



# CHISWICK HOUSE FRIENDS

## NEWSLETTER Autumn 2017

Charity No 289907

Patron: Lord Burlington



This year has been one to celebrate, with the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust assuming responsibility from English Heritage for the operational management of the House: this has brought both the House and Gardens under one team for the first time in almost 70 years. What's more, there has been a string of successful events run by the Trust such as the Lantern Festival, Camellia Show (which we the Friends sponsored) and summer music, as well as our own events including the very successful Dog Show. In addition there has been marvellous success in the 2017 London in Bloom competition.

On a personal note, I have decided to step down as Chairman of the Friends, although I will remain as a Friends Trustee. My place is being taken by John Armstrong, who has acted as Deputy Chair for several years now, and who is in a good position to continue the work.

*George Nissen*

Welcome to all our members, including those who have recently joined the Friends. As a reminder for everyone, we the Friends exist to help preserve and enhance Chiswick House and Gardens. In doing so, we work closely with the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust ('the Trust'), who run the estate. In our twice-yearly newsletter we like to give you news from the Trust, and these two inside pages give an overview of their recent events and developments as well as a preview of forthcoming ones. On the back page, you will find details of our (Friends) news and events.

## Chiswick House and Gardens Trust News

### Estate Reunited for First Time in 70 Years

In April the Trust assumed management of Chiswick House from English Heritage, reuniting the estate. In June, it submitted a Round One application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for "Chiswick House Re-awakes", a landmark project to create a new visitor pavilion to provide more resource space and transform access to the House. If successful, the Trust will prepare detailed plans for work to start in 2019.

### Success in 2017 'London in Bloom'

The Trust won the following awards this year:

- Heritage Parks & Gardens: Gold
- Walled Garden: Gold
- People's Choice Award for Parks
- Our Community Award: joint winners
- RHS Award: 'Outstanding' for the volunteers.

This is a tremendous achievement: the second year running with gold for both Park and Kitchen Gardens. Geraldine King, Garden Estate Manager said:

*"I am overjoyed to see all of the hard work and commitment from the Trust team, Gavin Jones and our volunteers recognised by the awards received today."*



Again on the gardens front, Heathrow Communities Together has provided the Trust with funding for Geraldine's new perennial planting scheme in the Italian Garden (see picture above).

### Light Divine, a Night Sublime...

Two sold-out concerts offering a new "miniature baroque Glyndebourne" concert in the House with a luxury picnic dinner in the Burlington Pavilion took place on two balmy midsummer evenings. With

sponsorship support from a local estate agent Horton & Garton and the Chiswick House Friends, together with donations from Fullers' Brewery and Sipsmith Gin, the event has captured the imagination of the local musical community and has proven popular on social and print media. It even featured on classicfm.com as well as on Chiswick Buzz.



### Patrons Scheme Launched

At the Light Divine concerts in June the Trust launched their Summer Parlour Patrons scheme for companies and individuals. This is open to all and will entitle you to privileged access to the House and Gardens, with invitations to special events throughout the year. To find out more, contact [jane.booth@chgt.org.uk](mailto:jane.booth@chgt.org.uk).



## 2017 Summer Event Round Up

The estate has had a busy summer with lots of activity taking place. 2017 saw a record number of weddings in the estate with 28 being held this year. We have also hosted three corporate summer parties, two birthday parties and 75 cricket games.

The Trust's programme of public events has included:

- Wedding Showcase
- Light Divine, a Night Sublime
- Gifford's Circus
- Luna Open Air Cinema
- Chiswick Book Festival Launch Event
- Open House Weekend.

The Trust is busy planning events for summer 2018, so keep an eye on its website (address below) for more details of what is coming up.

## Beatles Sgt Pepper Installation

In partnership with Gavin Jones and Clifton Nurseries, the Trust put on in May a display recreating the famous Beatles album cover from 1967. The campaign brought people from Europe, South America and other areas of the UK to see the installation which stayed for an additional month due to popular demand. Marketing included BBC Radio London, Good Morning Great Britain (ITV), the Evening Standard, BBC Gardens Question Time.

**Chiswick House celebrates Beatles' Sgt Pepper with garden for Chelsea Flower Show**

The gardens were a location for music films shot by the band

BO WILSON | Friday 19 May 2017 12:27 BST | 8K likes

Chiswick House recreate The Beatles Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club

Chiswick House is celebrating its role in the release of the Beatles' Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band 50 years ago by recreating the flower bed that forms part of the album cover.

Its gardens were a location for music films shot by the band before the record went on sale on June 1, 1967.

The album's artwork, by Peter Blake and Jann Haworth, used large cut-out photographs of famous people above a bed of hyacinths and peperomia plants, which is being redesigned in front of the Ionic Temple at Chiswick House and will be on display from today as part of the Chelsea Fringe Festival.

Clifton Nurseries in Maida Vale supplied the flowers for the recreation and the original – when it was asked at the last minute to

Have you discovered Walt Disney World Resort in Florida?

**MOST POPULAR**

Chelsea close in on Real Madrid defender Danilo

## Upcoming Trust Events

### October 2017 – April 2018

#### 26 Oct 2017: Pumpkin Carving in Kitchen Garden

Join the Trust for a Halloween half term activity of pumpkin carving in the Kitchen Garden: the perfect autumnal activity to enjoy as a family.

### 24 Nov – 1 Jan 2018: Magical Lantern Festival

The Magical Lantern Festival is back for its third year and plans to be bigger and better than ever! This year the lanterns will be themed around the festive season: expect everything from Santa to Ancient Cities!

### 3, 6 & 10 Dec: Winter Wreath-Making Workshop

The talented team of florists from All For Love will walk you through wreath-making step by step, leaving you with your very own hand-made wreath to take home. All materials and equipment will be provided as will some light refreshments.

### 22 Feb – 25 March 2018: Camellia Show

Come and admire the rare and historic Camellias in the Grade I listed Conservatory: a gorgeous array of blooms - pink, red, white and striped. Visit the collection of 33 different varieties, many of which are descended from the original planting in 1828. The House is open at weekends during the show.

### 7 April 2018: Wedding Showcase

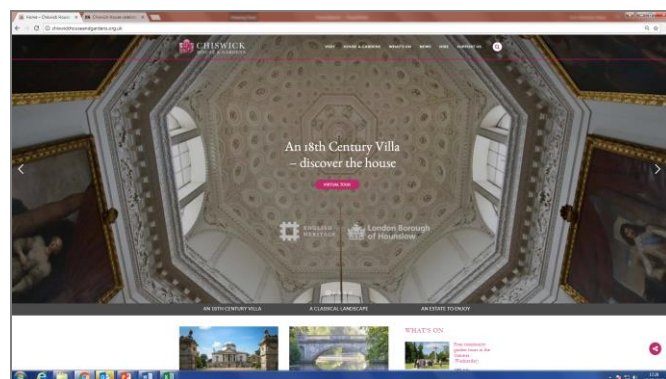
Following the success of the first Chiswick House Wedding Showcase in 2017, the Trust is hosting another in 2018. It is the perfect event if you or a family member are looking to get married and need some inspiration on all of the wedding essentials.

### 21 – 22 April 2018: National Tea Day Festival

Tea Lovers rejoice, the National Tea Day Festival is coming to Chiswick House & Gardens! "Fes-Tea-Val" 2018 will have tea tastings, mixology lessons, celebrity baking master-classes and even an exclusive viewing of one of the world's most prestigious tea ware collections.

## New CHGT Website Launched

The new Trust website was launched in May with the support of a social media campaign. The new site allows visitors to explore in a more user-friendly way and find out about the history of the House and Gardens, and what's on. Keep an eye out for regular blog posts giving an overview of what is happening in the gardens.



## Chiswick House and Gardens Trust

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[www.chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk](http://www.chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk)

## Chiswick House Friends News

### 2017 Friends Events

Following March's very successful Camellia Show, which we sponsored, we held in June a concert at which a group of talented young musicians from the Royal Academy of Music played from the repertoire of JS Bach, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

Then in July we held our Summer Party to which were invited Friends, Volunteers and our esteemed Dog Show Committee. The latter showed what they were made of at our final event of the year...

### 2017 Dog Show

Our biggest ever show was gloriously successful, bringing sun, people and oh so many dogs!



Our committee headed by Jan Preece did a wonderful job of organising all the events; there were more stallholders than ever and our marvellous sponsors JD Wood, Dogtown and Fullers supported us again, and were joined by Natural Instinct and Berry MINI.



The fancy dress award went to a 1930's police dogs group - see below - and Best of Show to Elm, a rescue dog owned by Jenny.



The egg-and-spoon race again attracted participants, some of whom followed the rules... and the flyball event was heavily subscribed and spectatored ...



### Late September Waterfowl Update (Richard Sales)

The Swan pair, both quite young, left the lake in early May - probably to moult on the Thames. They returned late in August, so we await possible cygnets next Spring. They can be seen flying up and down the lake most days.

Our resident pair of Egyptian Geese had a brood in late February of which three survived to maturity and another brood of nine in late August, of which seven have made it to four weeks. This pair have hatched 65 goslings since March 2013, averaging two broods per year. Their nest is hidden from view 20m up a chestnut tree on the southern side of the Lake.

A kingfisher has been seen twice in the last month which was the first sighting for over a year.

Tufted ducks, mallards, coots and moorhens all had a good breeding season.

Heron visit us almost daily from the Brentford Heronry and cormorants very frequently - on Dog Show Day four were seen drying their wings at the same time.

**Published by the Chiswick House Friends**

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