendsofregentspark.org

EVENTS FOR YOUNG FRIENDS- A FIRST!

Vivian Ward, Head of Non-Musical Events

For the first time, the Friends' have established a Young Friends programme of activities aimed at children eight years plus to get them involved, on their level to learn about, love and appreciate the park. The programme is designed to promote a love of nature, growing things, learning about biodiversity in educational, fun and creative ways.

Your Friend's subscription normally covers all family members living at your address, including school children. While most of our non-musical events are not suitable for children, we have taken steps to ensure that younger members can participate in Friends' activities and enjoy the park in the company of their peers and parents.

The good news is that for this Young Friends programme you may enrol grandchildren or nieces and nephews under your family membership.

We have, on offer, Decorating Bird Boxes, Create your own Terrarium, Make a Scarecrow for our Allotment, Gardening in the Allotment, Boating on the Lake and a Photo Competition for Kids. And there is more!! Check out our website for dates,

details, prices and how to book.

Most activities will take place during the summer holidays and generally the required age for participation is eight years. There will be a charge for these activities ranging from £10 - £12.50. The boating on the lake is free but please book to secure a place. The Photo Competition opened at Easter and runs through August Bank Holiday Monday. There is a £50 prize for the winner in each category. In addition, winners get a free family membership of the Friends for one year and the winning entries will be displayed in the Bar & Kitchen...so get snapping.

We are keen to reach out to the whole family with activities for one and all. If you and your children love the park, get them involved in Young Friends' Activities.

Head to <https://www.frp-ph-members.org> log in and click on Events to book.



OPEN AIR THEATRE - WHAT'S ON FOR YOUNG FRIENDS?

From Saturday 23 March – Sunday 21 April the Open Air Theatre comes out of hibernation early to stage performances of Bear Snores On for children ages four plus. Inspired by the beloved picture book by Karma Wilson this is a new theatrical experience that will allow families to travel from the theatre lawn to an indoor pop-up space within the theatre grounds. Grab your backpacks and join Mouse on a magical theatrical journey as she finds fun, courage and a whole bunch of new animal friends.

Next up, The Enormous Crocodile takes to the stage Friday 17 May – Saturday 8 June. Aimed at children four and up it is a musical based on Roald Dahl's picture book.

Then in June the magic of nature and the nature of magic is explored in The Secret Garden running from Saturday 15 June - Saturday 20 July aimed at children 10 years and up.

For all these productions there are assisted performance times available and tickets start at £19. To book call 0333 400 3562 or go online to <https://openairtheatre.com/whats-on>

MEET OUR SPONSOR OSBORNES LAW

Osbornes Law are a multi-disciplinary law firm who have been one of our sponsors since 2020. They celebrated their 50th anniversary last year and are a fixture in North London with offices in both Camden in Pratt Street and Flask Walk in Hampstead and are very proud of their north London roots.

They are actively involved in community work in North London sponsoring various events at Burgh House and Keats Library. The firm chose Food Bank Aid as their 50th year charity partner and are supporters of the Camden Food Bank. They also support the amazing 'All Dogs Matter' and helped the charity stage its winter fashion show last year.

Osbornes currently have 26 partners and over 170 staff members. They were listed in The Times Best Law Firm Guide 2024 for the sixth consecutive year and have been accredited as being one of the 'Best Companies' to work for in the UK.

The firm takes client care very seriously and is very proud of the many five star reviews they receive from happy clients. Head of conveyancing, Simon Nosworthy, comments that all in the firm work tirelessly to provide first class advice to all clients.

Pop over to their website at www.osborneslaw.com to see some of these reviews and find out more about the firm.

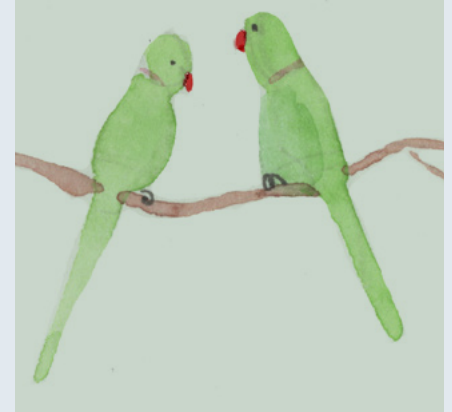


SAVE THE DATE

Annual General Meeting
Thursday 30 May, 2024

Herringham Hall,
The Regent's University,
Inner Circle NW1 4NS

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



THE BIG LUNCH 2024 - BOOK OR BE DISAPPOINTED

On Sunday 9 June, 2024 The Friends will once again host The Big Lunch on the Broadwalk. Did you attend the Big Lunch last year? It was the day after the Coronation, the sun shone, worldwide media attended, we made the front page of the Financial Times, 700 places were booked with a 200 person wait list and we had a blast.

So don't miss out! Now is your chance to book a place at one of the coveted tables. It's only £10 a place or book a table of six for £50.

The Big Lunch is the UK's annual get-together for neighbours and communities, with millions of people coming together for a few hours of food, friendship, and fun. It connects people and encourages friendlier, safer communities where people start to share more – conversations, ideas, skills, resources and friendship. In this case it is in our beloved park with friends, music, food and more.

The relationships we have where we live and work have a major impact on our health and happiness — people actually live longer if they have more frequent social contact.

It's not just health that improves as a result. Having lunch with your neighbours doesn't sound like the obvious way to tackle crime, reduce loneliness and isolation or quell community tensions, but the people who take

part in The Big Lunch tell us:

- they feel less isolated
- they feel safer where they live
- that people from different backgrounds come together and become friends
- that the experience leads people to do more in their communities

Our successful Chit Chat event, Tuesdays at the Primrose Hill Café, verifies this.

But there is more. Our Events Manager Viv Ward has curated an amazing array of truly English entertainment on the day by Folk Dance Remixed.



So rock your idea of what it is to be truly English in whatever form that takes.

As at last year's event there will be prizes for best table, outfit, dog, kid/dad combo, lunch, dessert, decorations... Give it your all and enjoy being part the fun and diverse community in and around The Regent's Park.

Please join in in the spirit of fun, friendship and community. To book go to our website and click on Events. <https://www.frp-ph-members.org/pages/events>



BUSIEST SEASON ANTICIPATED AT THE HUB

Joe Clayton, Activity Sports Officer

The Hub is anticipating its busiest summer ever, with the formal opening of the new hybrid pitch. Alongside their multiple established sports clubs, play and play facilities and running events, The Hub will be providing new activities to target the underrepresented communities as outlined in our Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The new hybrid pitch will officially open on 20 April. Arsenal in the Community will be one of the first groups to use it introducing a new summer girls' football league to the park. They have set themselves a bold target of increasing the number of girls' football teams to 110 by 2026 up from 32, facilitating friendly fixtures and bringing new girls' teams to the fantastic facilities at The Regent's Park.

The Hub will soon be hosting a new

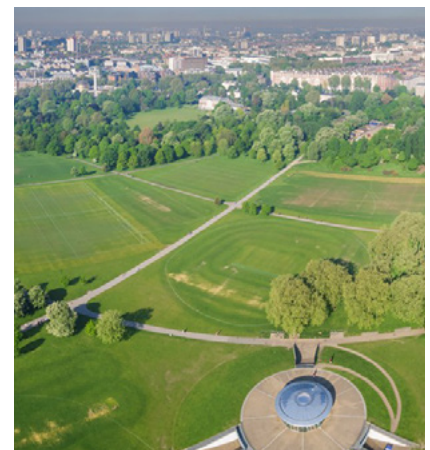
inclusion league. It begins on Sunday 21 April, targeting children and adults with a wide range of learning disabilities. The free activities will be varied and adapted to the abilities of those participating in the sessions, including a competitive football league, the first of its kind in central London. There are also new, free tennis sessions taking place at Park Sports tennis centre, targeting adults with learning disabilities and will be run by the London Inclusion Sports Association.

The Hub team continue to work with key stakeholders such as Westminster and Camden councils allowing young people to participate in sports and physical activity. This summer The Hub will be targeting spare capacity at local youth clubs situated in the areas of highest deprivation in the boroughs. In addition there is free afterschool cricket on Tuesdays, targeted at children on free school meals, but open to all who wish to attend.

Finally, The Hub will be hosting its annual Stepping to the Beat event on Monday 24 June with Westminster City council. This event is a 3km run/walk in Regents Park for those with learning disabilities. This will be the twelfth

year The Hub has hosted this event.

The Hub continues to be one of the busiest sports facilities in the country, with around 10,000 users every week. By introducing more community focussed programs, The Hub's facilities are becoming more accessible to underrepresented groups, hopefully allowing them to live healthier lives in a magnificent park setting.



The view from the hub of the area that will soon be a state of the art, hybrid pitch.

MISTY SPRING MORNINGS IN THE PARK

Kennedy Cruickshank

For the first time in some years, little owls have returned to the park, which is humming with activity. At time of going to press, the owls are being mobbed, by wretched invasive parakeets.

Stock doves coo from high up in the plane trees. The sudden rapid flight of a woodcock crossing the lake was seen by two separate observers. Migrant lesser redpolls curl upside down on birch twigs like blue tits do, chewing buds about to break into leaf. Song thrushes and their less frequent cousins, larger, darker more mysterious mistle thrushes, have been singing since November and as yet have avoided the jays. Smaller redwing thrushes, visitors from Scandinavia due off soon, chatter in groups, flying scattily about. Blackbirds, struck by viral illness in parts of London, are also numerous, the males troubled only by spring-fever bickering.

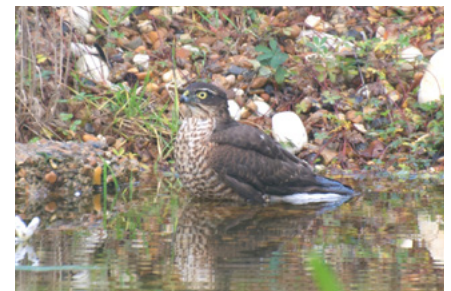
Raptors are about. Two sparrow hawks swooped by, resident kestrels were photographed mating and a peregrine flew over, as did a buzzard. Unusually, rather few blackcap warblers have been heard yet although last year some 35 pairs nested here.

Cetti's warblers are not uncommon near water, their sudden brief explosive song undeterred by passers-by. Catching sight of them is a patient art.

Green woodpeckers do their 'yaffle' calling daily while great spotted's tap-tapping alerts all to their territorial claims. Even predatory carrion crows, overfed by misguided well-wishers, have not yet troubled greenfinches whose churring song is heard all over. Our 'special' visitor, a splendidly coloured water rail, has been here elusively all winter, skulking in the

reed beds where we expect reed warblers to arrive soon, as regular nesters here for many years. Smart shoveller ducks come and go.

With pro-active Park management promoting more diverse habitat, and a new Queen Elizabeth Memorial Garden in development, the 'Friends of the Park' have set ourselves an aim to attract nightingales to nest here within a decade. Thickening patches of blackthorn, some now long in flower, will form part of the agenda. Green corridors to Primrose Hill and on to Hampstead Heath are next.



Clockwise from top left: Little Owl yawning by L.Vocadlo; Lesser Redpoll by Magnus Andersson; Sparrowhawk Bath by Chris Buck; Kestrels mating by Chris Buck

OFFERS

A GREAT 20% OFFER FROM TOTAL CHI

Total Chi is a wonderful oasis of calm and serenity, words not normally associated with Baker Street. They have offered the Friends a generous 20% off your purchase, for either Yoga or Pilates, so why not take them up on it and find your inner calm and get fit in the offering?

You can use the discount on any of their pricing plans including their monthly memberships making regular classes only £19.60 or you could just purchase their intro offer making your first 2 classes £14 each.

You can book by emailing saying you are a Friend of Regent's Park & Primrose Hill and showing your membership card upon arrival.

Afterwards you might choose to visit their upstairs café and enjoy a healthy juice drink, a coffee or tea and perhaps dive into what must be the biggest croissants in London.

To book or find out more email: hello@totalchi.com, visit www.totalchi.com

MARYLEBONE THEATRE OFFERS THE FRIENDS £10 TICKET PROMO

The award-winning Marylebone Theatre has offered the Friends a generous promo code to get £10 tickets for its latest production, starring Greg Hicks and directed by Laurence Boswell. The Dream of a Ridiculous Man is Dostoyevsky's tragic-comic adventure transported to 21st century London. It is a riveting one-person tale of wonder with an urgent warning for our world. A funny and serious story of hope, that with love and trust we can build a better world. Maybe.

Use FRIENDS10 promo code to get £10 tickets for shows until 20 April, 2024. Tickets are normally priced from £19.50 for the show. You can enter the promo code at the top of the page where you choose the date you want to attend. Go here to find out more.

<https://tickets.marylebonetheatre.com/tickets/>

NOTE THE DATE: 22/23 APRIL, 2024 WEED CONTROL NEAR SPORTS PITCHES

On 22 and 23 April weed control operations will take place on TheRegent's Park sports pitches. It is vital to clear some of the stubborn weeds and maintain the sports pitches' high quality.

The Royal Parks have worked with a supplier to carry out research and consultation to identify a suitable product to use that is effective whilst having a less noticeable smell, after the feedback received last year. The material being used is a low toxicity, selective herbicide that is not considered harmful to animals (including dogs) and has a negligible impact on the soil. Signage will be in place informing people of the work on these days.

We want to thank you in advance for bearing with us whilst this vital work is carried out.

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN, UNEARTHING MARYLEBONE'S HIDDEN HISTORY

Anne-Marie Craven

My visits to Waitrose and on many Sundays to mass at St. James, Spanish Place are sometimes enhanced by a quick visit to the memorial garden or 'churchyard' of the St. Mary or Marylebone Old Church. To my delight the new book written principally by Mike Wood, *The Memorial Garden, Unearthing Marylebone's Hidden History*, just published, will make me linger longer...and in early Spring the garden is looking quite lovely.

As Francis Bacon said:

"God Almighty first planted a garden and Indeed it is the purest of human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man".

The history of the church itself goes back to 1400. It was expanded as the population grew and was demolished in 1741 and a new church was built in 1742. Sadly the bombing in WW2 was such that the church was demolished in 1949 and in 1951 Marylebone Borough Council and the St. Marylebone Society put together the plan to create the memorial garden. The Trustees who are listed in the book were thanked then and should still be thanked today.

The book describes the garden in detail – the commemorative panels and the memorial to Charles Wesley, and also the many monuments from the early church which are now in the current parish church of St. Marylebone

(about which there is a short chapter). Rich quotations berating the 'smallest place of worship attached to the church of England' and other criticisms of the failure of the Vestry to provide adequate accommodation for the 'largest and most opulent parish in this capital' help to enrich the story.

'Some notable people are buried here' – hence brief biographies of architect, James Gibbs, Charles Wesley, of course, and one of my favourites, Claude Champion de Crespigny who died in 1695 and was a French Huguenot who fled France with his wife. In fact Marylebone housed the elite of French emigrants – hence the need for the French Chapel Royal, sadly demolished in 1969.

Francis Bacon was married here, and Richard Brinsley Sheridan, whose father and his wife's father strongly disapproved. Lord Byron was baptised here as was Horatia Nelson since at one time Lord Nelson worshipped here. Her mother, Emma Hamilton, known as Mrs Thompson, was not present nor was Nelson himself.

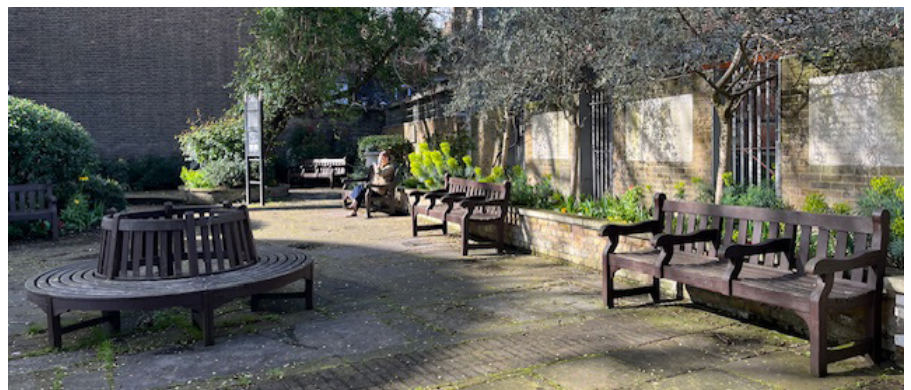
The book also gives details of some of Marylebone's previous residents, and the wealth acquired in a number of instances from their East Indian connections. This all leads to Marylebone by 1830 becoming one of the new and fashionable districts

of London. As a result of this a number of black residents are recorded, three of them well known today, Ignatius Sancho, Ottobah Cugoano and Olaudah Equiano; all ex-slaves. The author has included a plan showing the number of black baptisms in 1742 from the church's registers.

The penultimate chapter explores the results of the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOLA) research on the bones of 301 individuals, samples from excavated coffins from inside the 1742 church and some from the vaults in the churchyard. Age, height, dental health and lifestyle were examined as well as grave goods.

The finale is the restoration of the garden which was completed in 2012 after a major campaign by the Marylebone Society to 'bring it back to its former glory'.

The illustrations are one of the delights of the book. A mix of engravings, watercolours and fine contemporary photography enrich the enormous amount of research which Mike and his editors have undertaken. The appendices, notes and references are witness to this. The Society thanks Christopher Portman, 10th Viscount Portman, for generously funding the publication. An essential addition to one's library on London!



PARK RANGERS ONE YEAR ON

Anna MacLaughlin, Volunteer Officer

In spring 2023 The Royal Parks charity launched a Volunteer Ranger service trial within The Regent's Park. Already operational in Richmond Park, Bushy Park, and Greenwich Park, this expansion was the first time the service had been piloted within central London.

A year on, and the Volunteer Ranger service in The Regent's Park continues to thrive. Easily recognisable in their orange branded uniform, pairs of Volunteer Rangers can be found in the high foot-traffic areas of the park,

multiple times across the week and weekend.

Providing a warm welcome to some of the eight million visitors The Regent's Park receives every year, these passionate individuals have tallied up over 700 hours of volunteering on site, educating, guiding, and engaging with thousands of members of the public, to ensure they get the best out of their visit to this unique green space.

Be a Friend to the park - Please...

- Don't feed the birds
- Observe the cycle routes
- Consult the dog-walking maps
- Fires and BBQs are not permitted
- Take your litter home with you or bin it



THE PARKS' FIRST FEMALE GARDENER WAS IN THE REGENT'S PARK

Robin Black

Thanks to someone in The Royal Parks searching through the park archives, the story of the first female gardener in the Royal Parks was revealed. Josephine Gillespie, now 87, worked in The Regent's Park, a position she recalls beginning on 10 December 1956.

Gillespie studied at Studley Horticultural College from 1954-56 and from there worked for a London firm doing contract gardening for some prominent figures like Cecil Beaton. She imagined herself doing private gardening in some country estate but at one prospective job interview she turned the position down. As she puts it, during the interview 'bits more were creeping in, you know...well, you wouldn't mind doing the odd bit of cooking, looking after the children and doing a bit of laundry and I thought...an unpaid au pair, definitely not!'

After seeing an ad in one of the London evening papers, Gillespie applied and got the job as a gardener in The Regent's Park, the only woman amongst 'all these men'.

But she says there were no problems at all although she looks amused recounting the story of the canteen where the men were in one room and she had a room of her own, with a hatch, through which her breakfast was passed at the start of each day.

She remembers that there were lots and lots of begonias that were propagated in the glass house along with geraniums and dahlias. Jobs involved propagating plants and deadheading, especially in the Rose Garden which 'was never ending' suggesting that some things never change.

Josephine's favourite place was the rockery where she would happily have stayed forever. Then, as now, she says she got to know regular visitors to the park including one, elegantly dressed, tall man whom the gardener's



nicknamed, 'the dentist', for no particular reason. Another regular visitor Josephine describes as 'persistent' and although there was never any trouble, as she puts it, she did develop a system of sign language to be used to communicate with her male co-workers should things 'get out of hand', which they never did. She suspects that he was the one who wrote her a poem before she left which she has framed in her home.

As the years passed Josephine was joined by a host of other women in the gardens, at least five whose names she remembers and recalls that they all fancied young colleague named Jimmy.

Her advice for anyone interested in a career in horticulture is, 'Just have a go. Get some qualifications and have a lovely life'.



TREE FELLING QMG, OAT

Matt Steinmann, Arboricultural Officer

This February our arboricultural contractors dismantled four significant poplar trees, three in Queen Mary's Gardens and one in the Open Air Theatre.

Ten years ago there were six Italian poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') around the Begonia garden in Queen Mary's Gardens. Since then we have lost two in storms and felled a third. In all cases the mature trees had substantial lower stem decay. Investigation identified substantial decay in the remaining three trees, which we have decided to reduce to four meters. They will produce new shoots and we will manage them as small trees; at this height they no longer present a significant risk.

As is always the case when we undertake work to apparently healthy trees we consulted the Local Planning Authority (in this case Westminster) prior to undertaking

the work.

Those of you who visit the Open Air Theatre may remember a large poplar (*Populus alba*) which stood centre stage. Unfortunately this tree also had significant decay but in the branch structure of its upper crown. Again we have had to significantly reduce the tree to address the risk; it has been reduced to eight meters in height, with some small lateral branches also intact. Again it is still alive and will produce a smaller canopy but the risk which the tree posed has been significantly reduced.

Poplars, like willows, grow fast and their wood is relatively vulnerable to decay or failure through breakage in storms and so we pro-actively manage both species across the parks. We pollard all of our willows once they have reached maturity and have reduced other Italian poplars as we did to the trees to the north of Triton Fountain which were reduced in height a couple of years ago.

Our over-riding principle is that we want to retain old big trees but addressing the risk these older trees pose does require these

kind of interventions. By reducing their size we can retain the valuable habitat which an old stem with internal decay can provide.

CHIT CHAT NEW TIME

Every Tuesday 3 pm – 5 pm

Primrose Hill Café, NW8 7LS

Meet new friends, enjoy a complimentary coffee and cake and be part of a wider park community.

With thanks to Wallacea Living and Benugo.

'I have met new neighbours, enjoyed a lively chat across diverse topics...all in the most convivial atmosphere'.

THE COLOSSEUM & THE REGENT'S PARK

Peter Darley

In the Winter newsletter we followed the Wilson family who, in 1830, set out to explore Georgian London. In this instalment they pay a visit to The Colosseum, designed to exhibit a panoramic view of London... and then they continue on to a very different park to the one we know today.

The Colosseum

At Park Square East they walked past the Diorama, London's first, still attracting visitors to experience the large painted and illuminated tableaux it portrayed, many of overseas scenes. Entering the Regent's Park, they made for the Colosseum. Begun in 1824 from the designs of Decimus Burton to exhibit Thomas Horner's 'Panoramic view of London', this most popular of all panoramas was one of the first sights to which visitors to the capital were taken.

It had been painted from sketches taken in a temporary wooden cabin or 'crow's nest' erected in 1821 on the summit of the cross of St. Paul's. The painting of the canvas took Thomas Horner and many other artists more than four years.

The panorama was viewed from two galleries, one above the other, intended to correspond with the two galleries in the dome of the cathedral, to create the illusion that the spectator was actually standing at that altitude. Above this was another staircase, leading to an upper gallery, the view from which was intended to represent the view from the cross at the top of St. Paul's.

The painting covered upwards of 46,000



Geometric ascent to the galleries, 1829, Ackermann (Yale Centre for British Art)



7 Cumberland Terrace (Yale Centre for British Art)

square feet, or more than an acre of canvas. The dome on which the sky was painted was thirty feet greater in diameter than that of St. Paul's and the horizon ran for nearly 130 miles.

Thornbury described the scene in 1887 (British History Online): 'To the eye and to the mind the dwellings of near a million and a half of human beings, a countless succession of churches, bridges, halls, theatres, and mansions; a forest of floating masts, and the manifold pursuits, occupations, and powers of its ever-active, ever-changing inhabitants.'

The Regent's Park

Marylebone Park and the walk to Primrose Hill had long been a popular Sunday excursion among the general public looking for pleasure or entertainment. The transformation of Marylebone Park into Regent's Park was commenced in 1812 from the designs of John Nash, the architect of the Department of Woods and Forests, who had lately finished Regent Street. While Nash continued to be involved in a supervisory role, it was James Burton, the builder and property developer of the park who took charge and his son, Decimus Burton who was responsible for the architectural detail of many of its mansions, starting with the Holme, which he designed for his father.

Regent's Park is over 400 acres in extent and nearly circular in form. At this time of the Wilsons' walk, in 1830, the park was the private domain of the wealthy leaseholders of its large mansions. It first opened to the public in 1835, initially for just two days a week.

The Zoological Society of London, occupying part of the northern boundary of the park, was instituted in 1826, under the auspices of Sir Humphrey Davy, Sir Stamford Raffles, and other eminent individuals. In April 1828, the Zoological Gardens were opened to members. In 1831 William IV presented the Royal Menagerie to the Zoological Society, most of which was transferred from the Tower of London. Not until 1847, however, was the general public admitted as an aid to funding. Christened the "Zoo" by Londoners, the Zoological Gardens soon had the most extensive collection of animals in the world. They became the chief attraction of Regent's

Park to the thousands who flocked to London during the holiday seasons.

The Broad Walk, which was to provide the main public entrance to the Zoo, had not yet been created and the public in 1830 was confined to what is now known as the Outer Circle of the park while work continued with its landscaping.

After the Colosseum, the Wilsons walked along this Outer Circle. They could not fail to be impressed by the terraces of newly completed mansions: Cambridge Terrace, Chester Terrace and Cumberland Terrace. Cumberland Terrace became the second of the great terraces to come into occupation in 1828.

It was not just British visitors that were impressed. In the words of the Vicomte d'Arlincourt, in his account of a visit to England in 1844 (British History Online):

'The Regent's Park, above all, is a scene of enchantment, where we might fancy ourselves surrounded by the quiet charms of a smiling landscape, or in the delightful garden of a magnificent country house, if we did not see on every side a countless number of mansions, adorned with colonnades, porticoes, pediments, and statues, which transport us back to London; but London is not here, as it is on the banks of the Thames, the gloomy commercial city. Its appearance has entirely changed. Purified from its smoke and dirt, and decked with costly splendour, it has become the perfumed abode of the aristocracy. No artisans' dwellings are to be seen here: nothing less than the habitations of princes.'

The Wilsons continued their walk past Cumberland Terrace, past St Katherine's church and Gloucester Terrace. Many street entertainers worked the passers-by near the entrance to the park at Gloucester Gate.



The Colosseum (Yale Centre for British Art)

SAVE THE DATE!

THE BIG LUNCH IN THE REGENT'S PARK

- A SUMMER CELEBRATION SUNDAY 9 JUNE, 2024

Sunday 9 June, 2024
Picnic 12 noon - 2pm
Entertainment 2pm – 4pm

Following the outstanding success of the Big Coronation Lunch on The Broadwalk last year, we have arranged a Summer Celebration in the Park, which we hope will become an annual event.

Enjoy and participate in the free entertainment, which this year is a celebration of British music and folk dance as you have never seen it performed.

Join the Friends on the Broadwalk for The Big Lunch.

Noon – 2pm The Big Lunch 2024

2pm – 2.35pm Step Hop House

Hip hop and traditional music and dance collide in a quirky, colourful and magical performance by Folk Dance Remixed, a funky performance group who fuse traditional, hip hop and folk dance and music styles.

**2.50pm – 3.10pm Street Dance-
The Maypole Workshop**

Take part in a unique maypole workshop as Folk Dance Remixed show how to create ribbon designs around a maypole.

**3.15pm – 4pm A Ceilidh Jam
Workshop**

Get on your feet for a folksy social dance as callers teach you folk formations mixed with street dance.

MEET: On the Broadwalk at the Broadwalk Café from 12 noon.

COST: £10 per person for a single table place or £50 for a whole table of 6 places

Book now to secure a much sought after table, invite family and friends and bring your own picnic or buy one in the Park.

Nearer the time it will be possible to order a picnic from Benugo Bar & Kitchen.

To book visit:

<https://www.frp-ph-members.org/events/the-big-lunch-in-the-regents-park-a-summer-celebration>



GET IN TOUCH

Park Office: regents@royalparcs.org.uk

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Treasurer: Jo Faktor treasurer@regentspark.org

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