



With thanks to our sponsors:



FROM THE CHAIR

Mark Elliott
Chairman

Wasn't the Friends summer in the Park wonderful this year?

We had:

- A Big Lunch for 300 people with great entertainment from Cecil Sharp House
- 32 varied events (still a few to come)
- Great walks, talks and tours
- Our Gazebo Visitor Centre in operation at Clarence Gate every weekend
- Music every weekend on 2 bandstands
- Swing Dancing at the Bandstand- many joined in and danced!
- Six Amazing concerts in the beautiful 'Secret Garden'
- Weekly *Chit Chat* in the Primrose Hill café with up to 30 enjoying it
- Regular litter picking by 30 Friends and 17 company teams
- Two days of bulb planting by Friends' volunteers
- The *Mamma Mia!* movie and entertainment at the Bandstand with audience participation!

See more information about many of these in this newsletter.

Thanks go to our events team run by Viv Ward for arranging such a diverse range of events and for arranging *Chit-Chat* and the *Mamma Mia!* movie. Also, to Wallacea Living who sponsored both. Also to Robin Black for arranging the Big Lunch and, along with Ronwen Emerson, Freda Pashley, and Debbie Marshall, for operating the Gazebo. To Nancy Janin, Tom Thomson and Mark Elliott for organising the music and for raising £70,000 to pay for it! To Mike Baker for leading the litter picking, and to hundreds of volunteers for making all our summer programme possible

Looking forward, we have some new initiatives. Thanks to Committee member Kennedy Cruikshank, we are setting up a Natural History Group. Kennedy kicked it off on 9 October with a presentation by Professor Tim Blackburn in the Park office conference room. Working with the Park team and the Royal



Illustration by Jesse Brown

Parks' wildlife experts, the objective is to involve Friends members in observing and encouraging park wildlife. He is planning various groups - Birds, Invertebrates, Botany, Trees etc and will be delighted if members contact him at wildlife@friendsofregentspark.org to participate.

Our plans to add physical assets to the Friends are progressing. Our Truck Visitor Centre will soon be decorated and fitted with an awning under which our Gazebo teams will sit. We will also fit out the interior to efficiently keep all our Gazebo and Bandstand equipment. These costs will be covered by a generous donation of £5,000 from the Rose Foundation.

The Royal Parks will soon begin to refurbish our new Kiosk near Hanover gate. Once in

operation we will be asking for your ideas on how we can use it. All ideas will be welcome but if you want to use it, and if our committee accepts your proposal, we will ask you to organise the operation!

As you can see, the Friends never stand still - we ask you to get involved in any way you can. Right now, we are looking for a new Treasurer to join our Committee - are you the person to take on this role? (See page 6)

Our End of Season Review will take place on Thursday 7 November at the Danish Church from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Please make a note in your diary.

I wish you all an enjoyable Autumn in your Park. I hope to see many of you at the End of Season Review.

REGENTS PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL – SUMMER 2024 REVIEW

Mark Elliott
Nancy Janin
Tom Thomson
Trustees

Ambitious is the word that comes to mind when you think about what happened to music in The Regent's Park this summer. We hosted 45 weekend concerts on two bandstands for an audience of over 20,000 - no mean achievement. But we also upgraded the band selection - particularly for the ever-popular Saturday Jazz on the Broadwalk and added swing dance lessons to some of the Sunday big band concerts too. Quite a challenge for the organisers.

If that was not enough, the Music Festival trustees had the crazy idea of arranging seven events in the St John's Lodge ("Secret") Garden, up from one concert produced by the music festival team in 2023. (Opera Brava and the Lord Chamberlain's Men ran their own shows last year). Expanding from one to seven events proved to be a massive endeavour! But the rewards were great as around 2,000 people attended and, according to the post-concert reviews, they loved both the music and being in London's most beautiful, small garden.

The variety of the events let everyone find something they liked. Starting with *Songs from the Pleasure Gardens* presented by the amusing entertainer Nicky Spence, continuing with *The Magic of Opera*, two classical concerts by the Orchestra for the Earth (OFE), *An Evening of Musical Theatre* and a performance of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

There was also an event for the kids when Royal Academy of Music graduate Alfie Richards and his friends took children from three to eight around the park while telling the story of the *Pied Piper of Marylebone*. Parents and kids alike all loved it!

Much to our delight, our Festival Patron, Sir Karl Jenkins, "Britain's most popular living classical composer" was in the audience with his wife Carol on the last night and lingered afterwards to chat with performers and others.

Of course, the organisers would love to hold all the concerts under the open sky, but the UK's unpredictable summer weather is too risky for a fledgling organisation. With no way to for us to offer 'rain cheques', not surprisingly, people are reluctant to book tickets for open-air events in advance. Whilst the 30m long marquee was expensive, it did fit nicely on the lawn and saved the day on Thursday 1 August when storm clouds opened at the beginning of a delightful concert by the OFE. Fortunately, the thundery rain ended just as the conductor lowered his baton and everyone had a great evening, lingering in



the garden over a drink when it was all over.

This was possible due to an important addition to the entertainment this year - wonderful catering provided by the Benugo team that added a 'Glyndebourne' element to each evening.

Financially, it was a difficult challenge for such a small charity. By adding the Secret Garden concerts, costs jumped from the £20,000 that is spent every year on the Bandstand Festival to £70,000. Like many theatres and concert halls, Secret Garden ticket sales only covered about 40% of the cost, so the sponsor donations were immensely important. Thanks go to Sandfords for their support since 2017, Benugo for their support and catering, an anonymous donor,

Westminster Council, the Crown Estate, Westminster Business School, Fidelio Trust and several individual donors.

Huge thanks also are due to the park management, Nick Biddle, Kunle Kolade, and Pawel Szyncarczuk, and to concert manager Evelyn Street-Wilcox. The Gavin Jones' teams set up and took down tents, moved equipment, and most importantly, assisted our volunteers who helped every weekend at the Bandstand and at the concerts in the Secret Garden too. We rely on the park staff's willingness, expertise and support.

We had a wonderful, innovative, music-filled, season and hope the festival can be bigger and better next summer!

TRP AND FRIENDS MOURN THE PASSING OF TONY DUCKETT

It is with great sadness we share with you the news that our lovely 'bird man', Tony Duckett, passed away peacefully from Leukaemia on Thursday 1 August 2024 at home surrounded by his family.

Tony was a much-loved member of staff at the parks. He started in March 1977 as Second Assistant to the Waterfowl Keeper in Regent's Park, then as a Senior Wildlife Officer (Regent's Park) eventually becoming Conservation Officer (all parks) under the new TRP charity.

Says Alister Hayes, Head of Programmes, Volunteering and Conservation TRP, 'Tony was visionary in spotting opportunities for habitat development and when he retired in October 2022, he left a remarkable 45-year legacy of biodiversity improvement across many of our parks.'

'He had an outstanding knowledge and understanding of the natural world and a deep appreciation and fondness for birds that he willingly shared.'



Tony Duckett

It was just over two years ago that the Friends gathered in Benugo's Bar & Kitchen to mark Tony's retirement. We presented him with a book about Guy Taplin with whom Tony worked in The Regent's Park. Guy signed and sent a message with the book along

with one of his bird sculptures for which he is renowned.

Our Patron, Linda Lennon CBE said, 'I was so blessed to have Tony in my team and have the most amazing memories in 2012 of him showing me hobbies at Bushy Park. He was taken far too soon.'

Many of us have attended his bird walks and marvelled at his knowledge, ability, photography and his passion for habitat development.

Siam Chowkwanyun was a regular and said, 'I miss his presence and remember him when I pass the habitats he created for the migrating birds. His care was throughout. "Greywag ... you just missed it," he'd say. He was so quick at spotting birds on the go. His pictures speak more about the birds rather than words. There were many on his website and blogs!'

The Friends wish Tony's family, friends and colleagues their heartfelt sympathies. He was a very special man.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP LAUNCHED

Kennedy Cruickshank

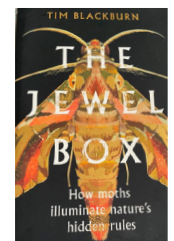
The first meeting of the newly-formed Friends' 'Natural History' group was held in the Park office meeting room on Wednesday 9 October.

Prof Tim Blackburn from UCL gave an invigorating 25-minute talk on 'London moths and their general Ecology', about sampling Camden's moths from a rooftop trap, with the moths identified and released the next morning. See the fine photo showing six of the 400 species he has recorded there over the last six years. Their numbers and types (species) vary considerably both night to night and seasonally. Moths are probably the most important insect pollinators, even than solitary or, less efficient, honey bees.

The Park has records of moths in years past and we are discussing whether sampling again near different species of the Park's considerable tree collection would be useful. A key point is the balance between the health first of moth caterpillars (not generally a menace to local plants) and then of their food plants/ trees. The life cycles of moths are particularly sensitive to damage of their food plants which is aggravated by herbicides. A separate issue for the southern UK has been the invasive 'oak processionary moth' (OPM) that luckily is now controlled naturally and is no longer being sprayed – which killed all moth and butterfly (Lepidoptera) caterpillars. OPMs' natural predators are a parasitic fly and an ichneumon wasp which have



Copyright 2024 Prof Tim Blackburn



Tim's book, winner of a 2024 'Clarivate' award, is now in paperback at £10.99.

controlled OPM spread dramatically, so that spraying is mostly no longer needed.

Spraying or Herbicides do kill large numbers of insects and moths in particular. Their caterpillars are the major source of food for many different bird species. A simple example comes from blue or great tit hatchlings that can eat 100 caterpillars /day each in nesting season. As there are some ten million adults of both in Britain, a billion caterpillars per day are needed by these two bird species alone. As many of our migrant birds, particularly warblers, swallows, swifts and house / sand martins also eat insects whenever they can, demand is colossal. We do not need to kill off

their insect food. (Remember the warning from driving on spring-summer evenings or at night – windscreens are no longer spattered because there are so many fewer insects about).

Our next meeting will be on 'Bees and Wasps' with Dr Tony Madgwick, a specialist recently retired from the University of Westminster, Wednesday 13 November, same place and time - 6:30 p.m., Regent's Park offices' meeting room turning right and immediately right again off the Inner Circle, from Chester Road. Any Regent's Park /Primrose Hill visitor with a Natural History interest most welcome. Please suggest your interest and CONFIRM your attendance to: wildlife@friendsofregentspark.org

PARK NEWS

PLANTING TRIAL TAKES PLACE FOR GARDEN TO COMMEMORATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Emily McGhie

Senior Communications Officer, The Royal Parks

The Royal Parks charity is undertaking a planting trial of hardy, pollinator-friendly and beautiful plants that will eventually be planted in the new garden being created in The Regent's Park, to honour the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

A team of ten Royal Parks' apprentices, together with skilled gardeners, have planted 300 plants in a trial bed close to the proposed garden. The innovative approach involves planting 65 different species in the beds, containing two mixes of soil: both are made from a sustainable mix of site top soil and recycled crushed concrete, with different percentages of concrete mixed within them. By growing the same plants in these two distinct environments, the trial will compare their performance.

The trial focuses on plants that will be more resilient to the pressures of climate change, such as Nepeta and Phlomis, in an approach that will be integral to the garden's sustainable design. The Royal Parks' gardeners have provided their expertise through the process, working alongside planting designer Noel Kingsbury who has selected the plants, and Landscape Architect firm, HTA.

Over the next 12 months, The Royal Parks' horticultural experts will closely monitor the trial and use the data to inform the final design of both the planting scheme and the soil



The Regent's Park undertakes trial bed planting in the two-acre garden honouring Queen Elizabeth II.

composition for the new garden.

Anne Tuomisto, Head Gardener at The Regent's Park said:

'We're thrilled to conduct our first-ever planting trial for the new garden at The Regent's Park. This is an exciting opportunity to advance our experimental approach to planting, by selecting species that can thrive in low-nutrient, man-made, sustainable soils while offering spectacular colour and biodiversity benefits. Testing this approach in real conditions is vital, and we're eager to see the results.'

Sustainability is at the core of this project. By

repurposing materials like concrete, the garden aims to set a new standard for sustainable urban gardening, minimising waste and promoting eco-friendly practices. The new garden is set to open in 2026, to mark what would have been Queen Elizabeth II's centenary year.

The garden will reference Queen Elizabeth II's life and service by using plants significant to the late monarch or with royal associations such as the specially bred Narcissus 'Diamond Jubilee' or Tulipa 'Royal Celebration'. It will also include several of her preferred plants like lily of the valley.

You can view our first update video here:

[A new garden in The Regent's Park, London](#) | [Demolition and site clearance](#) | [The Royal Parks - YouTube](#)

MOTH SURVEYS IN THE REGENT'S PARK

Charles Linton

Help Nature Thrive Team TRP

This year, the Help Nature Thrive team has been running weekly moth trap surveys with staff and volunteers. Moth traps are a surveying technique that involves using a light to attract moths to a container where they can safely spend the night. In the morning, the moths can be studied, recorded, and released.

Since March, 150 different moth species have been recorded in Regent's Park, including three London BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) species which are locally in decline. These are the White ermine, August thorn, and Small square-spot.

It is important to keep a record of which species have been visiting the moth traps at

night so we can see population trends over the years, and to think about the habitats and food sources available to help support these important pollinators.

Regent's Park Nature Roadshow

Join us as we celebrate the incredible nature of The Regent's Park on Thursday 31 October. Our Nature Roadshows are FREE drop-in activities perfect for families and budding environmentalists:

- Follow a spooky scavenger trail.
- Take a closer look at nature at our mini-museum.
- Create your own nature crafts and have a go with our interactive games and quizzes!
- Learn more here:

[Nature Roadshows](#) | [The Royal Parks](#)

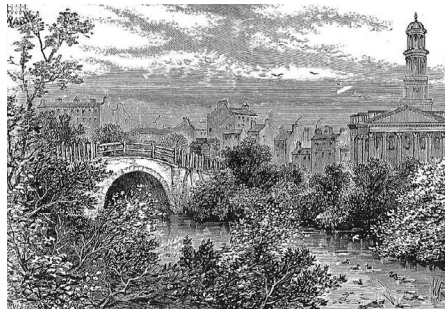


Autumn Thorn Moth (Photo by Sharon Howe)

YORK BRIDGE REPAIR WORKS - BE ADVISED

York Bridge is a Grade II listed arch road bridge crossing The Regent's Park boating lake. It predated the John Nash scheme for The Regent's Park. Nash added an arch at each end, and added to its width on either side, to accommodate the new residents' carriages.

The bridge has suffered from overloading in the past, causing it to deteriorate, and it is now in need of urgent conservation work. The bridge is one of The Royal Parks' oldest assets. Its unique character will not be affected by the works. This project is essential to preserve



the bridge for future generations. Throughout the works, diversion routes for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles will be clearly signposted.



Contract discussions are underway with a preferred contractor, and works are expected to commence in late autumn/early winter 2024.

A LAMB, A RIVER AND HORSES: THE GANG HEADS BACK TO THE REGENT'S PARK

Flo Van Heck

Filming and Events Manager, TRP

'I need a team of good agents. But I just have the Slow Horses,' said Jackson Lamb in Apple TV's hit spy thriller TV series based on the *Slough House* series of novels by Mick Herron. Well, at The Royal Parks we will have the *Slow Horses* any day now as filming takes place in our park in the coming months. The show premiered in 2022 and follows Jackson Lamb's band of misfits and losers. An integral part of the show's plotline includes the MI5 headquar-

ters being called 'The Park', and The Regent's Park will be featured once again.

From Jackson Lamb cheerily (or as cheery as Lamb can be), having an ice-cream by the Jubilee Gates, to secret meet ups at night, our park has been handed a wide variety of filming requests. We are always delighted to have the parks featured. We work closely with the production companies and our own teams including Park Management, Wildlife, Ecology and many more. As the saying goes, it really does take a village. This ensures that filming is done in such a way as to safeguard these amazing

spaces and its wildlife.

We also must allow for all park users to enjoy these spaces while being supportive of the local film industry which generates revenue that comes directly back into parks to help maintain and run them. It is, at times, a challenging balancing act but an extremely rewarding one.

Keep your eyes peeled. You never know when you might get a glimpse of some *Slow Horses*' magic in the making, right on your doorstep. Season 4 is out now on Apple TV with new episodes dropping every Wednesday.

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS HUB HYBRID PITCH IS A WINNER

Ollie Anderson

David Ellis

The Hub and The Regent's Park sports pitches had their busiest summer season to date, with the help of the installation of the new hybrid sports pitch. Over the summer, on our 36 pitches, we hosted more than 5,000 bookings, with hundreds of thousands of people enjoying playing cricket, softball, touch rugby and rounders in The Regent's Park.

The inclusion of the new hybrid pitch, which was first used in April, also allowed the Hub team to work with partners and stakeholders to enhance our girls football provision which aims to reach 110 teams by 2026. The Royal Parks partnered with Arsenal FC to deliver a summer league which introduced 32 new girls' teams to the park, playing each week. In a further exciting development, The Regent's Park Youth League have 64 girls' teams registered (up from 32 last year) for the new season. The youth league operates on Saturdays from September to March. The Hub is on target to meet the development outcomes of the hybrid



The Royal Parks and Arsenal FC's summer league introduced 32 new girls' teams to the park.

pitch grant which will be a huge boost to girls' grassroots football in London.

The hybrid pitch also enabled the parks to develop a summer disability football league. Due to a lack of facilities, the North London Special League, which previously played in Camden, could only accommodate eight teams but the opportunity to use our new pitch has allowed the league to expand to 25 teams. Three quarters of the participants

have a learning disability, a long-term health condition, or both, which are often seen as significant barriers to participating regularly in sports and exercise. The league will continue to run on Sunday mornings throughout winter.

The hard work of the sports team delivering first class facilities and opportunities to underserved groups has led to The Hub being nominated for a Grassroots Football Award from the FA.

SAVE THE DATES

END OF SEASON REVIEW AND VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS PARTY

Thursday 7 November 2024
The Danish Church
4 St Katharine's Precinct
Regent's Park
London NW1 4HH
6:30-8:30 p.m.

CHIT CHAT

Every Tuesday, 3 - 5 p.m.
(summer hours)
Primrose Hill Café
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(winter hours from 29 October)
*Just show up. Free drink and a snack
for Friends. Meet with fellow Friends
- learn, explore, chat in our pop up
community at the base of the iconic
'Hill with a View'.*

REGENT'S PARK NATURE ROADSHOW

Wednesday 31 October 2024
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Next to Broadwalk Café
*Free but must register at [www.
eventbrite.com/cc/nature-
roadshow-3659149](http://www.eventbrite.com/cc/nature-roadshow-3659149)*

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP - NEW

Wednesday 13 November 2024
6:30 p.m.
Regent's Park Offices
Meeting Room
*'Bees and Wasps' with
Dr Tony Madgwick.
To confirm interest and learn more,
email: wildlife@friendsofregentspark.org*

FIR TREE CHOCOLATE TASTING & TALK

Thursday 14 November 2024
7:30 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom
*Last booking date 21 October so
chocolate can be posted to you. Cost: £25
for a Tasting Box (sufficient for two peo-
ple) and curated tasting. To book, visit:
[www.frp-ph-members.org/events/choc-
olate-tasting-in-conjunction-with-fir-
tree-chocolate-ltd-november-2024](http://www.frp-ph-members.org/events/chocolate-tasting-in-conjunction-with-fir-tree-chocolate-ltd-november-2024)*

EVENTS

*Walks, talks, tours and more.
Many events are free for Friends.
Book here: [www.friendsofregentspark.
org/friends-events](http://www.friendsofregentspark.org/friends-events)*

PAST EVENTS



Cllr Robert Rigby, Lord Mayor of Westminster hosted a reception for the Friends in October.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIENDS DISCOUNT ON PLAYS

Our friends at the Marylebone Theatre have generously offered the Friends discounts on two upcoming productions at the Theatre this Autumn/Winter.

Book now (using the discount code FRIENDSOFREGENTSPARK) to secure discounts on:

WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ANNE FRANK: 25% off on Band A and B for previews only. Runs **4-23 November 2024**. To book go to: <https://tickets.marylebonetheatre.com/tickets/series/WWTAWWTAAF>.

A SHERLOCK CAROL: 10% off on Band A and B. Runs **29 November-5 January**. Now in its third year, this critically acclaimed festive



mystery is a holiday season must see. To book go to: tickets.marylebonetheatre.com/tickets/series/SHERLOCK24.

The theatre is in the magnificent Rudolf Steiner Building 35Park Road, NW1 6XT. It is outside the congestion zone with plenty of parking nearby and a five minute walk from Baker Street tube station.

TREASURER WANTED

The good news is that our Treasurer Jody, is expecting a baby! She will be leaving our Committee around the end of 2024, and we are looking for someone to replace her.

It is not difficult work but you need bookkeeping skills.

If this could be you, please write to: chair@friendsofregentspark.org

Become a Friend TODAY!

*For events and
membership information,
visit: friendsofregentspark.org*



FRIEZE 2024

Anne-Marie Craven

Entering The Regent's Park from the St Andrews Place entrance, the first Frieze artwork you encounter is Leonora Carrington's, *The Dancer* (pictured top left), and is, I hope, bound to impress. She fits in well with the choice of works by Fatos Usek in her second year of curating for Frieze sculpture.

There are 22 works in all, some of which involve performances, music, movement and AI, and with artists from ten different countries. Here are just a few of my favourites....

The Dancer (El Bailarin), 2011 is surreal, strange and challenging. The limbs both human and animal cavort happily on the grass. Living mostly in Mexico until her death in 2011 Carrington was a founding member of the women's liberation movement there in the 1970s.

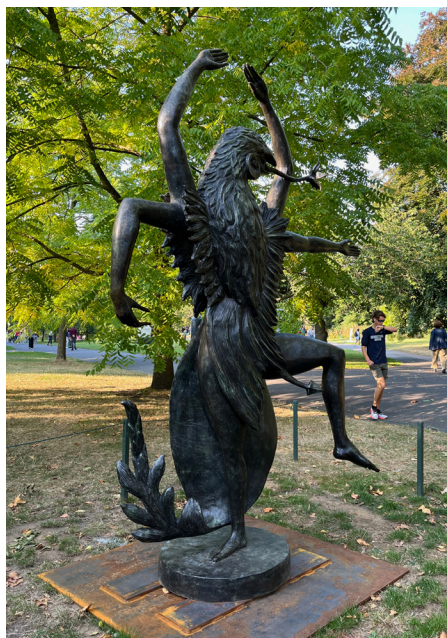
This is followed by two works, *The Duet*, *Bronze Vessel 1 (Strike)* and *Bronze Vessel 2 (Double Mooring)* by Theaster Gates, who lives in Chicago. His main work is in ceramics and so he is breaking new ground with large, tall, bronze 'vessels', described as 'maritime bollards'. He works with struggling African-American urban communities, particularly young people, helping communities fix problems and improve people's lives.

My favourite work this year is *Ennui Head*, 2020 by Yoshitomo Nara (top right) who lives and works in Japan. He paints and draws as well as sculpts. But here is a child expressing perhaps anxiety or is it just quiet contemplation or boredom as the title implies. The great Japanese earthquake in 2011 was a huge influence to his art, and Nara says, 'I just wanted to put all my energy into hand-thinking...I began to work on a massive lump of clay to make bronze sculptures (which this is). It helped: I accordingly recovered my hands for painting during this process'.

There are two intriguing works by Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, from the UAE. *The Ghaf Tree 2024* highlights the significance of this drought resistant tree which survives the arid desert conditions of the Middle East – a symbol of resilience, sustainability and strength. *The Form 2024* is meant to evoke ancient cave art with primitive forms which might have been dug up rather than created.

Nathan Coley from Glasgow gives us another text *I Don't Have Another Land*, 2022, with neon lighting. You may remember his message displayed outside the Tate Gallery. 'We must cultivate our garden.' His thoughts are that we think words have fixed meanings but it is your beliefs which give them meaning!

LIGHTNING ROD, 2024 is by Kirstine Roepstorff who works in Denmark. The cast bronze rod (middle right), which you need to walk around to appreciate the conch shell and some human form, contrasts with the broken



rocks surrounding the work. Should you ask if it was lightning which caused the cracks?

One of the more complex works for me is *Crude Hints*, 2024 by Nika Neelova (bottom right). Here is an artist born in Moscow but living in London who was intrigued by the discovery of a mosaic floor from a Roman mausoleum by the team from Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on a site in Southwark. So here is a re-imagined mosaic floor reconstructed from reclaimed site materials – natural stones, cast Jesmonite and earth pigments. All laid on a carpet, I was relieved to hear, and with some pieces still waiting to be laid down?

But probably the most intriguing work is *The Shadow* 2024 by Albano Hernandez who was born in Spain but lives in Cambridge. The silhouette of the tree is painted on the grass with water-based grass paint and he will need to repaint it more than once during the exhibition. Hernandez was intrigued by the choice of tree which is a Liquidamber or sweet gum. Very

significant for him because it was Francisco Hernandez de Toledo, court physician to Philip II of Spain, who discovered the tree on his scientific expedition to the new world in 1570-77. It was introduced later to England in 1681. There is of course a hidden meaning in Albano's work – the universal 'shadow' cast by the impact of global deforestation.

Finally *seeing both sides*, 2024 by Woody de Othello who lives in the San Francisco Bay area but is of Haitian descent. The seven-foot-tall patinated bronze figure is doubled, with multiple limbs extending in all four directions (bottom left). The bottom half has feet pointing outwards, while the raised arms and hands all point inwards, holding up the severed head. The figure exists at an axis of directionality, the intersection of divinity and humanity. He says he was inspired by the Dogon the group from the region of Mali whose complex cosmology informs every aspect of their socio-sacred lives. Too tempting this one for children I suspect.

CLOUDS DON'T STOP 'MAMMA MIA!' PARTY

Viv Ward

On a rather gloomy day a large audience assembled in front of the bandstand on Holme Green for a free, open air showing of the film *Mamma Mia!*. This was The Friends of Regent's Park contribution to *Silver Sunday* which is now a nationwide event run by Age UK to benefit and entertain older citizens.

The afternoon started with light rain which soon stopped as we were entertained with live music by Mister Meredith which set the mood before screening *Mamma Mia!* to an audience of approximately 200 people. The sunshine and jolly music in the film warmed up what became an enthusiastic crowd many of whom were singing along. Benugo, who run the park cafes had a gazebo selling refreshments whilst our generous sponsors Wallacea Living, the luxury retirement community operator, had a photobooth - a step up from selfies.

As the audience left the Park the rain came down quite heavily so we were fortunate that it had held off until we had all enjoyed the film. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.



GET IN TOUCH

Park Office: regents@royalpark.org.uk

Chair: Mark Elliott chair@friendsofregentspark.org

Secretary: Pamela Henry secretary@friendsofregentspark.org

Treasurer: Jody Zhou treasurer@friendsofregentspark.org

Newsletter: Robin Black newsletter@friendsofregentspark.org

Membership: Jo Faktor membership@friendsofregentspark.org

Events: Vivian Ward events@friendsofregentspark.org

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