

The Isabella Plantation Access Project Update



Storytelling at Isabella, August 2013

For the 60th anniversary of Isabella, we are collecting your memories, photographs and stories of Isabella Plantation over the last 60 years!

- We can scan photographs and other documents
- We can record an interview with you to capture stories

Contact Isabella@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk or phone Chris on 0300 061 2218

60 Years – August Events

The 60th Anniversary of the date that the Isabella Plantation opened her gates to the public was celebrated for ten days in August - from Monday 19th to Wednesday 28th.

More than a thousand people visited the yurt the Isabella Project erected next to Peg's Pond and enjoyed many fantastic events – story-telling, arts workshops, theatre for children, and a Teddy Bear's Picnic.

Visiting children produced a vast array of beautiful pieces, which will help inspire way-marks and signs in the Plantation.

There were also a series of volunteer-led guided walks, relating the history and development of the Plantation. These walks supplemented the popular horticultural walks led by Plantation Gardener Gary Scarffe and Assistant Park Manager Jo Scrivener.

The Plantation enjoyed seven days of blazing sun, and three days of torrential rain, but the yurt was water-tight and the rain at the weekend encouraged many people inside, where they enjoyed the exhibitions mounted by the Friends of Richmond Park, The Royal Parks, and some beautiful photographs of the Plantation taken by Ron Teague and Joyce Bing.



LOTTERY FUNDED

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISABELLA APPRENTICE!

Luke Arboine, the first of two apprentices for the Isabella Plantation started work at the beginning of September. He will be doing an 18 month apprenticeship working alongside other Royal Parks apprentices, combining practical on-the-ground work with accredited training. We will be working to recruit our second apprentice in the spring to start work in September 2014.

Making it Easier to get to Isabella

Our partners, the Holly Lodge Centre, have worked with us to explore and trial transport opportunities to help people, particularly elderly people, children, and people with disabilities, to get to the Isabella Plantation.

On Saturday August 3rd, a minibus around Richmond Park, from main car parks, on the perimeter of the Park, to Peg's Pond Disabled Car Park at Isabella Plantation, carrying 54 people.

On August 23rd, when there was a Teddy Bear's Picnic as part of Isabella's 60th Anniversary Celebrations, we ran two minibuses from Roehampton to the Peg's Pond car park. About 50 people used the service, and all of them were very pleased to be able to reach the Plantation. Many of them felt that the distance from any public transport to the Plantation is daunting, and would like the opportunity to use such a service regularly. Together with the transport trials that took place in May, the case is being made for a sustainable transport support programme.

The project has a Transport Working Group that will be considering over the next few months how best to take this forward for next spring and summer.

We have a new PACE Officer

At the beginning of August, our new PACE Officer started work. Christopher Lilly comes to Richmond Park from Tower Hamlets, where he was an advisory teacher for many years. He is looking forward to meeting everyone involved in the development of the Isabella Plantation. He can be reached at clilly@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk, or on 0300 061 2218 or 07969 068 446.

PUBLIC PROJECT UPDATE

Monday 14th October 2013
PEMBROKE LODGE
5 – 6pm

Keep in Touch

We will announce the main phases of work on The Royal Parks website:

<http://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/richmond-park/richmond-park-attractions/isabella-plantation>

Sign up for our mailing list and receive regular news about what's going on with the project. Sign up today or contact us on isabella@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk.

You can get a progress update and feed your views into the project every few months.



Inside the yurt, August 2013