



The Crystal Palace Foundation News

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Keeping alive the memory of the Crystal Palace, and its rôle in the story and social development of Victorian and Edwardian England

PAXTON 150 - Histories and Futures of Public Parks

A conference at the Department of Landscape, Arts Tower, Western Bank, The University of Sheffield, 11-12 September 2015

- The PAXTON 150 conference is to commemorate Joseph Paxton (1803-65) and to evaluate the public parks legacy. Over the past twenty years there has been considerable interest in public parks in Great Britain, encouraged by Heritage Lottery Funding; as a result there was talk of a renaissance in public parks. Lottery funding has ensured restoration schemes, based on historic research and other survey work. While there have been various efforts to publish material, there is as yet no scholarly work that has emerged from this recent period; there are no popular books. As Lottery funding is slowing, and council cuts are starting to bite, public parks are beginning to suffer from a lack of management and maintenance; it is even more important to record the legacy of public park restorations. The purpose of the conference is to provide a mechanism for the publication of a critical history of public parks.
- Paxton was one of the main pioneers in public parks, designing the first British one at Birkenhead in 1843, so creating a prototype that was used throughout the world. 150 years after Paxton's death is a fitting moment to re-assess the legacy of public parks.
- The conference in Sheffield is the main public event that draws together national and international specialists, who present aspects of their latest research. While focusing on Paxton's heritage, the conference highlights overarching themes that have wider implications for public parks internationally – issues such as heritage and modern uses; social requirements, and health and safety issues; historic fabric and the desire to modernise and leave a mark; increasing maintenance costs and reduction of public funding; privatisation of public space and community engagement.
- The conference also celebrates the renaissance of public parks in Britain, launched in Weston Park, Sheffield twenty years ago, when the Heritage Lottery Fund pledged funding for the restoration of public parks.
- Organised by the Department of Landscape at the University of Sheffield, the conference is sponsored by Historic England, the Landscape Institute and the National Trust.
- A number of packages are available; also a special student rate.
- To book your place, and for all downloads relating to the conference, visit:
http://onlineshop.shef.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&deptid=9&catid=51&prodid=413 • Further info from: camilla.allen@sheffield.ac.uk (07811 284496)

Photography: a Victorian Sensation, at the National Museum of Scotland Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF, to November 12th. Daily, 10:00-17:00 (nms.ac.uk)

Meet the pioneers of photography and discover how the Victorian craze for the photograph transformed the way we capture images today and mirrors our own modern-day fascination for recording the world around us. Follow the cross-channel competition between photographic trailblazers Louis Daguerre and William Henry Fox Talbot.

Enter the world of the 1851 Great Exhibition and see some of the world's first stereophotographs. Then get swept up in the collecting craze of the carte-de-visite and discover the fascinating stories of the people behind the pictures.

Adult £10 Concession £8* Child (12-15) £6.50 Under 12s Free. Members go free! National Art Pass holders receive 50% discount (only available in person and by phone). *Concession prices apply to 60+, students and unemployed with ID, disabled people. Carers of disabled people free.

If NUS/Young Scot, a valid card must be shown. All tickets include a discretionary donation.

On 21 October, 18:30-20:00, photohistorian Denis Pellerin shares his passion for the ingenious art of stereography. This early form of three-dimensional photography was a 19th century craze with tens of thousands of inexpensive stereographs circulating worldwide. (◦ ◦) 3D glasses provided! (Doors open 18:15). For further information about **Photography: a Victorian Sensation**, and details of associated events – Telephone: 0300 123 6789

The Foundation recently learned of the sad death, earlier this year, of long-standing member Stan Hoey, and of his generous bequest. Stan was a keen collector of 3D stereoviews and, during the 1980s and '90s, presented a number of shows for the benefit of the Foundation. The Foundation now holds hundreds of stereoviews in various formats, including over 200 of Crystal Palace, together with books and other Crystal Palace items. The stereoviews are being catalogued and scanned, before it is decided how best this valuable archive may be treated. The following is from a piece in issue number 2 (summer, 1980) of *Crystal Palace Matters*, written by Stan:

STEREOSCOPIC pictures (also called 3D) are obtained by using a special camera which produces two pictures. When these are viewed in a special viewer, a 3D picture is produced. Old glass slides and stereo card prints are 7" by 3½" in size.

By looking in this way at views of the Crystal Palace, one can admire the inside and get the real effect of depth as the visitors did all those years ago. Vast numbers of 3D prints of the Crystal Palace were made and sold.

Jules Dubosq was allowed to record the 1851 exhibition in 3D. His stereo daguerrotypes are now expensive collectors' items. Dubosq presented a viewer and slides to Queen Victoria on one of her visits to Hyde Park. She was very interested and became an avid collector of 3D views. Soon, thousands of stereo views on all subjects were sold and many still survive today. Many of the pictures of the Crystal Palace we enjoy today are from early stereo pictures.

The Crystal Palace Company had its own photographic department. Philip H Delamotte was its 3D photographer, and all cards published had his name on them. Delamotte recorded the re-erection at Sydenham, the building of the interior courts, all the exhibits and the opening by Queen Victoria in 1854. The series depicting the building of the Colossi of Abu Simbel and its destruction in 1866 by fire were from his department.

Negretti & Zambra had a photographic concession up to 1899 and they also recorded the Crystal Palace in 3D. They had studios and held photographic exhibitions at the Crystal Palace. Unfortunately, they lost all their records and prints during the Second World War.

- The summer 2015 issue of *Crystal Palace Matters* (free to members, or £1 where sold) contains: *Co-operation at the Crystal Palace*; *Teetotal temperance at the Palace*; *Stan Godley, Palace postie*; *A prize day at the Palace*; *The famous Amazon warriors of Dahomey*.
- The autumn issue will feature the first in the series of *The Palace in the Post*.

Crystal Pallets – Big Willow Eco-village, by Suzanne Nagle; the definitive photographic history of the Big Willow Eco Village that was located on the Crystal Palace Parade edge of the Park, as part of the community protest movement against the proposed UCI multiplex. The village existed from April 1998 to until March 1999. Over 100 pages of high-quality full-colour glossy images of the Village, the participants and their experiences. The Foundation has been appointed by the author as sole retailer of this important piece of social history. Hardback: £24.95. Order via the Foundation's website Shop page.

Local events

📍 The Crystal Palace - a sporting history

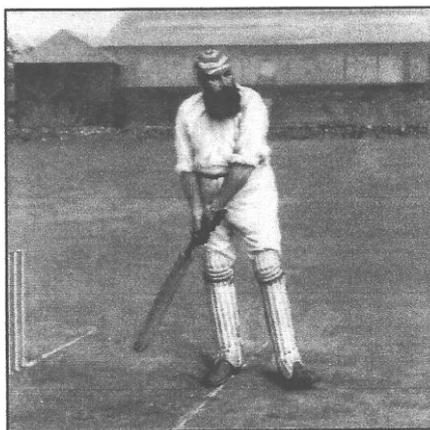
Thursday 17 September, 7.30pm, at Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill, SE19 1TJ. Stuart Hibberd, co-author of *To the Palace for the Cup*, an affectionate history of Crystal Palace FC, talks about the history of the club and other pioneers of sporting history associated with the Crystal Palace. Suggested £2 donation, to include refreshments.

Subway Open House weekend, 19 and 20 September.

This year, tickets will be available only through Eventbrite. If you haven't used Eventbrite before you may wish to sign up in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk> Ticketing will go live one month before Open House and there will be a link from the subway website www.cpsubway.org.uk Please note: The Friends of the Subway is a volunteer organisation and may not be able to answer questions promptly. FAQs are listed on the Eventbrite site.

Lambeth Heritage Festival, September 2015. A month-long festival led by Lambeth Archives and the Lambeth Local History Forum. Download a fabulous programme of events at: www.lambeth.gov.uk/heritagefestival - including the **Lambeth Archives Open Day**, Saturday 26 September, 10am-5pm at Lambeth Archives, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9QY, with an opportunity to meet local history and amenity societies, including The Crystal Palace Foundation and its shop, at Longfield Hall (corner of Knatchbull Road and Burton Road), SE5 9QY.

W.G. Grace Centenary



This year marks the centenary of the death of Dr W G Grace. The W G Grace Centenary Organising Group would like to invite you to the events taking place on Friday 23 October:

4.30pm – A commemorative service at the graveside, Beckenham Crematorium and Cemetery, Elmers End Road, Beckenham, Kent.

5.30pm – W G Grace exhibition at St George's Church, Beckenham, Kent.

7.30pm – A service of thanksgiving at St George's Church, Beckenham, Kent.

The piece below is from an article by Ian Bevan, written for *Crystal Palace Matters* in 1991, following W G's 75th Anniversary memorial service at St George's Church, Beckenham, on 22 October 1990:

In no branch of sport has anyone enjoyed such an unquestioned supremacy as W G did in the field of cricket. He scored 54,896 runs, 126 centuries and took 2,876 wickets, including 100 wickets in a season ten times. In his great days he stood alone, for his was a rare combination of qualities – great physical strength which seemed to defy fatigue and an immense devotion to the game.

It was the lure of becoming captain of the London County Cricket Club at the Crystal Palace that initially brought him to the area in the autumn of his years. Grace developed into such a stalwart of the club that it declined rapidly once W G had to give up the game. Not wanting to abandon sport altogether, he exchanged one patch of greenery for another, founding the Crystal Palace Indoor Bowling Club (the first of its kind) and becoming the first captain of the national team.

When he first came to Crystal Palace, W G lived in Lawrie Park road, Sydenham, but subsequently moved to a house in Eltham, called Fairmount, and it was here that he died.

Crystal Palace Park governance

On 3 June, Bromley issued a news release:

Plans for a new form of governance and long term improvements in Crystal Palace Park are underway. This will include the production of a regeneration plan to improve the park, bringing to fruition aspects of the Masterplan, creating a sustainable business model for the park's future. Councillor Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council said, *"We have been working alongside local residents for many years now and this proposal has always been part of our vision. There are many considerations which need to be examined and naturally, finance will be part of this. The Masterplan proposals will need to be carefully assessed to ensure that a viable plan comes forward. Improving and sustaining this much loved park remains at the very heart of what we are looking to do and the long-term governance proposals are part of this."*

The setting up of a community-led governance and management model for the park has been welcomed by community representatives.

Martin Tempia, Chair of the Crystal Palace Park Community Stakeholder Group*, said, *"This is very good news for the Park. After the uncertainty caused by the ZhongRong proposal, we now have the opportunity to plan for its future. The fact that Bromley have agreed to a new form of independent governance for the Park and provided funds to establish it, is a recognition of the work of community organisations and other stakeholders. They have shown their ability to undertake and deliver regeneration projects in the Park and they will play a leading role in its future."*

The news follows the completion of the first round of community grant fund applications which are now being assessed, with grants of up to £20,000 available for community or resident groups to deliver specific projects and activities in the park.

This plan will build on the momentum established by the £2.4million improvements currently being delivered in the park, which are being funded in partnership with the Mayor of London.

* www.crystalpalacepark.org.uk

SOLDC. The March, 2014 *Crystal Palace Foundation News* highlighted the January 2014 draft Further Alterations to the London Plan document. This shows Crystal Palace as a potential Strategic Outer London Development Centre (SOLDC). How would any such SOLDC sit with the Park's designations, e.g. Grade II* (two star) listing, conservation area, archaeological and other designations and the Crystal Palace Acts, and would its boundary be conterminous with the Park? For an email alert when consultation documents are published in September, send a request, with your details, to: ldf@bromley.gov.uk

Crystal Palace Park café. Planning application No.15/03196: *Demolition of existing single storey café and terrace and erection of two storey building comprising cafe on ground floor and cafe/event space on first floor; external ground and first floor terraces and construction of connecting bridge from first floor terrace to lakeside path.* The new café would have cedar shingle cladding, aluminium frame glazing and pitched roof with cedar shingle cladding. All documents are on the Bromley website – deadline for comments 20 August - confirm date on 020 8313 4956.

Sphinxes. Following expert paint analyses and documentary evidence, the Morton Partnership Ltd., Consulting Civil & Structural Engineers, Historic Building Specialists, have recommended that the Palace Sphinxes be painted to help protect the render, fill any very fine cracks and provide a homogenous and historically accurate finish. The paint analyses clearly suggest that painting was undertaken when originally finished and appears to have been a reddish brown, based on red ochre. Given health and safety concerns associated with lead-based oil paints, it is proposed that a Keim Soldalit paint system be used.

Skate park. Crystal Palace Park Improvement Scheme. Kinnear Landscape Architects Ltd has produced a draft recommendation for a skate park, in a natural bowl in the landscape opposite the sports area, on the site of a former fountain basin within the National Sports Centre site.

In addition to this occasional Newsletter, members receive the quarterly journal, *Crystal Palace Matters*.

To join today, see the [Shop](#) page of the website: www.crystalpalacefoundation.org.uk

email: crystalpalacefoundation@hotmail.com

CPF, 58 Laurier Road, Addiscombe,
Croydon, Surrey CR0 6JQ.

Telephone: 07889 338812

Registered Charity No. 285563

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