



CHISWICK HOUSE FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

Charity No 289907

Patron: Lord Burlington

2016 Magical Lantern Festival

This brilliant show has mesmerised us all for the last five weeks, ushering in the Chinese Year of the Monkey. We wish the Trust good luck with this year's Opera, Tosca, in June and look forward to our own Dog Show in September.

George Nissen



Record Visitors for the Lantern Festival



The Magical Lantern Festival, celebrating the Chinese Year of the Monkey, has been thrilling audiences in the gardens after dark for the last five weeks.



The Trust was delighted that the Estate was selected as the venue for the UK premiere. The Organisers, Weli Creative, considered the quality of the Grade I listed gardens to be the 'perfect backdrop' for the Festival.



The Trust has benefited from the income for the month-long hire of the gardens as well as the massive editorial, advertising and TV coverage resulting in over 105,000 visitors to the site, many visiting the gardens for the first time.



Summer Sessions Launch

This year sees the handover of the annual Opera in the Gardens to the Trust. We are delighted to announce that *ThinkersLive* will be working in collaboration with the Events team at the Trust to ensure that the tradition of hosting Opera in the gardens during the Summer months continues. *ThinkersLive* have been running successful events for the last seven years and have a long history of working with top-line acts and with headline corporates and sponsors. They are very excited to be hosting Summer Sessions in the Gardens and have selected Puccini's *Tosca* for the 15th and 16th of June. The Festival will be extended over five days offering a variety of music genres, ranging from classical to jazz to contemporary pop-rock.

As well as offering the best in music, Summer Sessions will also incorporate a Family Fun Day, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Evening and a food village with gourmet hampers also available throughout the events.

For updates, see www.summersessions.co.uk

Rare Access

A prestigious association with the Royal British Society of Sculptors saw more sculptural installations in the Gardens.

The Ionic Temple was chosen as the venue for the 'Historic Environment' category by the award winning Finnish Sculptor, Hanna Haaslahti (below), who created a stunning installation in the Ionic Temple. This provided a wonderful showcase for both artist and the Temple, visited by over 750 people during a chilly December weekend.



Camellia Collection in the 1990's prior to the restoration project.



The Trust was delighted to have an unveiling ceremony (see photo below left) with Herb Short, one of the original team from the ICS, and the press, to honour and thank them for their dedication to the collection. Its importance was celebrated by a recent Study and Media Day for members of the Garden Media Writers Guild. Journalists, photographers and bloggers all attended a presentation and private tour in the Conservatory and behind the scenes in the Melon House to see the propagation programme.

Celebrating the Camellia Collection

The Camellias are looking at their very best at this time of year for the annual Camellia Show. The care and attention from the Trust's gardening team and volunteers has been recognised for the second year running with a Gold Medal for 'Seasonal Plants from the National Plant Collections' at the recent RHS Early Spring Plant Fair.



A new plaque has been unveiled to honour the three members of the International Camellia Society who rescued the rare Chiswick House

The Camellia Show is on now until 13th March: 10.00am – 4:00pm every day with FREE entry and donations welcome.

Positive Visitor Research Findings

Research commissioned by the Trust suggests that there are substantial opportunities to develop a larger audience for the Heritage site. The objective of the research was to identify the potential market and understand both the current and potential visitor needs. The research findings are needed to support the Trust's business plan and the Phase I Heritage Lottery Fund grant application. It will help to ensure audience development and create the conditions for a more sustainable long-term future for the Estate. For more information contact diane.schaefer@chgt.org.uk.

Fundraising

Generous donations are being received from visitors to the Camellia Show. For further information about supporting the Trust please contact jane.booth@chgt.org.uk.

Chiswick House and Gardens Trust

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New Treasurer Wanted

Richard Treganowan is retiring after several years' service as Treasurer of the Friends. We are profoundly grateful for all he has contributed.

We are now seeking a new Treasurer to join the Trustee Committee and look after the books. The job is relatively straightforward and involves keeping track of the monies out and in, as well as satisfying Charity Commission and audit requirements that everything is being done properly.

It would suit someone with financial or book-keeping experience, and would involve preparation of the accounts for the AGM and annual audit, as well as four Trustee meetings per year.

If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please contact the Secretary at the email address below.

2016 Dog Show

After our best show ever last year, this year's show will take place on 25th September. Jan Preece takes over leadership of the committee from Gill Thomas, who is stepping down after 10 years of dedicated work on all our previous shows, for which she has earned our profound thanks. We are fortunate that Gill will continue to be Master of Ceremonies and The Voice of the Dog Show.

Waterfowl Update (by Richard Sales)

The female swan flew back to the lake after 6 weeks absence with a new male from Kew Bridge in late November; but since then they have been away more than here. Latterly we only have the female in residence.

The Egyptian Geese have had two broods since the last newsletter, 6 goslings in late September of which only one survived, and another 5 in late January, the earliest yet, which were all killed within one week – heron and crows are the main suspects.

Joining Peggy, our broken-legged Canada Goose, at the Park Road end of the lake is a broken-legged moorhen – presumably from territorial fighting. Both enjoy being fed.

Memorial Bench for Ted Fawcett

In memory of Ted Fawcett OBE, who died in 2013, we have commissioned a special bench that we believe is historically accurate of benches that could have been seen in the Gardens during Burlington's time.

Ted was a promoter of garden history and conservation and was responsible for transforming the National Trust. He served for many years as Chairman of the Friends' Advisory Panel, which gave historical and technical advice on matters to do with the House and Gardens.

The bench is being assembled, and will be installed near the Patte d'Oie at the end of the rear lawn, probably in June this year. A computer-generated image is shown below.



2016 Events

- Until 13 March 10am - 4pm daily; Camellia Show
- 27 March; Chiswick House re-opens
- 18 May 7pm, House; Ahern Trio Concert (CHF)
- 22 May, 26 June; Kitchen Garden Open Days
- 6 June 7pm, House; CHF AGM
- 15 - 16 June; Opera (Tosca)
- 18 June; Live Music
- 19 June; Family Fun day & Jazz evening
- 30 Jun - 18 July, Walled Garden; Giffords Circus
- 28 July 6 - 8pm, Conservatory; CHF party
- 2, 3, 4 Aug; Open Air Cinema
- 15 Sept; Chiswick Book Festival Launch
- 25 Sept 11 am - 4:15 pm; CHF Dog Show

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