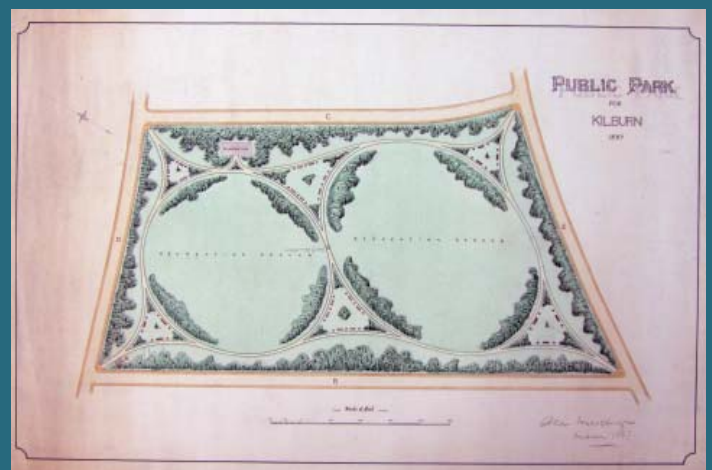


# A History of Queen's Park

Prepared for  
The City of London Corporation  
by  
Land Use Consultants

March 2011



# LUC SERVICES

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**Front Cover:**

'Public Park for Kilburn' March 1887 by Alexander McKenzie (Corporation of London Record Office).

'Drinking Fountain' 1910

'1915 OS Map'

**Acknowledgements**

Land Use Consultants would like to thank Richard Gentry and Lucy Stowell-Smith of the City of London Corporation, The Lindley Library, Brent Archives, the Corporation of London Record Office and the Guildhall Library.

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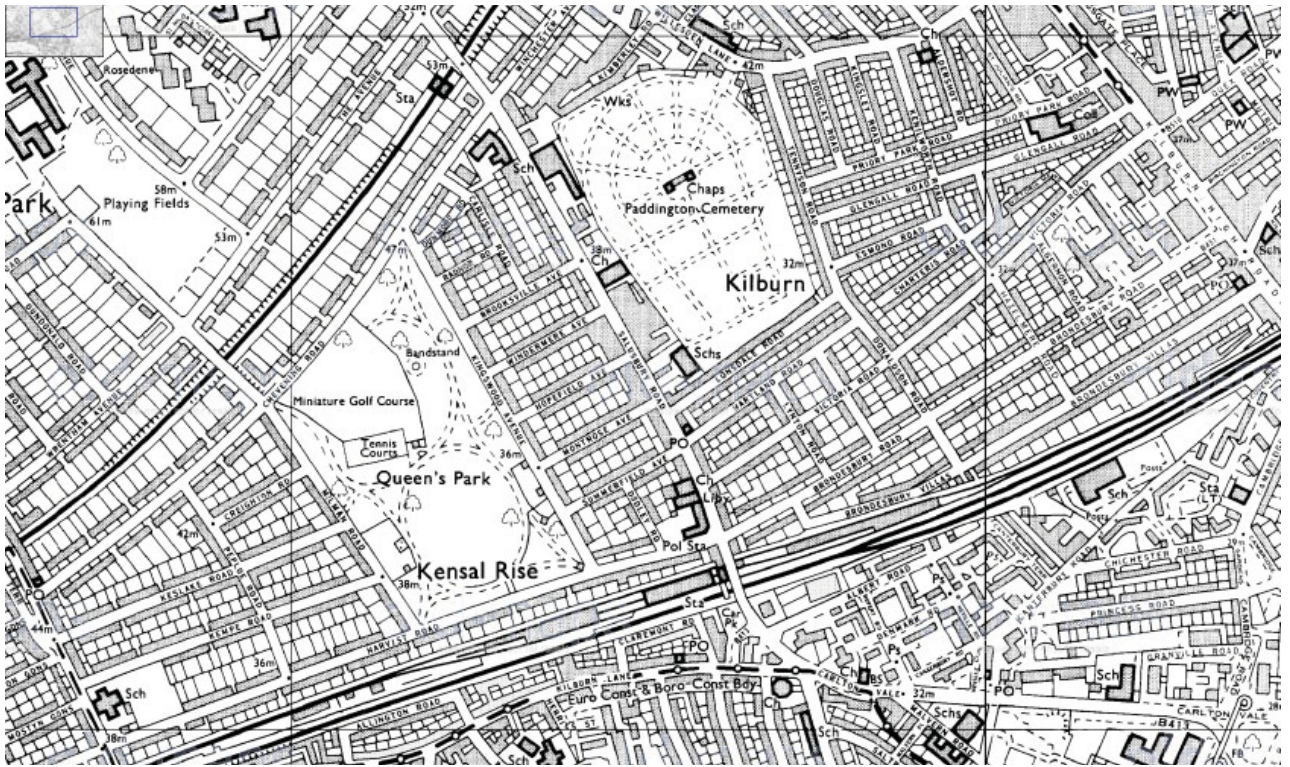
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### Appendix:

**'Beautiful Shrubberies'** by Alexander McKenzie Esq. 1874 from The Floral World and Garden Guide Magazine

**'Promenade Trees'** by Alexander McKenzie Esq. 1875 from The Floral World and Garden Guide Magazine

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**Figure 1:** Location of Queen's Park NW6  
1991 -1994 1:10,000 reduced from original scale



**Figure 2 :**View of Queen's Park looking towards the Lych Gate and Harvist Road from the Flower Garden



# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Queen's Park is a 30 acre (12ha) park which opened in 1887. Situated in northwest London between Kensal Green, Brondesbury Park and Kilburn, it is bounded by Harvist Road to the south, Chevening Road to the north, Milman Road to the west and Kingwood Avenue to the east. The park forms the main focus of a neighbourhood which developed from around 1895 consisting of late Victorian and Edwardian houses. The park lies within the London Borough of Brent and the park and the surrounding streets are in a Conservation Area. The proposed park was initially called Kilburn Recreation Ground, and has been known as Queen's Park since the naming of the park by royal command in the Jubilee year of 1887, in honour of Queen Victoria.



## 2 Administrative History

- 2.1 **Acquisition:** Queen's Park comprising 30 acres of the site of the Royal Agricultural Show held in Kilburn in 1879 together with Highgate Wood was acquired in 1886 by the Corporation of London from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners under the provisions of the Highgate and Open Spaces Act 1886.
- 2.2 **Administration**<sup>1</sup>: Formerly administered by the Corporation's Coal and Corn and Finance Committee 1886 -1966, Queen's Park is now managed by The City of London Corporation through the Queen's Park and Highgate Wood Management Committee<sup>2</sup>. There is also the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group, which comprises members from local groups including the Queen's Park Residents Association, local Ward Councillors and a schools liaison contact<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.3 At the time of the original acquisition the Corporation was considering how best to utilize the residuary bequest of the late William Ward (which had been left to the Corporation for the creation of a fund for the benefit of the poor). A scheme was therefore drawn up, by which the residuary bequest (called Ward's People's Ground Fund) was to be used for the maintenance of Queen's Park. Ward's People's Ground Fund is supplemented from City's Cash for the maintenance of the Park. The park is therefore maintained and run at no cost to the local or City council tax payers.
- 2.4 City merchant, William Ward (1796 -1881), is buried in St Matthews Churchyard, Brixton in South London, his monument is inscribed with the statement:  
  
'...he was a liberal benefactor to the City of London charities and suburban institutes'.
- 2.5 The day-to-day physical management of the Park is undertaken under the guidance of the North London Open Spaces Division, based at Queen's Park, The Lodge, Kingswood Avenue, London NW6 6SG.

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<sup>1</sup> Corporation of London Records Office Catalogue introduction for Archives held by the record office on Queen's Park Kilburn **CLA/078/07**

<sup>2</sup> The Committee consists of twelve Members from the Court of Common Council. It meets six times per annum and undertakes site visits.

The terms of reference for this Committee are:

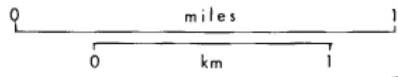
>Ownership and management of Queen's Park and Highgate Wood in accordance with the provisions of the Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886;







>writing off debts in accordance with such terms and conditions as are from time to time established by the Court of Common Council;

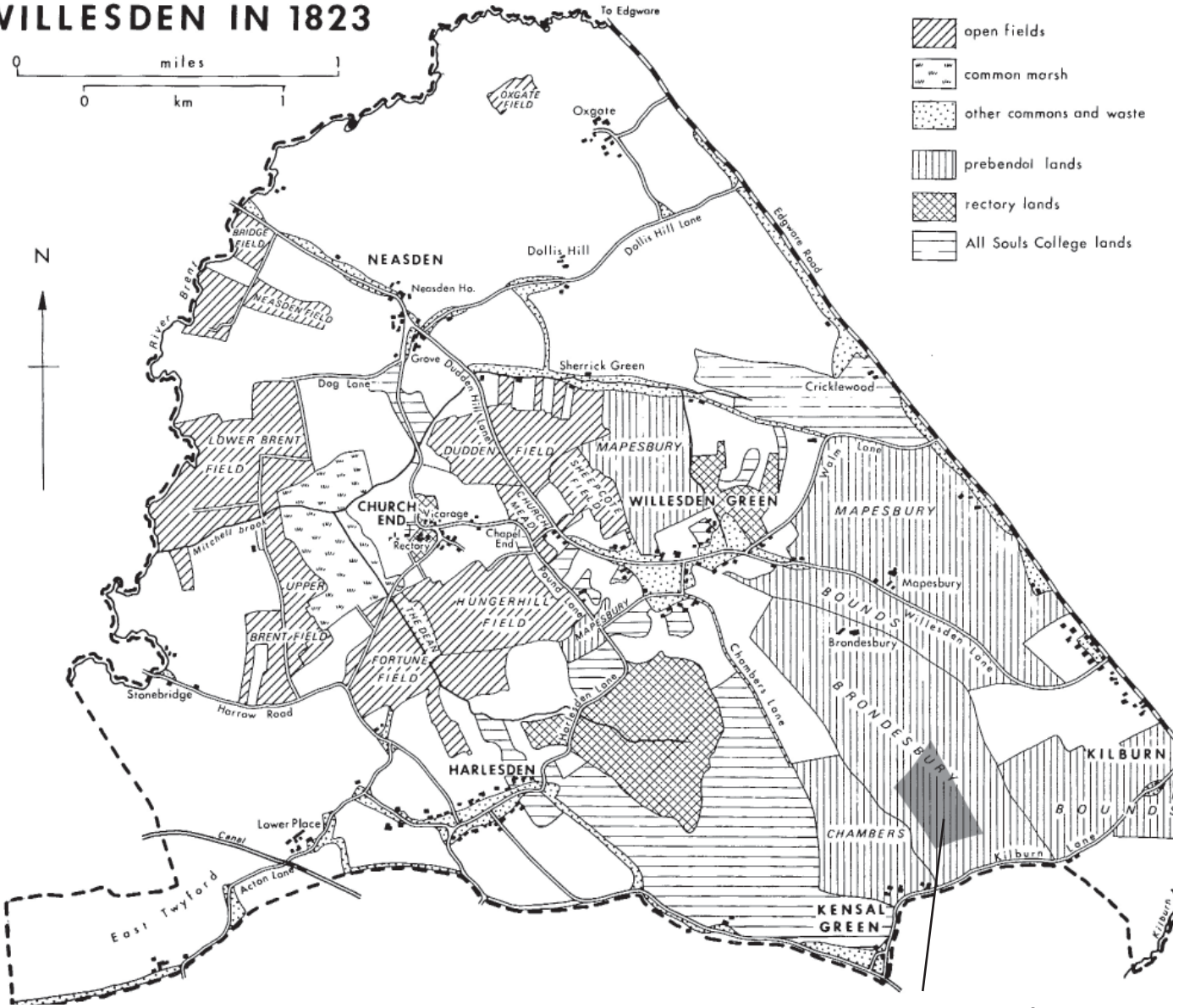
>Authorising the institution of any criminal or civil proceedings arising out of the exercise of its functions.

<sup>3</sup> The Terms of Reference of this Group, which was established in 1986, include meeting formally twice a year, with the basic aims of furthering goodwill and better understanding, and of exchanging information about current and future developments in the Park.

# WILLESDEN IN 1823



-  open fields
-  common marsh
-  other commons and waste
-  prebendal lands
-  rectory lands
-  All Souls College lands



Future site of Queen's Park

Figure 3: Map Showing Land Ownership in Willesden in 1823

### 3 FARMLAND TO CITY – BACKGROUND HISTORY OF THE AREA

#### EARLY HISTORY<sup>4</sup> – PARISH OF WILLESDEN

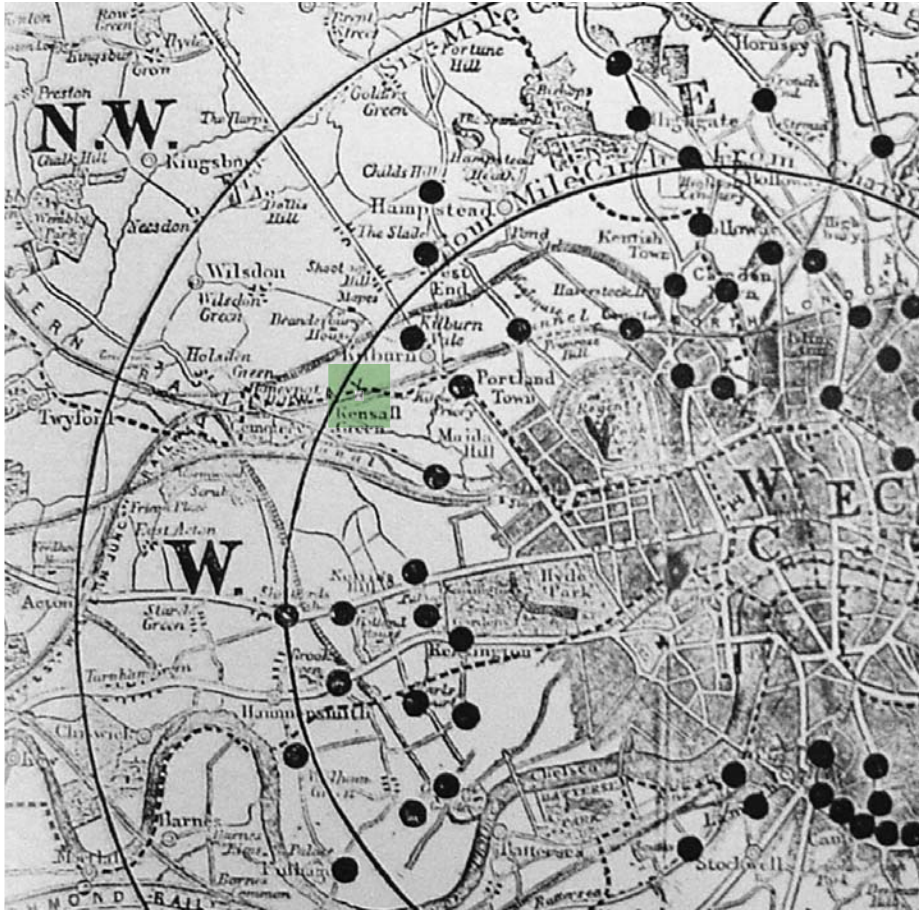
- 3.1 The area which is now Queen’s Park was in the parish of Willesden. In 1894 Willesden became an urban district and in 1965 it joined Wembley and Kingsbury in the London Borough of Brent.
- 3.2 Willesden was bounded in the north east by Roman Watling Street, later Edgware Road, on the north and west by the river Brent and on the south-east by Kilburn brook. An ancient lane, some of it forming part of Harrow Road and Kilburn lane, marked most of the southern boundary.
- 3.3 Much of the area lies on London Clay, the soil is mostly heavy and poorly drained and was once covered by thick oak forest which was progressively cleared and became a pasture land from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.
- 3.4 Until about 1850 the area was rural and agricultural with isolated farms surrounded by pasture and woodland and hamlets with village greens separated by open fields. The settlement pattern changed little from the early Middle Ages until well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.5 Kensal Green to the west of the future Queen’s Park was one of the 10 manors of Willesden and was on the boundary of the parishes of Willesden, Chelsea and Paddington. All Souls’ College, Oxford owned lands in the area from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. There was also a small manor of Chamberlayne Wood. Other land in the area including Brondesbury, which is where Queen’s Park is now, formed part of old prebendal estates of the church from which the revenue went to support different ecclesiastical offices.
- 3.6 The village of Kilburn grew up around Watling Street (now Kilburn High Street, Shoot Up Hill and the Edgware Road), which has been an important route to the north since Roman times.

#### 1800s

- 3.7 Small scale development of Kensal started with the opening of Grand Junction Canal 1801, goods barges carried coal and iron which were towed through the village and a brick works opened.
- 3.8 Further housing development was linked to the building of the first of London’s grand cemeteries, All Souls Cemetery built by the General Cemetery Company in Kensal Green to provide a large burial ground for London in 1832.

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<sup>4</sup> Sources include British History Online Willesden From **A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 7 Acton, Chiswick Ealing and Brentford, West Twyford Willesden** 1982 Also **Places in Brent Kensal Green**, Grange Museum of Community History and Brent archive. Also Alan Godfrey Maps Kensal Green and Kilburn 1865 Alan A Jackson



**Figure 4: Kilburn in relation to Central London in 1857** Detail of 1857 map showing London Toll Gates, Kilburn and Kensal Green are still suburbs (future site of park indicated in green)

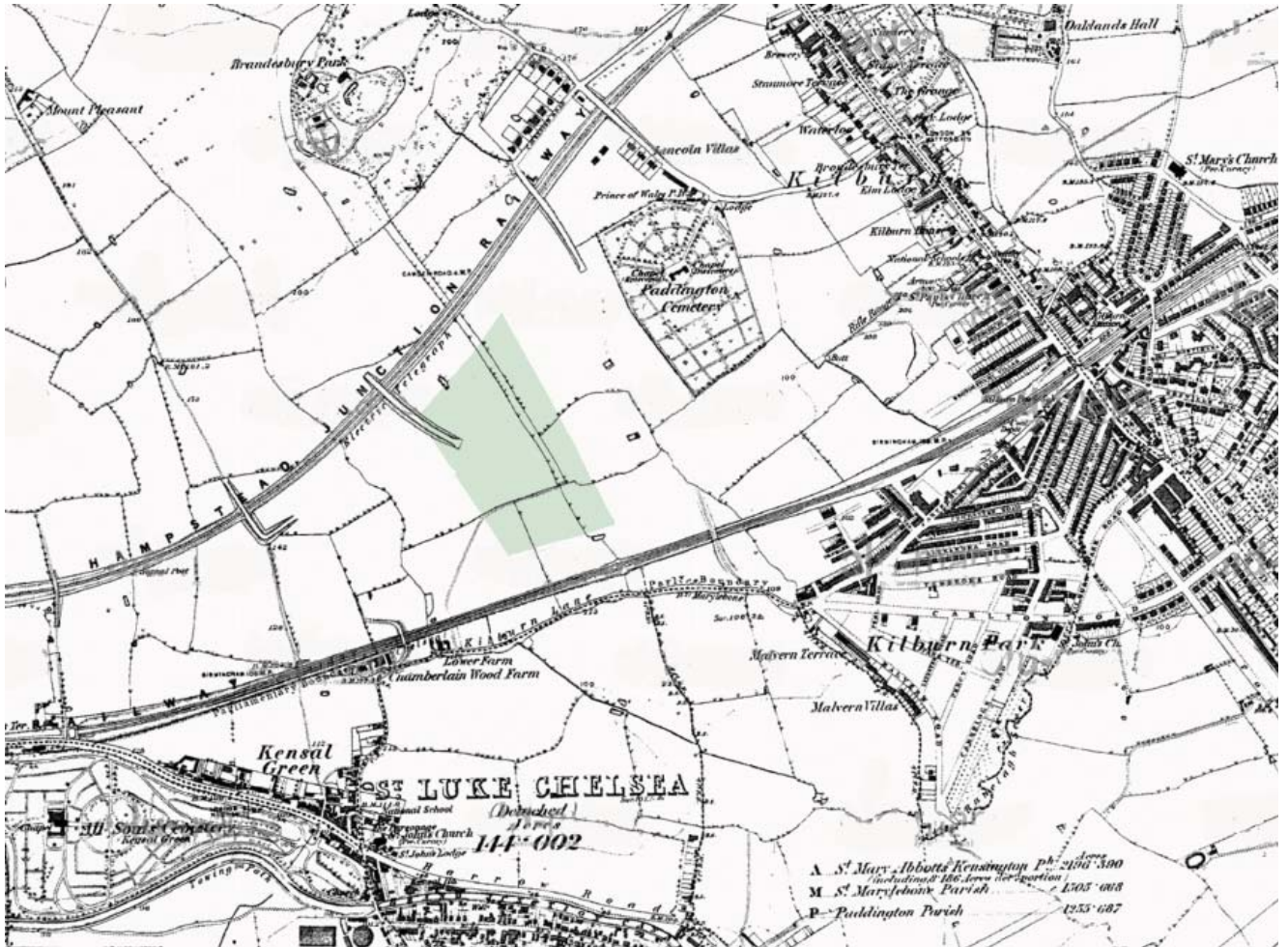


**Figure 5: 1830-1840 Town Plan Kilburn**  
 London and Northwestern railway runs along the south of the map.  
 Opened 1837-1838 from Euston to Birmingham.  
 Kensal Green Lane or Kilburn Lane marked

- 3.9 Kilburn was also developing at this time due to its strategic position on the toll road, there was building along the main road and to the west towards Hampstead. But these were still essentially villages separated by tracts of farmland

## **1850s TO PRESENT DAY – URBANISATION**

- 3.10 **During the 1850s** the area was changing into a suburb of London, but although the 1865 Ordnance survey map shows three major railways running across the area; (the 1860 Hampstead Junction railway, the 1838 London and North Western Railway running from Euston to Birmingham, and the Great Western Railway Paddington to Bristol mainline 1838-41), the rapid development of the area did not take off until local railway stations were opened at Kensal Green in 1861 and Willesden Junction in 1866. Until then horse drawn omnibuses provided a regular service into London and these continued to compete with the railways as did the trams which started in 1888. In fact the London to Birmingham railway line in 1838 cut off farmhouses in Kilburn from much of their land and the presence of railways did not promote development in the area until suburban stations were opened.
- 3.11 **1854** The Paddington Cemetery opened to the west of the area which is now Queen's Park.
- 3.12 **1879** Royal Agricultural Show, Kilburn held on future site of the park.
- 3.13 **1887** Queen's Park opened; the detailed history of the park is described below in Chapter 4.
- 3.14 **1894** OS map Figure 7 shows the area around Queen's Park still undeveloped, the housing around Queen's Park was built between 1897 and 1904.
- 3.15 **1895 to 1905.** 10 years saw a rapid change in the area.
- 3.16 **By 1901** the whole area of Kilburn between the London and North Western Railway line to the south and the Hampstead junction Line was covered with streets of houses except for a small area north-east of the park which was built on by 1920 following the opening of Brondesbury Park Station in 1908. Queen's Park separated Kilburn from the new district of Kensal Rise to the west.
- 3.17 **1915** the Bakerloo Line was extended to Queen's Park station.
- 3.18 **From the late 19th century until after 1945** most of Kilburn was very densely populated and occupancy remained at 8 persons per house until well after the Second World War. There was overcrowding and some poor living conditions. The terraces and semi-detached houses were often divided into tenements and rooming houses. However around Queen's Park itself, although there were areas of overcrowding to the west of the park, the area around Queen's Park and the area between the park and the Paddington Cemetery consisted of late 19th century houses which were occupied by a 'better standard of tenant' for example employees of the London Passenger Transport Board and the borough council or the post office.



**Figure 6: 1865- 1874 reduced from OS map**

Future site of Queen’s Park still farmland

To the north the Hampstead Junction railway which opened in 1860, runs from Hampstead Heath to Richmond via Camden Road.

The Great Western Railway is to the south of this plan (not shown above) Paddington to Bristol opened 1838-1841.

All Souls Cemetery Kensal Green opened in 1833 first of the large commercial burial grounds

Paddington Cemetery Opened in 1854.





**Figure 7 :1893-1896 Edition reduced from 1:2500 OS map.**

First appearance of the park on the OS map. This edition was surveyed 1891 -1893

The park opened 1887 but the surrounding housing is still to be built or surveyed.

Queen's Park Station is shown. The National Athletic ground to the west of the park was laid out in 1890 and was used briefly by Queen's Park Rangers football club.



**Figure 8 :1915 OS Map** (reduced from original scale of 1:2,500) streets of terraced housing surround the park.

- 3.19 After the war the many parts of the Kilburn area became run down, many houses were divided into single rooms. Post war, immigrants formed an increasing proportion of the population. The changing ethnic composition of inner London is the most significant sociological change the city has seen in the past half century.
- 3.20 At the present day the area's good transport links have led to many houses being converted back to single family occupancy and it is becoming a relatively expensive area of London especially the houses overlooking the park.
- 3.21 The area is still densely populated. The following statistics illustrate the vast changes in the area from 1861 to 1871. The population of Kilburn was 3,869 in 1861, 15,869 in 1871, 61,265 by 1891 had more than doubled in size to 154,214 by 1911, it was 185,025 in 1931 but decreased after the Second World War to 179,697 in 1951 and it was 153,380 in 1971.



**Figure 9** Royal Agricultural Show, Kilburn people with umbrellas visiting display of agricultural steam engines. It is raining and the ground is very muddy 1879 Brent Archives number 439



THE PARADE OF HORSES BEFORE THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES

**Figure 10** Parade of horses before their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Royal Agricultural Show, Kilburn, 1879 Brent Archives image 438

## 4 TIME LINE OF QUEEN'S PARK

### 1879 ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW AT KILBURN

- 4.1 1879 Royal Agricultural Society of England's annual show was held on an area which later became Queen's Park. The Kilburn show was opened on 30th of June 1879 by the Prince and Princess of Wales. The 100 acre site was chosen for its proximity to the railway network, Queen's Park Station having opened on 2 June 1879 on the main line from London to Birmingham, just in time to facilitate the movement of heavy machinery and stock.
- 4.2 By the 1870s the annual shows had become major events and the Kilburn show was to be the largest ever held. It saw an entry of 11,878 implements, 2879 livestock entries and over 187,000 visitors<sup>5</sup>. There were many international entries and there was a Royal Box which was part of an arena seating 3000 people, the winning cattle and horses were paraded here every day<sup>6</sup>.
- 4.3 The Royal Agricultural Society of England was formed in 1838 to promote the potential of science for raising agricultural productivity. Annual agricultural shows held in different parts of England, were seen as an important way by which the Society could achieve its aims of the spread of agricultural knowledge and to bring new techniques and improved farming methods to the attention of farmers.
- 4.4 The relative agricultural prosperity of the third quarter of the nineteenth century led to the shows taking on the character of agricultural carnivals or festival occasions. The streets of the host towns would typically be decorated and festooned with banners proclaiming 'Peace and Prosperity' and 'Success to Agriculture'.<sup>7</sup>
- 4.5 The 1879 Kilburn Show, took place during one of the wettest summers on record. Because of this the showground presented a 'thoroughly wet and dreary appearance', the Society made a substantial financial loss on the event, £15,000, and twenty-three years later Joseph Darby recalled that:  
  
'... everyone who visited Kilburn retains vivid recollections of its excessive downpours; of the planks laid down the leading avenues and without which they would have been perfectly impassable... one man slipped and falling between two of the planks was so tightly wedged that it was difficult to pull him out.'<sup>8</sup>
- 4.6 The show ran for a week but the poor weather meant people had to struggle through deep mud and attendances fell disastrously. The visit to the show by Queen Victoria on the fifth day rallied visitors and nearly half the people who visited the show went on that day. The Queen was driven on a specially

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<sup>5</sup> RASE At the cutting edge from 1838 to 21<sup>st</sup> century Philip Sheppy Royal Agricultural Society of England

<sup>6</sup> From Queen's Park Centenary Brochure 1987 The Royal International Agricultural Exhibition of July 1879 Researched by Margaret Chambers of the Grange Museum.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

[OFFICIAL LETTERS TO BE ADDRESSED "THE CITY REMEMBRANCER, GUILDHALL, E.C.4"]

Guildhall, London, E.C.  
8<sup>th</sup> March 1886

TOWN CLERK  
RECEIVED  
A MAN AG  
OFFICE

Dear Mr. Town Clerk

Highgate & Kilburn Open Spaces Bill

By Section 2 of this Bill as passed by the House of Commons Committee, Copies of the plans agreed upon between the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Corporation have to be deposited in your office, and I accordingly send them herewith for that purpose.

Yours very faithfully  
G. King G. King  
Remembrancer

Sir John B. Marchmont  
Town Clerk

6

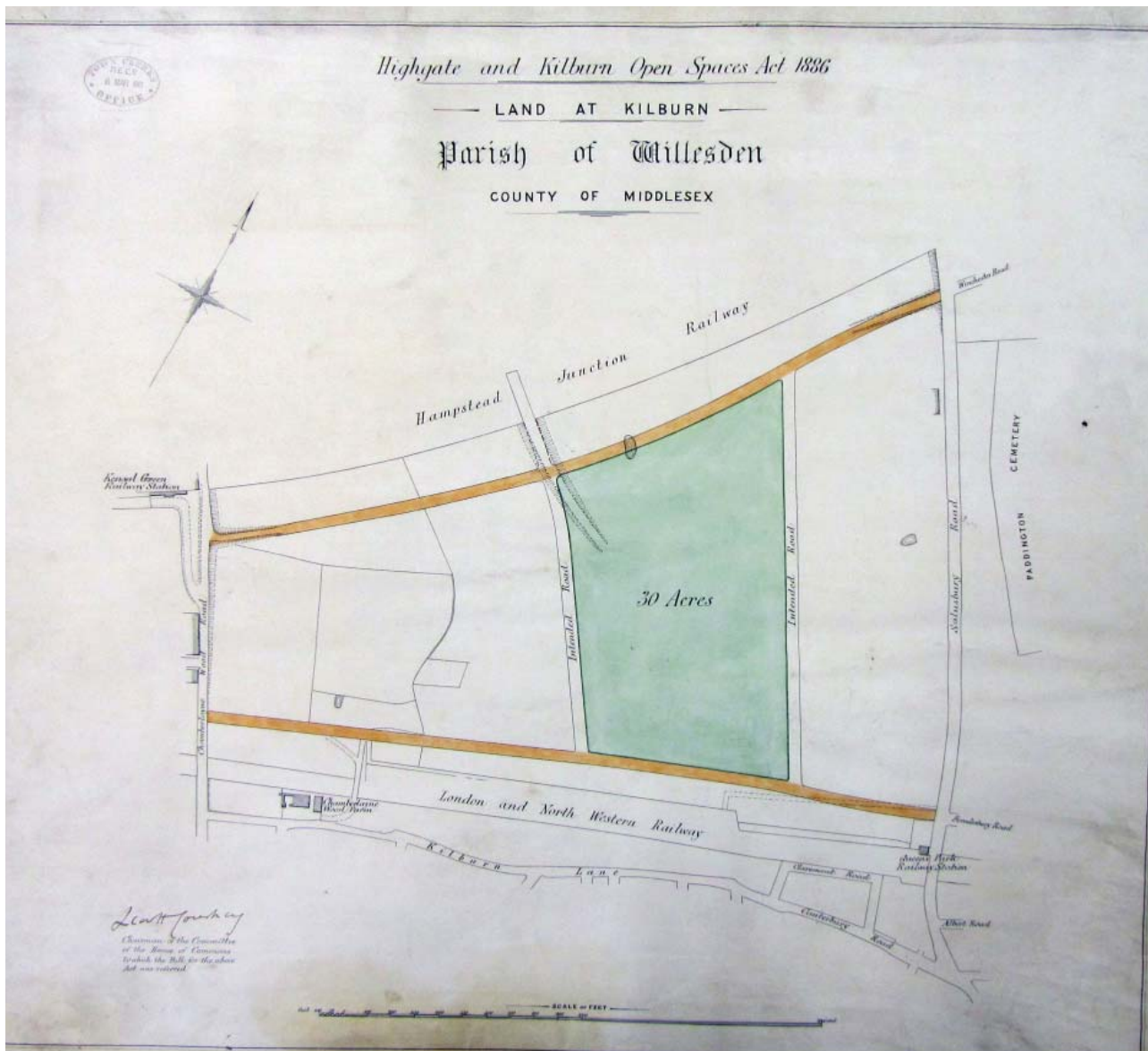
QUEEN'S PARK, KILBURN.

This Open Space was acquired by the Corporation under the Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act, 1886, for the perpetual use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the Metropolis, the Corporation undertaking to lay out and maintain the land in perpetuity as a Park.

The area of Queen's Park is 30 acres, 0 roods, 24 poles.

**Figure 11** above, from Coal and Corn and Finance Committee, short history on the open spaces 1950.

**Figure 12** left, letter from the Remembrancer (Guildhall) to the Town Clerk confirming transfer of land from the Ecclesiastical commissioners to the Corporation.



**Figure 13:** Plan of the Site 1886

constructed drive of ballast and brick from the new station along Salisbury Road on a route lined with cheering crowds.<sup>9</sup>

## **THE NEED FOR A PARK, THE VICTORIAN PARK MOVEMENT**

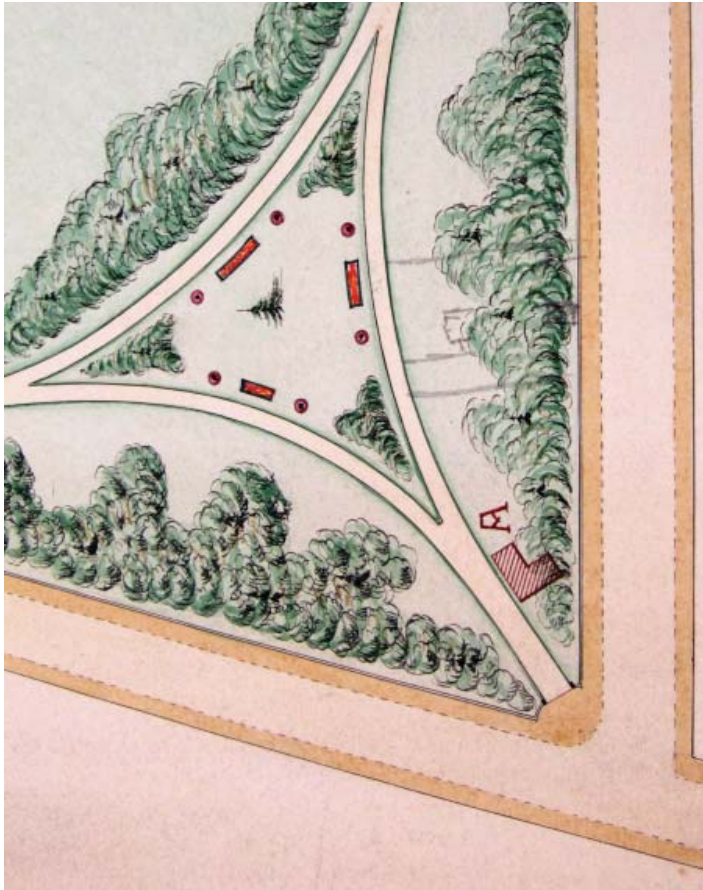
- 4.7 From 1870s the area had a rapidly increasing urban population. Earlier in the century the need for public parks in an increasingly urbanised society had been identified and from the 1820s there had been a growing sense that recreation should be associated with moral improvement. Official recognition of the need of parks dates from 1833 when the Select committee on Public Works presented its report to Parliament. Parks would improve the health of those living in cities and provide accessible open space for recreation. The Parks movement developed as a result of the need to confront some of the major problems of urban living, parks provided a source of fresh air, opportunities for financial investment, a means of diffusing social tensions and improving the moral and physical condition of urban citizens and an alternative to the public house. Parks like Queen's Park were created as isolated elements, lungs and oasis of green.<sup>10</sup>
- 4.8 **1884** <sup>11</sup>Formation of the North West London Park League for the purposes of securing as a people's park the site at Kilburn, Honorary Secretary was George Higgs. The League appealed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners not to sell the land for building until the future of the site could be assured as a public open space.
- 4.9 **1885** (January) The Estates Committee of the Commissioners agreed to offer the use of the central portion of the land of 30 acres for public use and that the remaining portion of the site would be laid out as housing to derive the most benefit from the frontage onto the proposed park, the offer also included Gravel Pit Wood Highgate. The offer was to be made through the Lord Mayor to the Corporation of London. The offer was conditional on the Corporation obtaining Parliamentary sanction.
- 4.10 **1885** (May) the Corporation of London (Coal and Corn and Finance Committee) were satisfied with the possibility of maintaining Gravel Pit Wood as an open Space but were unable to recommend the Kilburn site as it required great expense, £10,000 for it to be adapted for public use. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners would not agree to amend the offer, and gave the Corporation a deadline to raise the money.
- 4.11 **1885** (June) Public meeting held by the North West London Park League on the site attended by 800-900 people.
- 4.12 **1885** (October) At the same time the Corporation had been considering the use of the residuary bequest of William Ward and the Corporation Council agreed in October to it being used to set up a fund to maintain the Kilburn recreation ground. The sum left by William Ward was toward the establishment of a high school for girls in the City of London. The residuary

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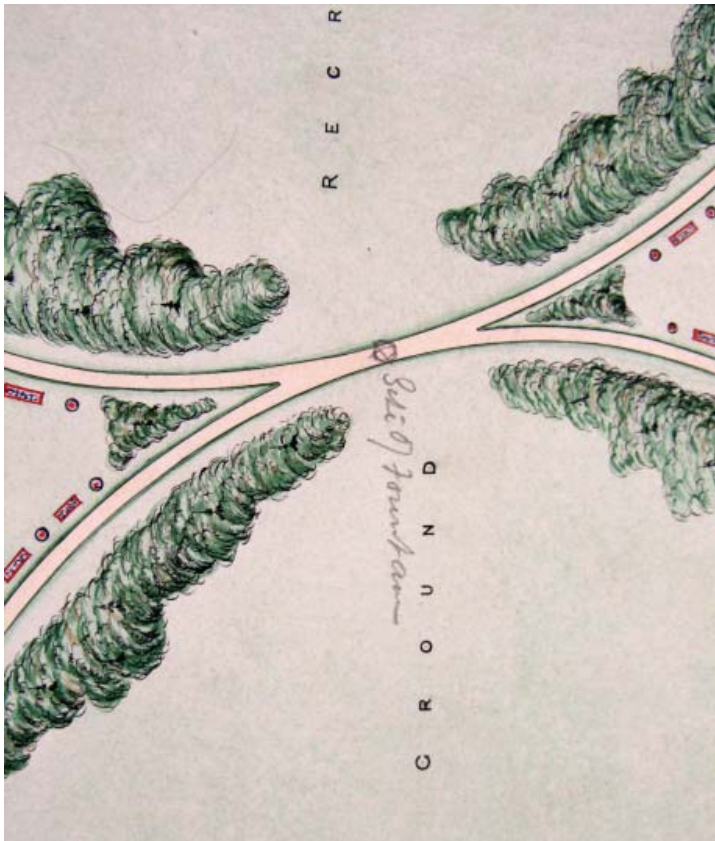
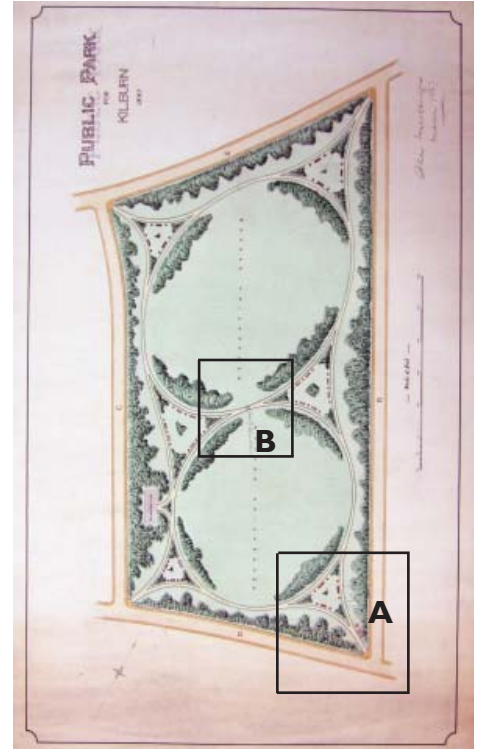
<sup>9</sup> From Queen's Park Centenary Brochure 1987 The Royal International Agricultural Exhibition of July 1879 Researched by Margaret Chambers of the Grange Museum

<sup>10</sup> Conway, Hazel Peoples Parks p7

<sup>11</sup> From Queen's Park Centenary Brochure 1987 Janet Cummins How Queen's Park came into being



A



B

**Figure 14**

**A:** Detail of south west corner showing ornamental planting beds and proposed position of lodge.

**B:** Detail of central area showing proposed site of fountain, from Alexander McKenzie's Final Design for the Park 1887



bequest was “to be applied and expended in the erection and maintenance of some institution and the creation of some fund for the benefit of the poorer classes.”

- 4.13 The City also made money available from funds derived from a proportion of duties on grain coming into the Port of London.
- 4.14 **1886** The Kilburn and Highgate spaces formally acquired by the City of London Corporation by the Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886.
- 4.15 The Church commissioners built two approach roads to the park, Chevening and Mortimer (now Harvist) Roads at the cost of £16,000.
- 4.16 **1886-87** Alexander McKenzie was asked to design the new park. Laying out took place under his supervision from March 1887 until June 1887. The Corporation spent £3000 on laying out, planting and completing the drainage of the park.
- 4.17 **1887** Queen’s Park officially opened on Saturday 5th November. Newspaper reports of the opening ceremony <sup>12</sup> said that at 3 o’clock that afternoon several thousand people were present together with a number of policemen brought there by rumours of a probable invasion of the ‘cream of ruffianism’.
- 4.18 In the event there was no trouble, the opening ceremony was carried out by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Reginald Hanson, he said in his opening speech ‘The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have given the 30 acre site for the free use and enjoyment by the public and that he trusted and believed that as time went on there would be considerable improvement in the open space now so vastly improved from what it was eight or nine years before, when many of those present visited the exhibition there, and a greater part of the ground was a swamp’.
- 4.19 **1887** A plan for the proposed Head Gardeners House showing first and ground floors was referred to the Coal and Corn and Finance Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> November of that year.<sup>13</sup> The inference from this is that this was not built until after the official opening of the park. Postcard dated the 1900s show (see figure 20) a substantial lodge building.
- 4.20 **1889** Order from seed merchants for 16s. 3d. for seeds for annuals for Queen’s Park Kilburn. Sent to Mr J Stevens, The Lodge, Queen’s Park, Kilburn. Addressed to Major McKenzie in his role as Superintendent of Epping Forest at The Warren, Loughton.
- 4.21 **1890** Refreshments building built, a rustic style chalet.
- 4.22 **1891** The Bandstand was erected in the park. The cast iron bandstand by Macfarlane and Co. of Glasgow at the cost of £342. It was approved by committee in July 1891. Bandstands were seen as essential features of parks large and small in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Music was seen as an important moral influence, and was an aspect of the reforming potential of parks<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> Newspaper cuttings held at Corporation of London Records Office CLA/078/07

<sup>13</sup> Corporation of London Records office COL/SVD/PL/10/0575

<sup>14</sup> Conway, Hazel P131 Peoples Parks

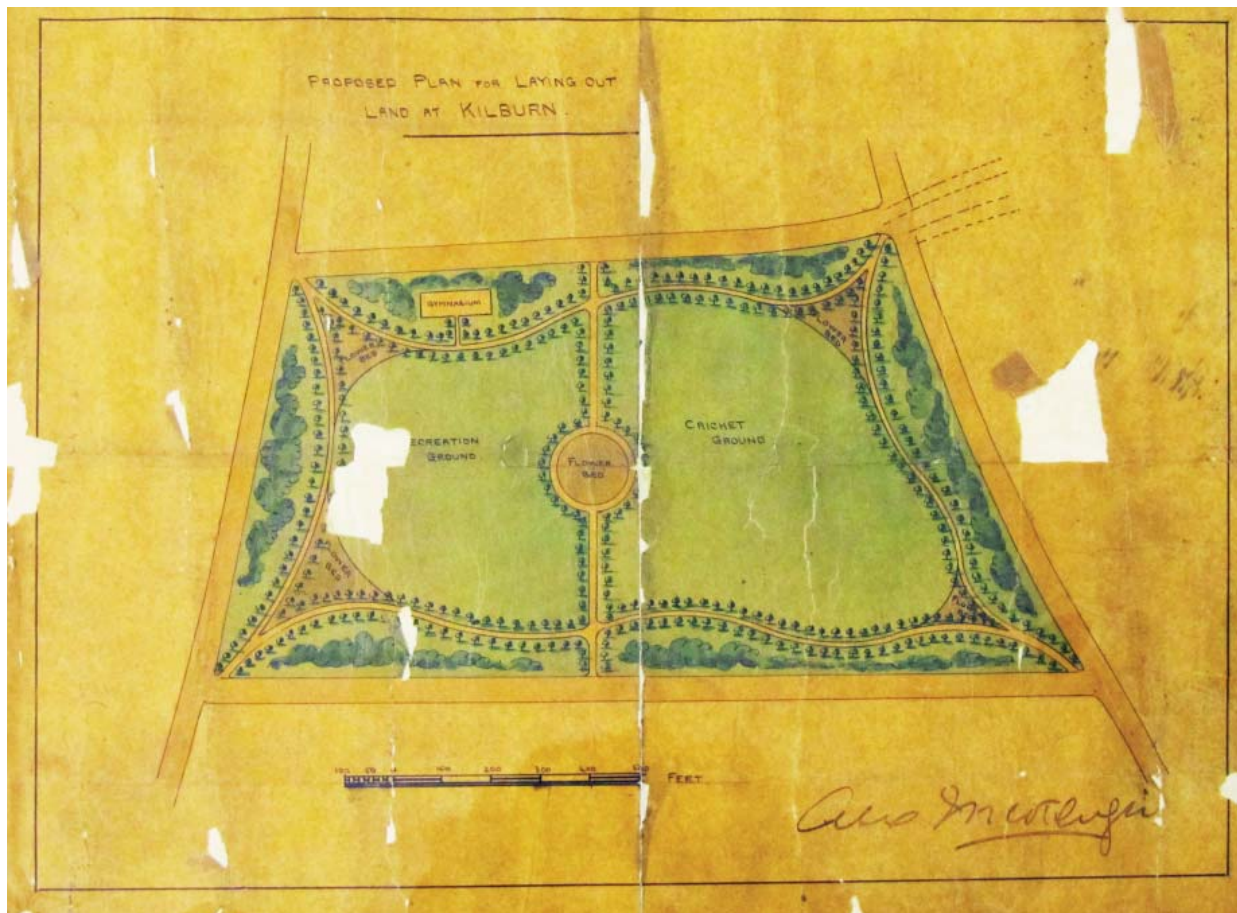


Figure 15: Earlier version of the design signed by McKenzie

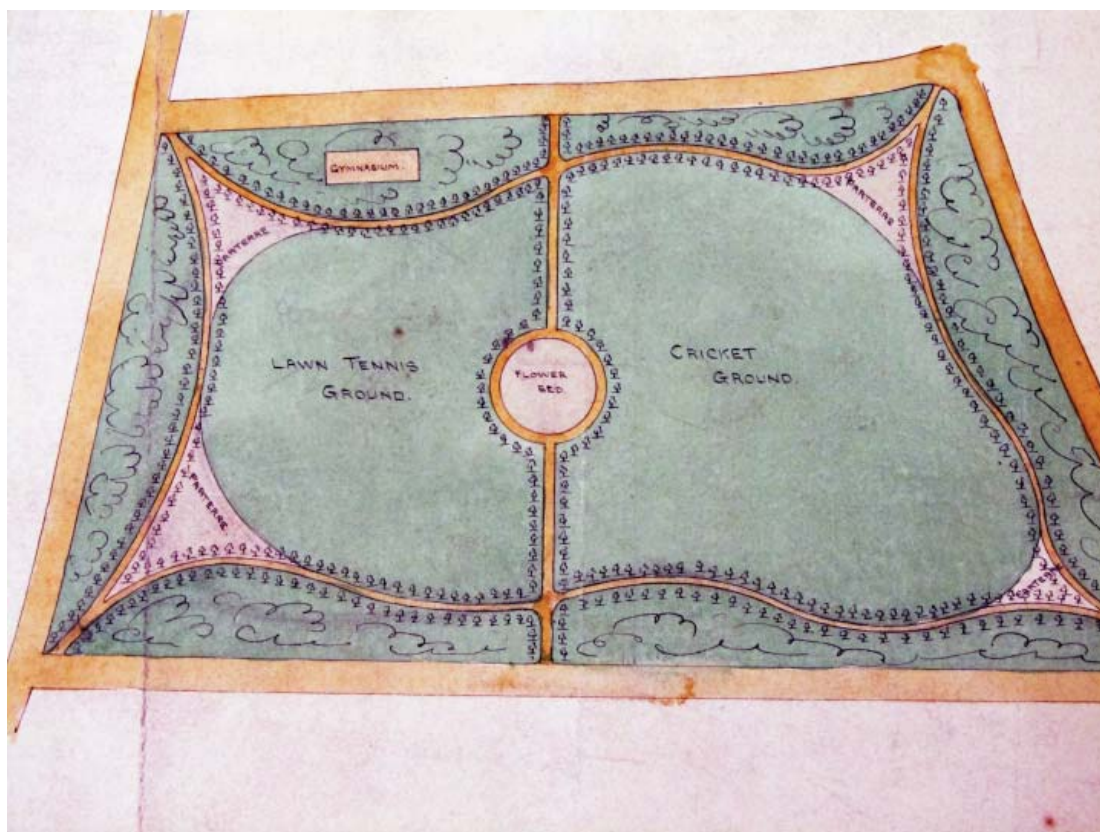


Figure 16: A similar plan undated and unsigned

Coal and Corn and Finance Committee.  
Kilburn Park  
Statement of Accounts for Laying out.

1887		£	s	d	1887		£	s	d
Dec 10	To cash on account	500			Jan 5	By wages paid			
Dec 23	- ditto	500			11	- ditto			
Jan 10	- ditto	200			15	- ditto			
					25	- ditto			
					Apr 1	- ditto			
					8	- ditto			
					15	- ditto			
					22	- ditto			
					29	- ditto			
					May 6	- ditto			
					13	- ditto			
					20	- ditto			
					27	- ditto			
					June 3	- ditto			
					9	- cash paid to Marshall			
					10	- wages paid			
					17	- ditto			
					24	- ditto			
					30	- balance in hand			
		1200							

*W. T. Price*  
*John T. Bedford*

**Figure 17** A statement of account to the Coal and Corn and Finance Committee for the Laying out of Queen’s Park for March, April, May and June 1887

Metropolitan Police.

No. 7.  
Special Report  
Reference to Papers.

To Division, Kilburn Station  
November 14<sup>th</sup> 1887

Major A Mc Kenzie to Police for services at opening of New Park Kilburn on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> 1887

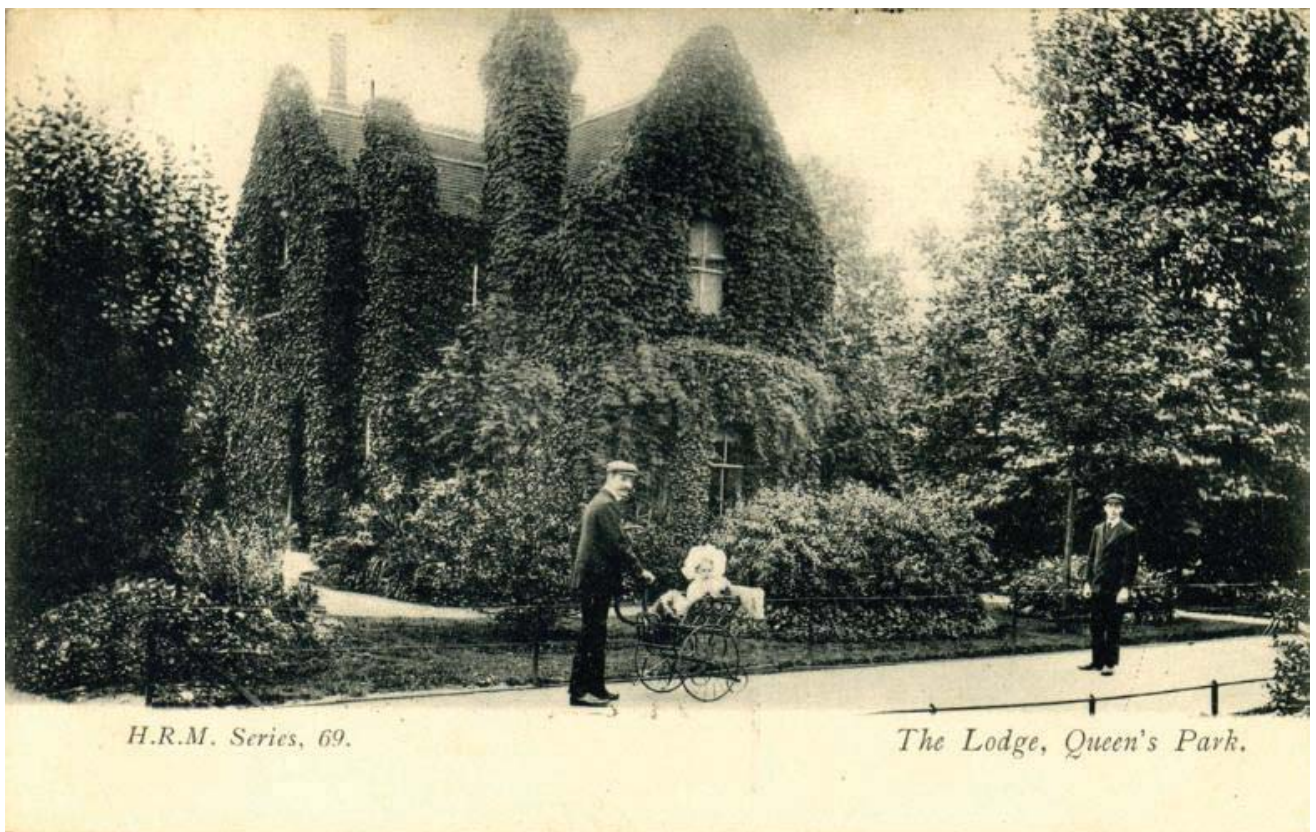
15 Police Constables @ 3/- each £ 3-15-0  
1 Sergeant @ 6/- - - - - 6-0  
Total £ 4-1-0

Received  
10. 6  
15. 6  
Total £ 25. 6

**Figure 18:** A receipt from the Metropolitan Police for the provision of 15 Police Constables and one sergeant for the opening of the park on November 5th 1887



**Figure 19:** The Drinking Fountain which was located in the middle of the park c1910 Queen's Park



**Figure 20:** 1900's The Lodge

N<sup>o</sup> 279

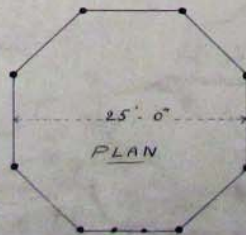
Cost complete de plus  
detail Estimate £342.11.0

Estimate of title  
June 1891

Accepted by Comtee  
21<sup>st</sup> July 1891



BASE AND STAIR TO BE SAME  
DESIGN AS FOR NO 222



WALTER MACFARLANE & CO  
GLASGOW  
SARACEN FOUNDRY

**Figure 21:** Drawing of the Proposed Bandstand from Walter MacFarlane & Co. dated July 1891. Has a note saying cost £342.11s



**Figure 22:** Postcard showing the Band Stand dated 1905



**Figure 23:** Postcard of bandstand no date

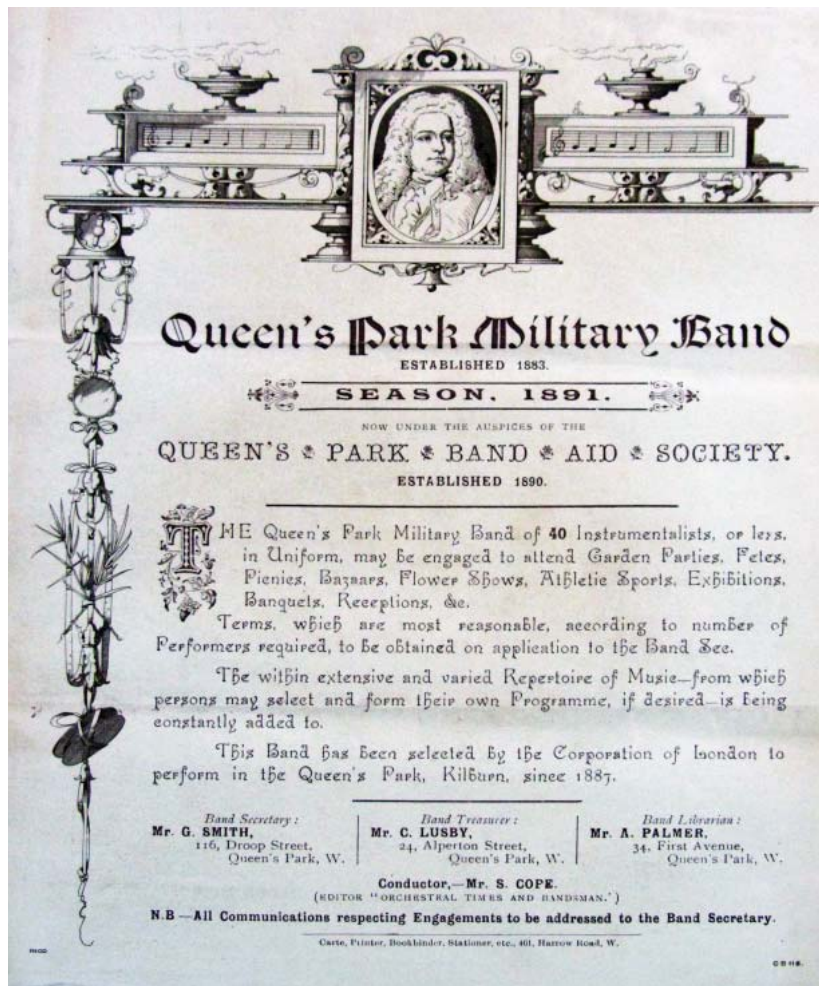


Figure 24: Flyer for Queen's Park Military Band Season 1891

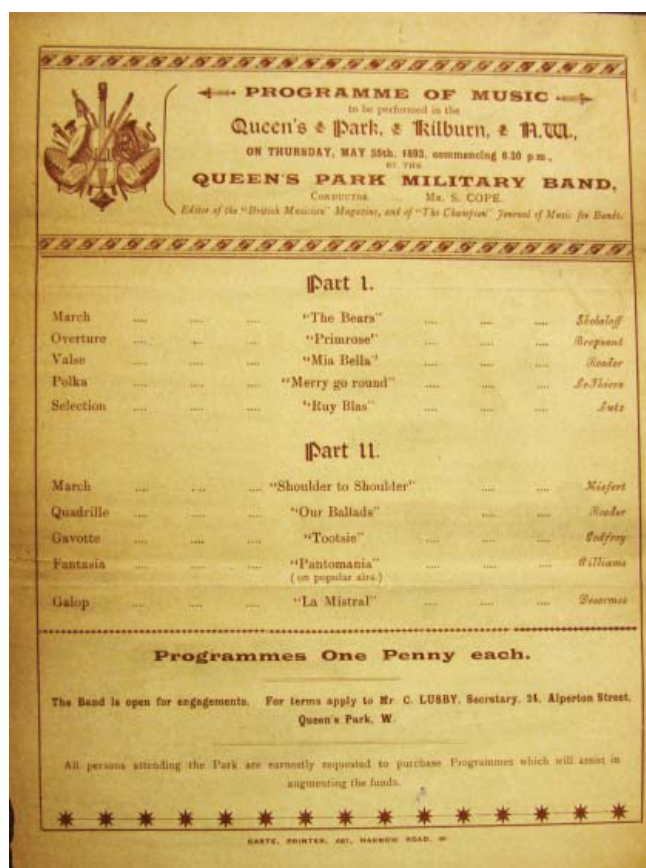


Figure 25: Queen's Park Military Band Programme for 25th May 1893

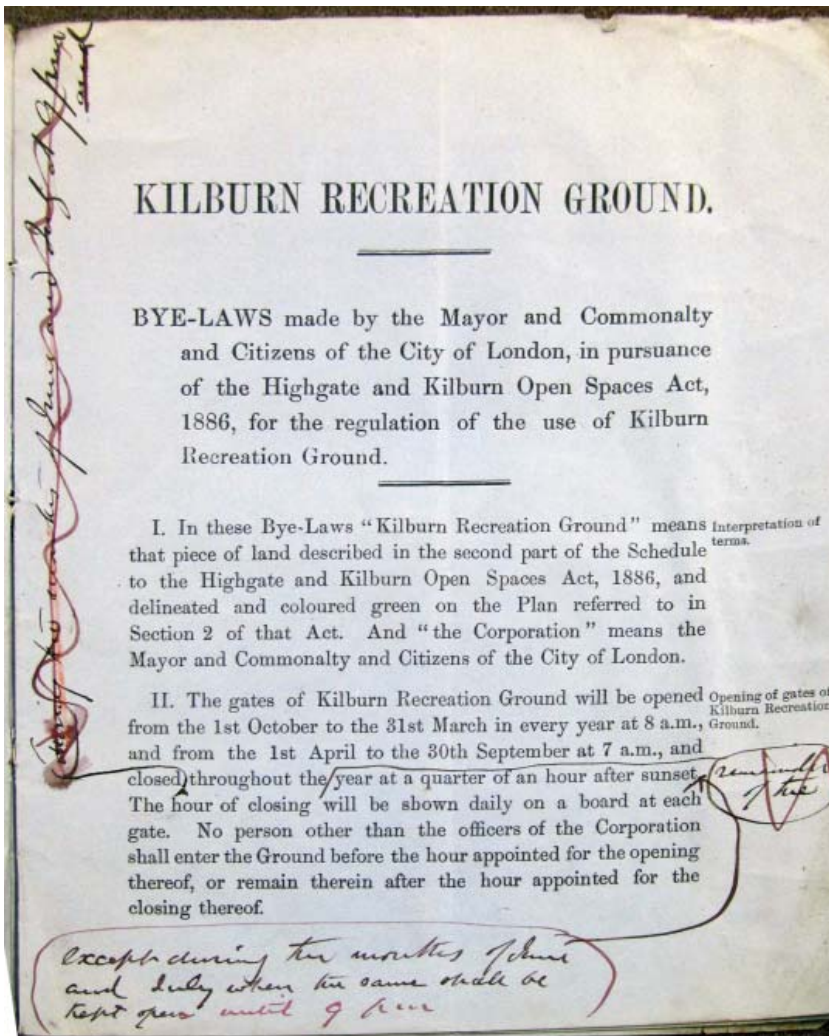


Figure 26: Marked up page of 1986 Bye-laws for the park

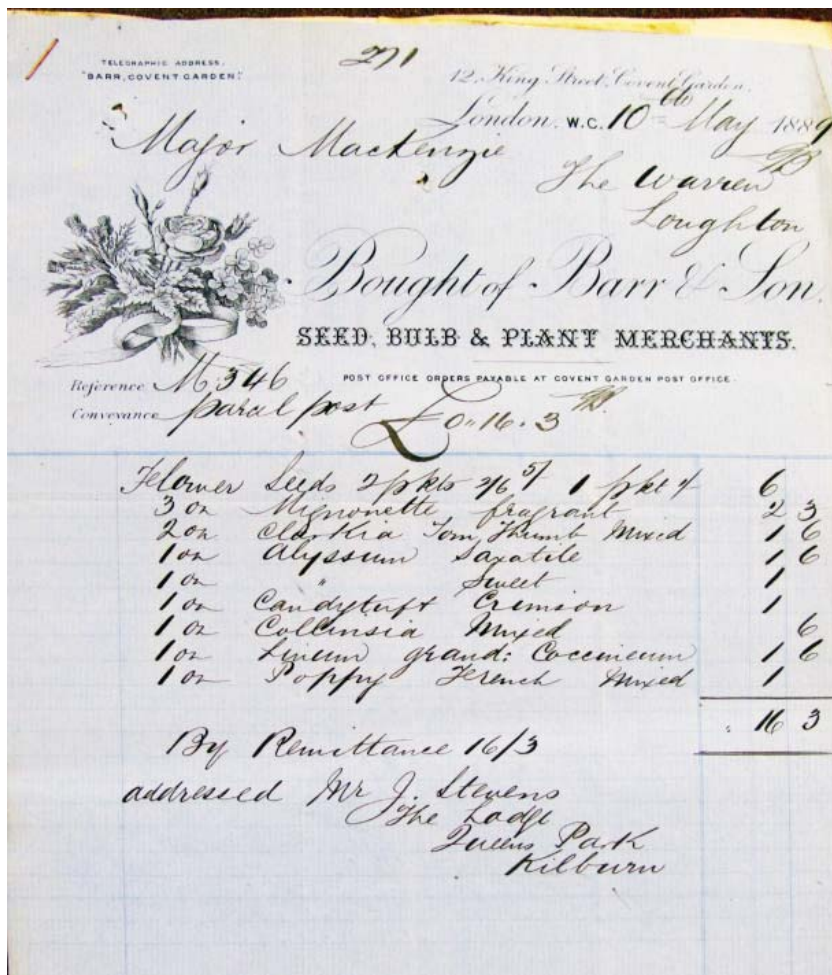


Figure 27: Invoice for seeds for annuals for the park 1889



- 4.23 **1894 Queen's** Park appears for first time on an OS Map. The line of trees running north west from the bandstand are likely to be remnants from the field boundary shown on the 1874 Map, these trees are shown on the OS maps through until 1959.
- 4.24 **1905** A proposal for a new WC for women<sup>15</sup>.
- 4.25 **1913** Plans for new drains for Head Keepers Lodge<sup>16</sup>.
- 4.26 **1924** A second glass house was installed. From the beginning of the 1900s the park grew most of its plant material. The park also provided plants for St Paul's Cathedral, the green houses were demolished in 1970.

### **1920 AND 1930s 'THE PARK REMEMBERED'**

- 4.27 John Snelling a local resident recalled to Margaret Chambers of the Grange Library in 1987<sup>17</sup> that in the mid-thirties the park keeper they called Long Tom patrolled the park in a peaked cap and armed with a stick, he would chase children out of the bushes that at that time surrounded the park. No dogs were allowed off the lead. He recalled there being a children's playground not as large as the present one, with a wooden thatched shelter opposite it. He also remembers a log built kiosk selling sweets near the Hopefield Avenue entrance.
- 4.28 At the start of WWII in 1939 John Snelling says the south field was fenced off. Part of it provided a site for a barrage balloon. The airmen controlling the balloon had the thatched shelter altered for their use and a Nissen hut which served as their quarters was placed next to it. The rest of the field was dug over and staked to become allotments for the local community. In the north field where the putting green is now, dugout shelters were created with mounds of earth on the roof. The decorative iron work around the bandstand and the railings enclosing the park went to be melted down for munitions. During the blitz in 1940 a bomb fell in the middle of the north field and another by the edge of the temporary wooden fencing along Chevening Road.
- 4.29 Another resident Marjorie Moses recalls that the air-raid shelters in the park were only used for a short time as they soon became waterlogged and after that people had their own Morrison shelters at their homes.
- 4.30 Charles Poulter remembers growing up near the Park from 1925 to 1930. He recalls that the shrubberies were a favourite place to play, keeping a wary eye open for the park keeper, the shrubberies are long since removed. He also remembers the banked beds of display bedding and playing football and cricket on the north field, and games in the south field where you were not allowed to use a hard ball.
- 4.31 Dennis Toombs remembers the many more flower beds and thick bushes in which one could hide or make trails away from the eyes of the park keepers. He remembers it as an orderly park where people could sit and admire the

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<sup>15</sup> Corporation of London Records office COL/SVD/PL/10/0591

<sup>16</sup> Corporation of London Records office COL/SVD/PL/10/0818

<sup>17</sup> From Queen's Park Centenary Brochure 1987 'I remember' ...Researched by Margaret Chambers of the Grange Museum

flowers or listen to the band on a Sunday, and that people respected the facilities.

- 4.32 **1935** Plans for a proposed tennis pavilion (these not accessed for this report but are at the Corporation of London record office). A refreshments building is shown on the 1930's detailed plan of the site which was demolished for the 2 storey building in 1963.
- 4.33 **1936** Lych Gate with seats built, at the entrance on corner of Kingswood Avenue and Harvist Road. This was closed as an entrance in 1960.
- 4.34 **1937** Six tennis courts built by Grassphalte Ltd, Hampton Hill, Middlesex.
- 4.35 **1939 - 45** Second World War as in 'The Park Remembered' above, air-raid shelters were built in the park, a barrage balloon station established and the South field given over to allotments. Parts of the bandstand and the perimeter railings were removed for melting down for munitions. The designed path structure was partially removed.
- 4.36 **1960** Many of the shrubberies removed to reduce maintenance costs. A small amount remained in the south of the park.
- 4.37 **1963** Refreshment Chalet and Residence built, the 1935 Tennis pavilion was demolished to make way for this. The building was refurbished in 2004.
- 4.38 **1966** A nine hole Pitch and Putt course was constructed in North field and covers seven acres of the park.
- 4.39 **1970's** Over 180 elms lost to Dutch Elm Disease.
- 4.40 **1973** Two houses for staff accommodation proposed by the Corporation, for inside the park. Also at the same time the Council proposed that the area around park become a General Improvement Area. Queen's Park Area Residents Association (QPARA) formed to make residents aware of the proposals and to oppose them. QPARA have since become an active community based organisation dedicated to improving and protecting the quality of life and the environment.
- 4.41 **1987** Centenary of the Park, celebrations were attended by the Lord Mayor and thousands of local residents. Souvenir Brochure and Guide produced by QPARA containing articles on the history of the park and the local area.
- 4.42 **1990** A Children's Farm constructed.
- 4.43 **1992** Bandstand restored.
- 4.44 **1999** McKenzie's figure-of-eight footpaths reinstated and a woodland walk. The original gymnasium site was increased in size with a modern children's playground and paddling pool.
- 4.45 **2002** Land drainage installed and connected to the main drain in Harvist Road. The park has had a long history of flooding and several drainage schemes have only had limited success in the past. The park has 5 springs rising within it's boundary.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Queen's Park Management Plan 2009 -2014 City of London



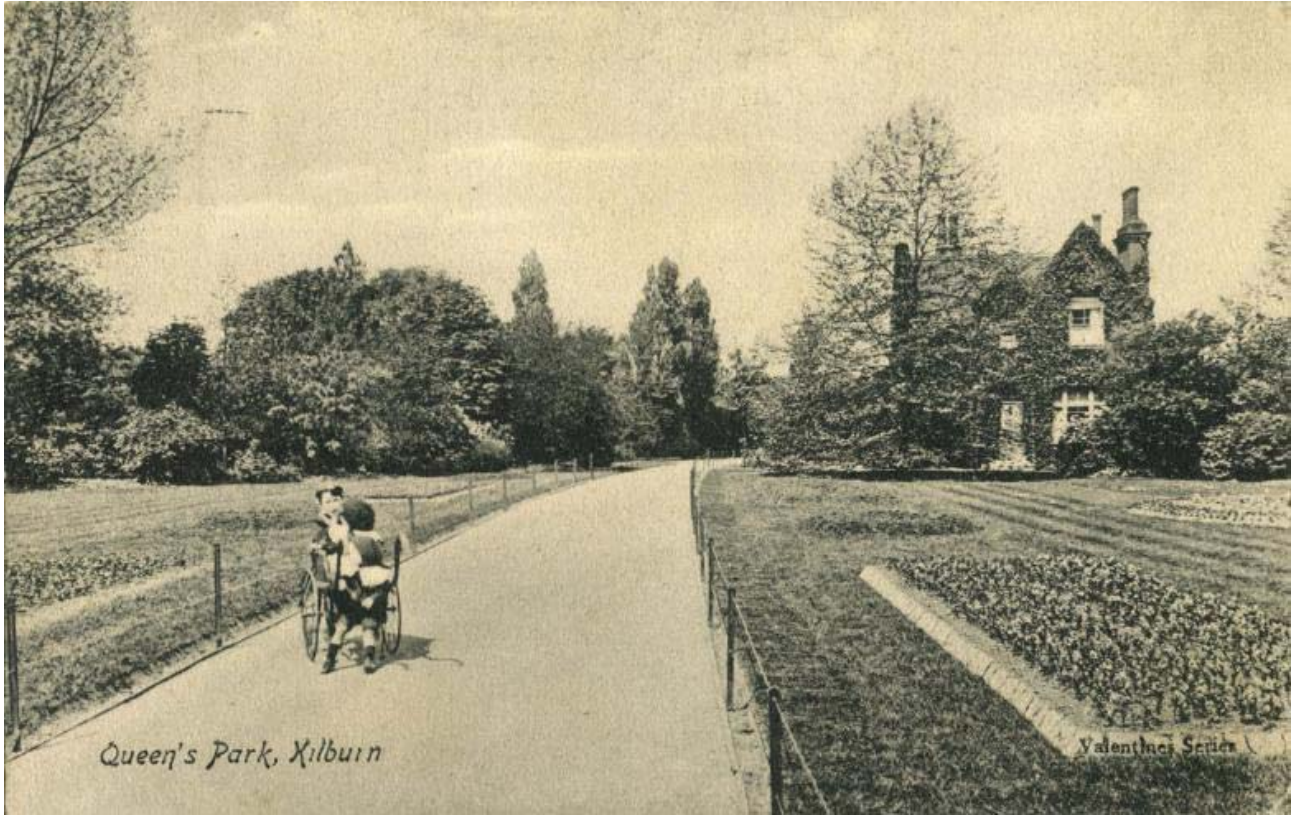
**Figure 28:** Floral Bedding Queen's Park, no date. Lodge can be seen in the background



**Figure 29:** Harvist Road c1910 showing boundary of Queen's Park with timber paling fences and gates



**Figure 30:** Postcard from 1900s shows the dense shrubberies



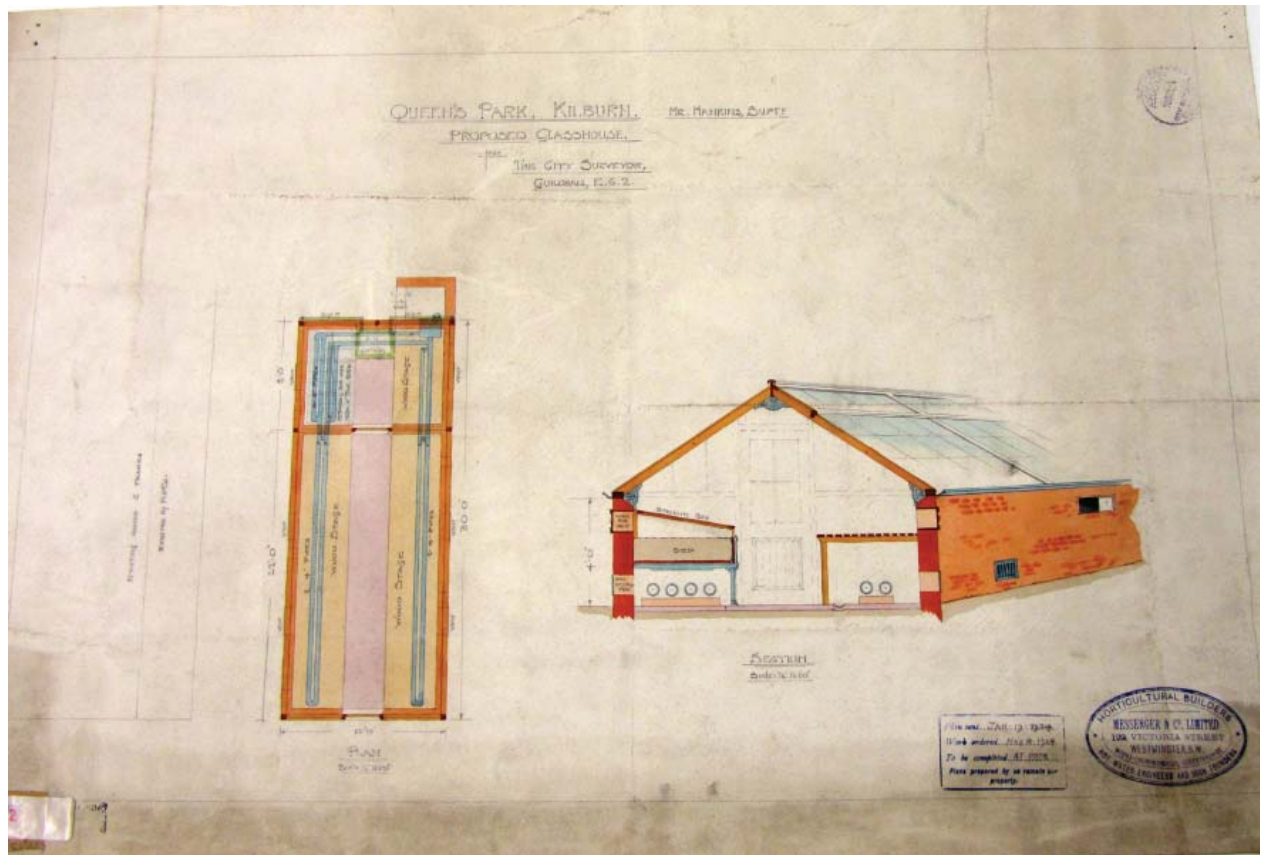
**Figure 31:** Postcard from 1900s showing lodge and post / wire fencing



**Figure 32:** Postcard from 1905



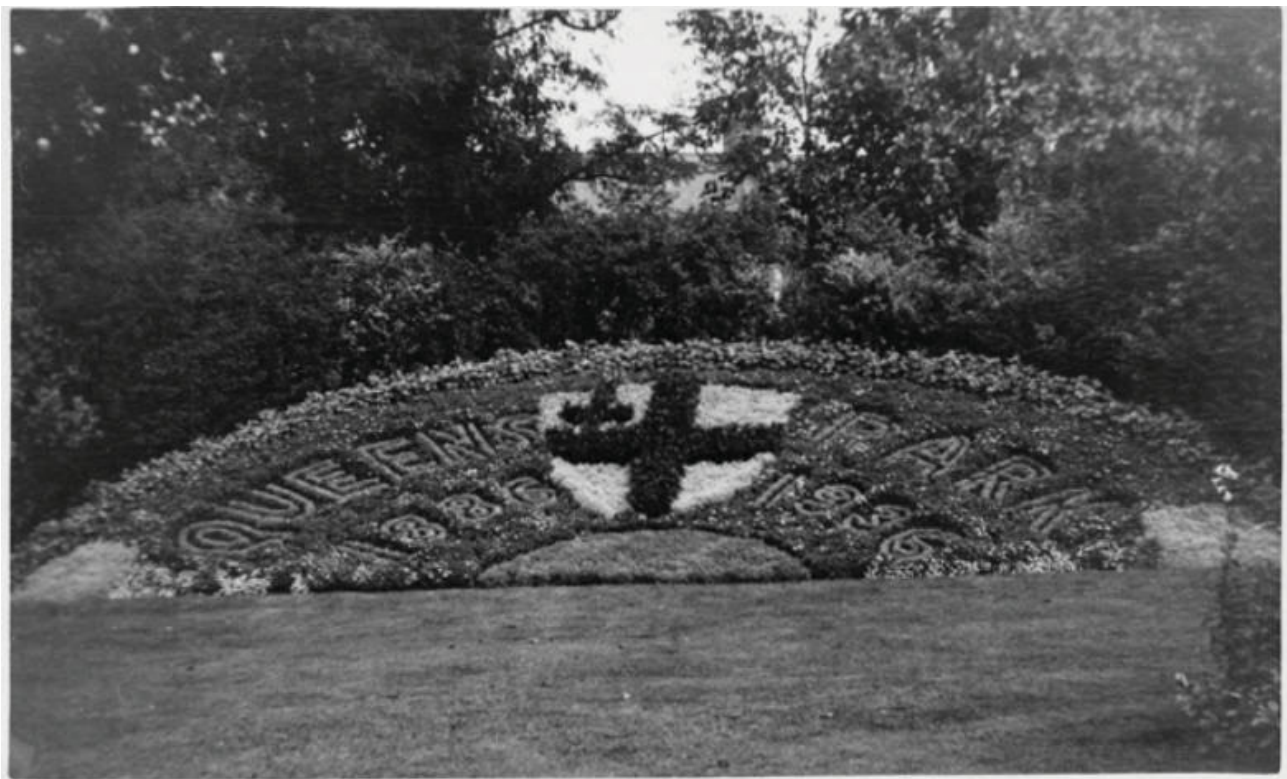
**Figure 33:** Postcard from 1915



**Figure 34:** Plan for new greenhouse 1924



**Figure 35:** Postcard from 1930s, floral bedding display



**Figure 36:** Postcard from 1936 showing display bedding commemorating 50 years of Queen's Park



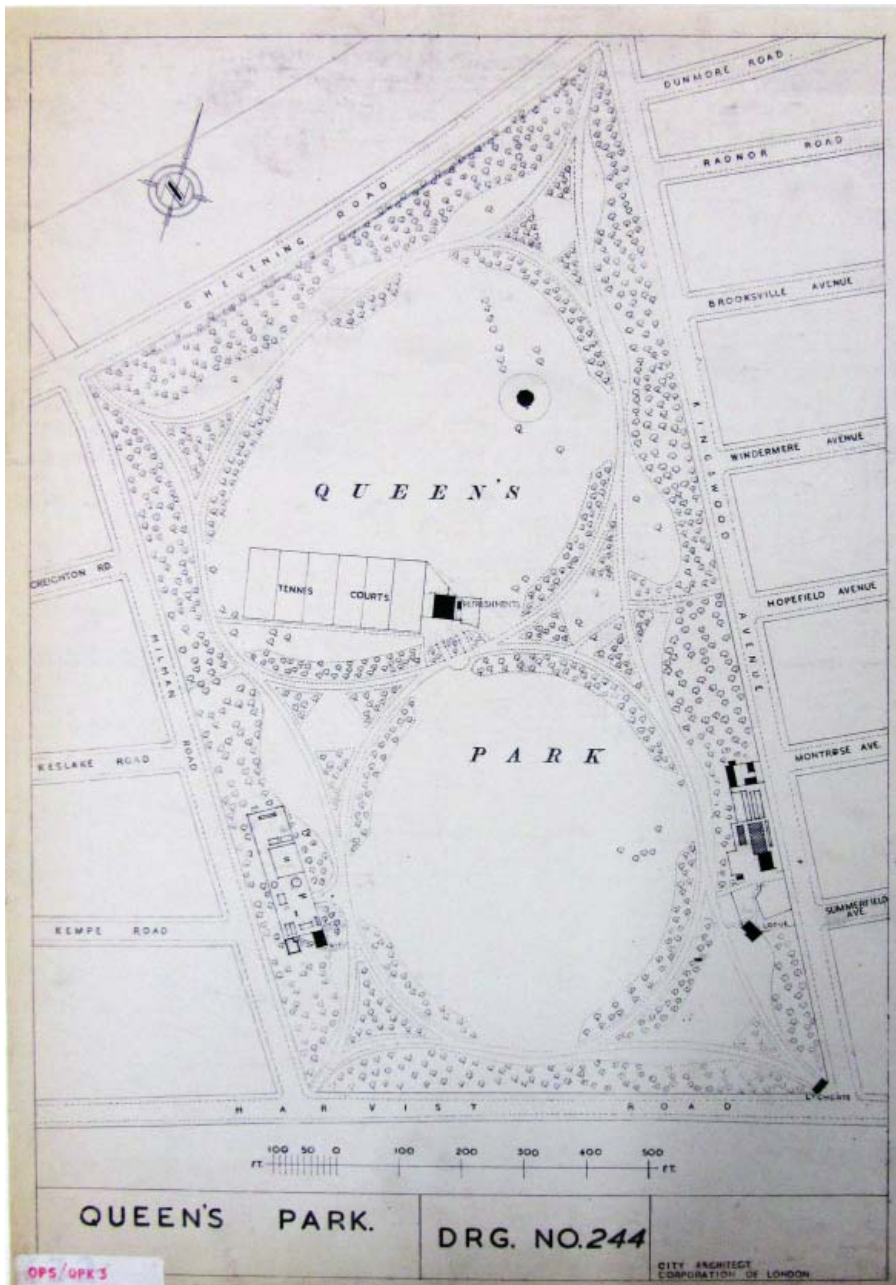
**Figure 37: Revision of 1935 OS Map** reduced from original scale of 1:2,500  
 New streets shown to the north west of park.  
 In the park new tennis courts shown and Lych Gate shown on South East Entrance to Park. Number of glasshouses have increased from number shown on 1915 map. The maintenance yard has also been extended



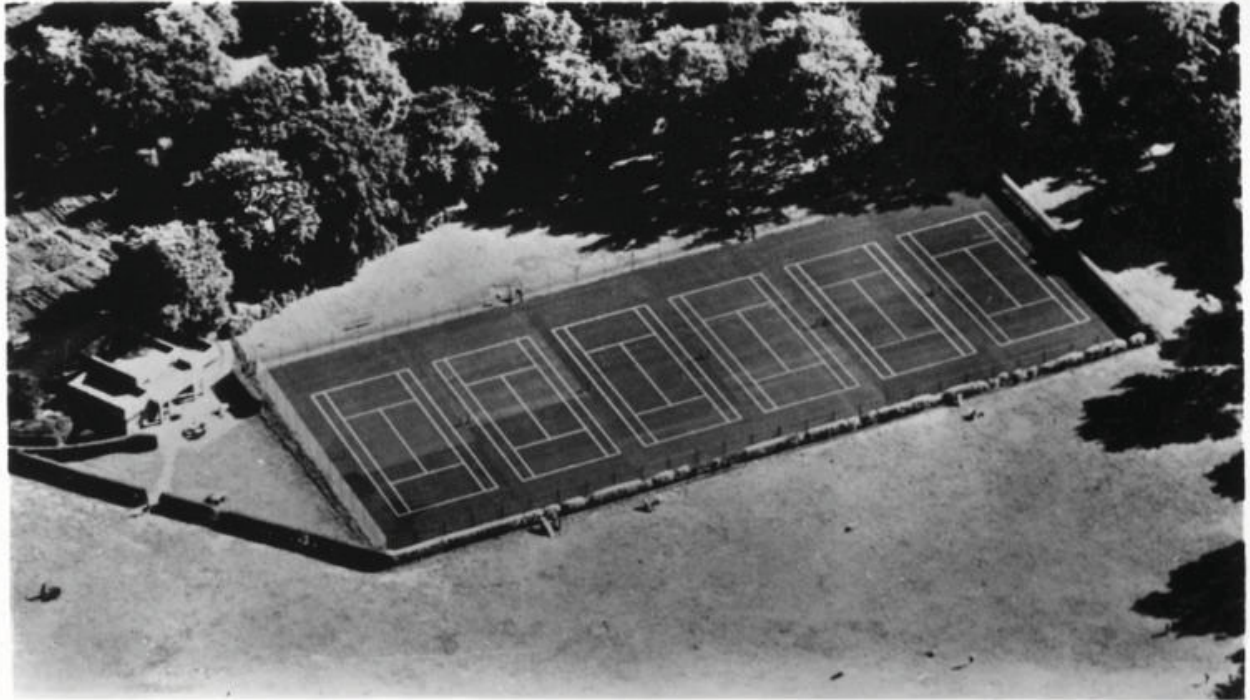


**Figure 38: Revision of 1959 OS Map** reduced from original scale of 1:2,500

Enclosed gymnasium/playground area near lavatory enlarged



**Figure 39: Plan of Queen's Park** from archives. Dates from late 1930s and shows tennis pavilion which was proposed in 1935. Shows the shrubberies intact. New paths to Milman Road and opposite Hopefield Avenue. Lych Gate shown, this was built in 1936.



9710.

QUEENS PARK, KILBURN FOR THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION.  
GRASSPHALTE LIMITED, HAMPTON HILL, MIDDX.

**Figure 40:** Grassphalte tennis courts. No date on photograph, but courts were built in 1937



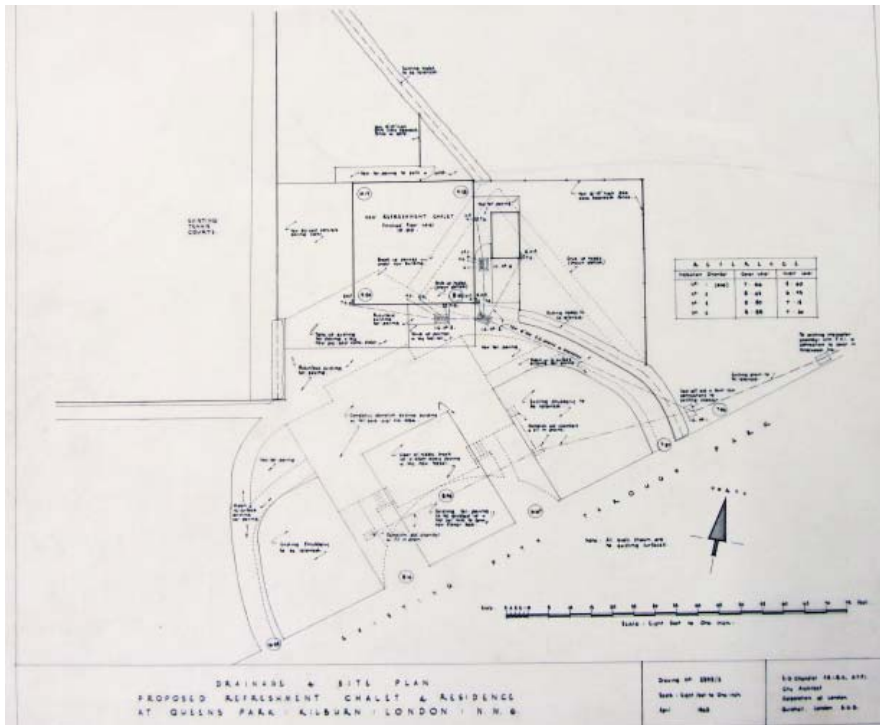
**Figure 41:** Tree struck by lightning, 1932



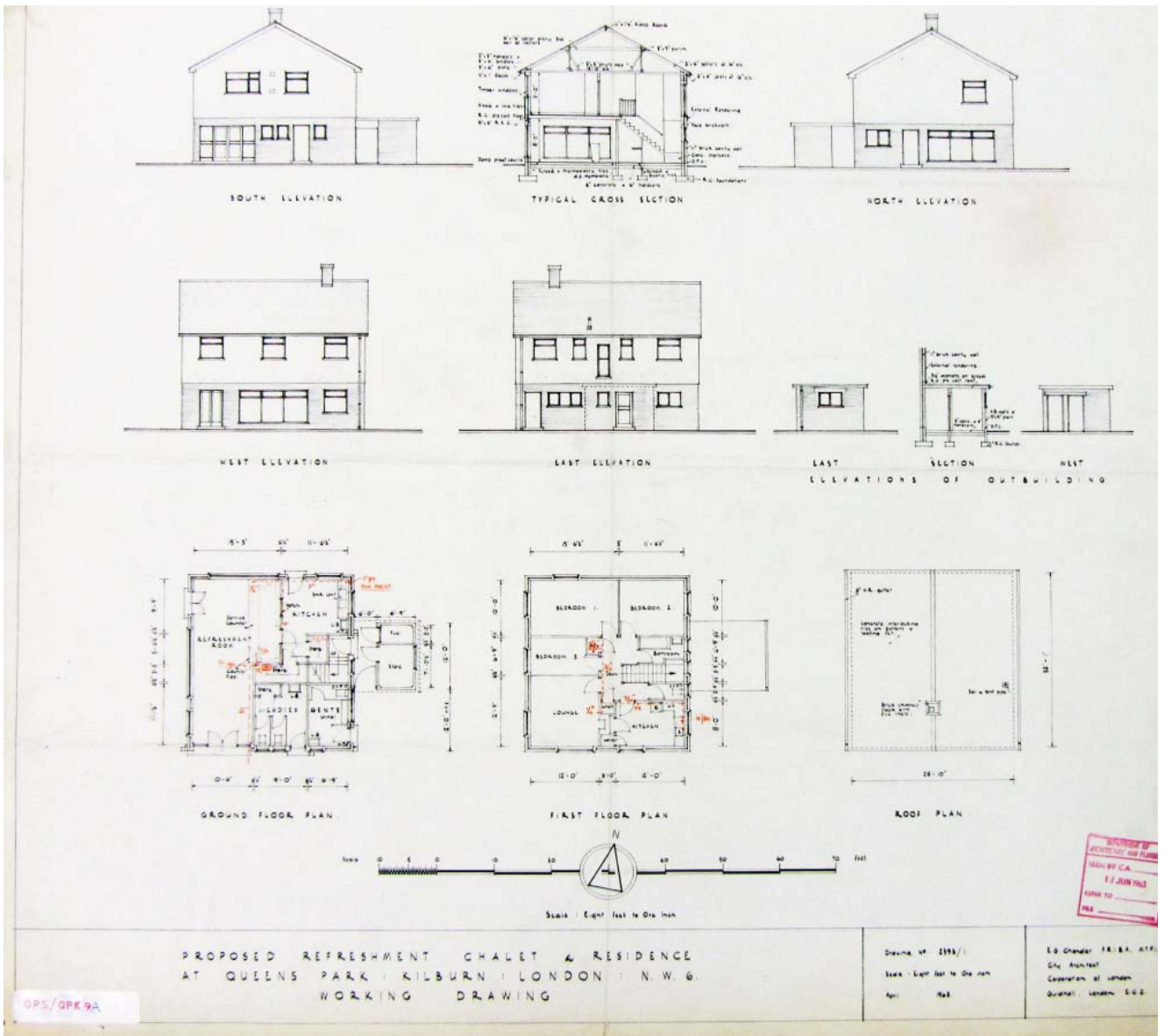
**Figure 42:** Tug of war, no date



**Figure 43:** 1960



**Figure 44:** Site Plan of Proposed Refreshment Chalet and Residence 1963, located in place of tennis pavilion and refreshment cafe which dated from 1935



**Figure 45:** Elevations and floor plans of Refreshment Chalet and Residence 1963



**Figure 46:** Proposal for new Keepers Houses in Queen's Park 1970



## **5 TWENTIETH AND TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY CHANGES**

### **SURVIVALS**

- The park as a whole retains its original boundary on plan
- The original layout of paths is largely intact
- The bandstand remains

### **LOSSES**

- The original entrance on corner of Harvist Road and Kingswood Road, where Lych Gate is, has been blocked off
- The original rustic refreshment lodge near the gymnasium (playground) has been lost
- The plantings in all but one of the original 6 formal parterre triangles have been lost
- All of the original shrub planting and many trees have been lost
- The original gymnasium has been replaced with a larger children's play area
- The drinking fountain has been removed
- The alignment of the northern section of paths has changed
- The Gardeners House dating from 1887 has been replaced with a modern building
- Green houses
- Internal low fencing metal kick rails
- Post card from circa 1910 indicates that park perimeter originally had timber paling. This has been replaced with metal railings and gates.

### **ADDITIONS**

- The café building and offices
- Pitch and putt course obscures historic design
- Pets Corner
- Lych Gate
- Three new entrances have been formed
- New style of planting around the café
- Tennis courts
- New toilet facilities
- Larger play area, including paddling pool and toddlers play



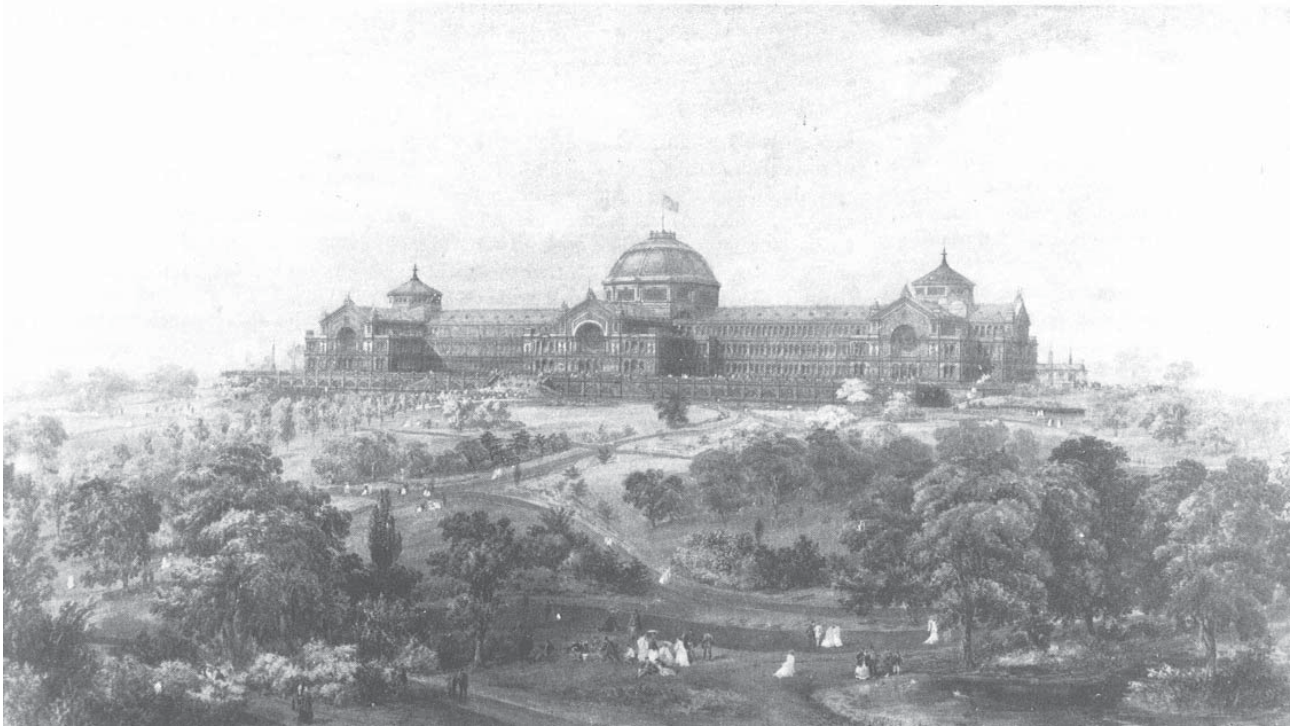


## 6 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AT QUEEN'S PARK

- 6.1 Queen's Park was designed by Alexander McKenzie a leading figure in Victorian park design. Although it does not have the scale and complexity of his other parks, namely Alexandra Palace Park, Southwark Park, Finsbury Park and Albert and Victoria Embankments, it is a perfect example of McKenzie's naturalistic landscape style. Queen's Park is designed without any straight lines or architectural features. His original 1887 layout plan shows that he made extensive use of bold tree planting and shrubberies with natural outlines which contrasted with large open areas of lawn which acted as spaces for recreation and sport. The original drawings still exist and the bones of the design can still be clearly seen on the ground.
- 6.2 McKenzie was part of a very influential group of landscape designers which included Robert Marnock, Joseph Meston and William Robinson, they led garden design away from the parterres and geometry of earlier Victorian gardens to a more natural style of gardening, they challenged many gardening traditions and introduced new ideas that have become commonplace today.<sup>19</sup>
- 6.3 The paths of intersecting circles that form the structure of Queen's Park also demonstrate the influence of the French park design on English parks of the time. Édouard André reimported the English landscape style back to England from France in the late 1860s.
- 6.4 In our view there is a good case for Queen's Park it be considered to be of sufficiently high level of interest to merit recognition by English Heritage. McKenzie's four other London parks are listed on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historical interest in England. Although much of Queen's Park's original design has been obscured by twentieth century changes, these could be modified and even partially reversed by sympathetic restoration whilst still retaining the facilities required of a modern park.

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<sup>19</sup> Elliot, Brent Victorian Gardens



**Figure 47:** Alexandra Palace, watercolour by Alfred Meeson c1863.



**Figure 48:** Alexander McKenzie

## 7 ALEXANDER MCKENZIE AND THE DESIGN OF QUEEN'S PARK KILBURN

- 7.1 Alexander McKenzie designed and laid out Queen's Park in 1887. By this time McKenzie was one of London's most influential park designers<sup>20</sup>. His first well known work was Alexandra Palace Park which he designed in 1863. Alexandra Palace was owned and managed by a private company which set out to rival Joseph Paxton's successful Crystal Palace Park; McKenzie laid out the park in a style that was very different to Crystal Palace. He emphasised informality and there was hardly a straight line to be seen.<sup>21</sup> In contrast Paxton's Crystal Palace Park was dominated by strong formal elements and symmetry (although there were informal elements with winding paths, lakes and trees in the lower park).
- 7.2 In 1869-70, while still based at Alexandra Palace where he was superintendent, McKenzie designed Southwark Park (Grade II), Finsbury Park (Grade II) and Victoria and Albert Embankment Gardens (Grade I\*).
- 7.3 On the design of Victoria Embankment Gardens, Simon Thurley of English Heritage comments:
- 'These were not rigid urban gardens, architecturally conceived such as might be found in the Tuilleries in Paris, but almost suburban and local in feel. Thus while the great plane trees of the embankment, and its broad proportions, its granite walls and its handsome street furniture gave a grandeur and monumentality to London that it had not had before, the gardens, arguably its largest visual component, provided a strongly contrasting aesthetic. .... McKenzie believed in grass, not flower beds, in informality and in winding picturesque paths. His designs were met with quite a lot of criticism at the time, although the skeleton of them survives today.'<sup>22</sup>
- 7.4 The controversy over the design refers to debate that had been building in the 1860s against the French and Italian formal style exemplified in the architectural garden style of designers like Nesfield. The architectural press at the time supported this more architectural style and lamented the lost opportunity at the Embankment for creating an urban garden with a screening wall, a central avenue and parterre. Instead of formality McKenzie and his co-designer Joseph Meston had created winding paths, an arboretum and lawns.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Town and Crown: Why London never became an imperial capital, Thursday, 11 March 2010 Dr Simon Thurley architectural historian, the Chief Executive of English Heritage, Gresham College lectures. <http://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/town-and-crown-why-london-never-became-an-imperial-capital>

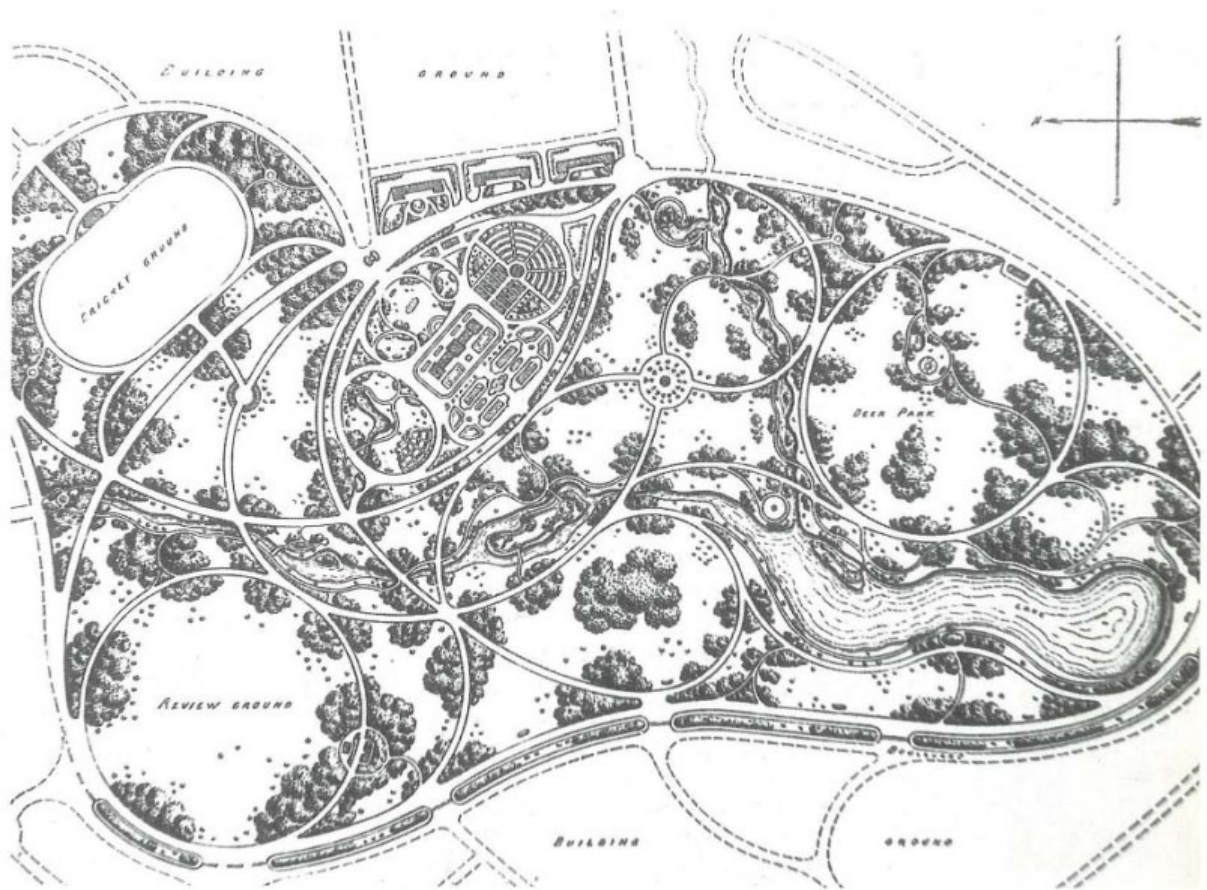
<sup>21</sup> Conway, Hazel P.95 Peoples Parks The Design and Development of Peoples Parks in Britain by Cambridge University Press 1991

<sup>22</sup> Town and Country as above Dr Simon Thurley

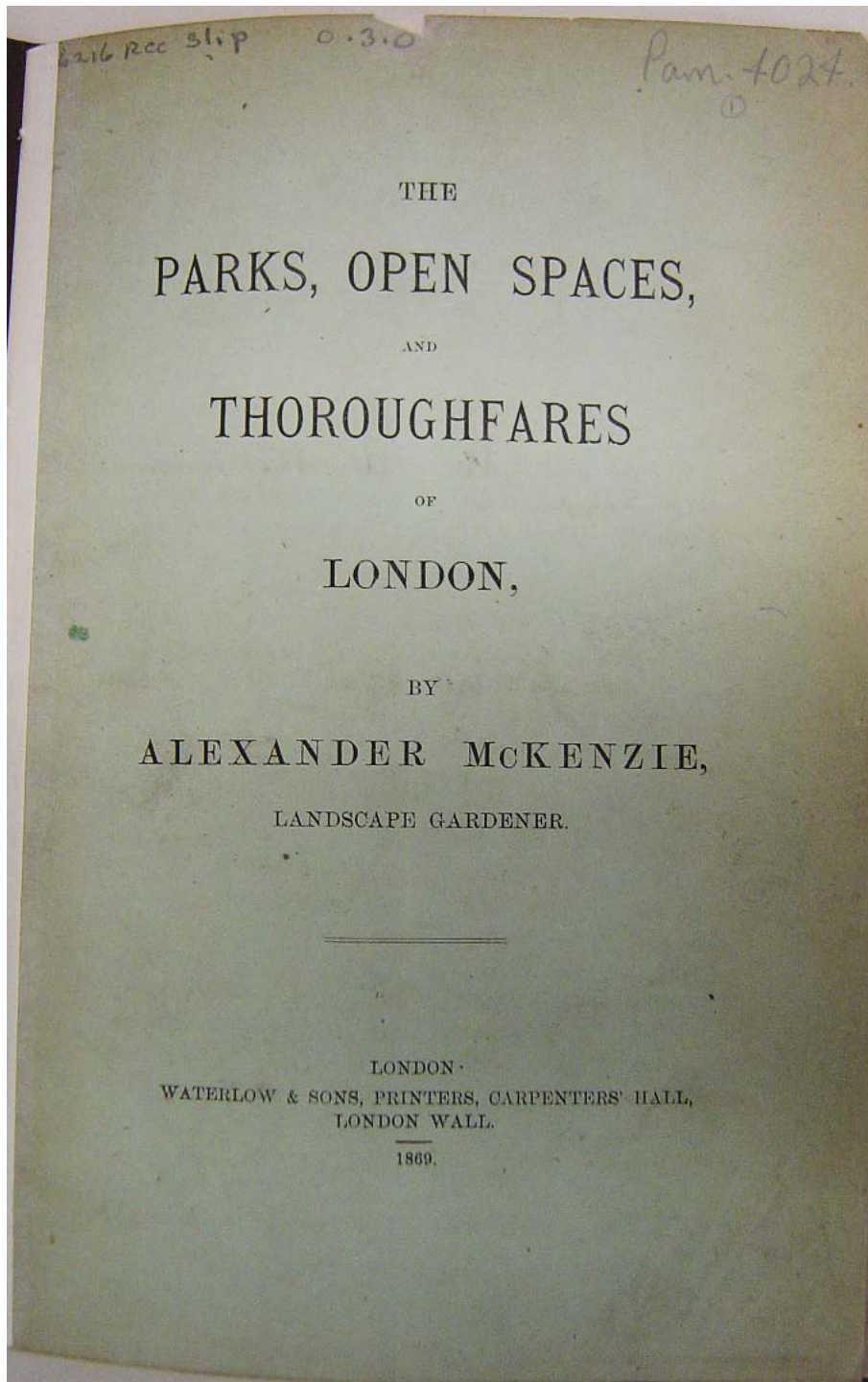
<sup>23</sup> Elliot Brent P166- 169 'The reaction in Landscape' Victorian Gardens



**Figure 49:** Square des Batignolles ‘Les Promenades de Paris’ by Aldophe Alphand 1868



**Figure 50:** Sefton Park Liverpool 1867



**Figure 51:** Cover of Alexander McKenzie's booklet 'The Parks, Open Spaces, and Thoroughfares of London. 1869

- 7.5 McKenzie and Joseph Meston along with William Robinson (1838 -1935 of Gravetye Manor and ‘Wild Gardening’ fame), were part of a group of pupils and protégés who Robert Marnock (1800 -1889) had gathered around him. William Robinson founded the magazine ‘The Garden’ in 1871 in order to promote a return to the ‘pure horticulture of the natural’. This natural style, also described as the English landscape style as improved by horticulture, was to be free from formalities, meretricious ornaments, powdered bricks, cockleshell and bottle-ends. ‘The Garden’ praised Marnock as ‘the greatest landscape gardener of the day, and as the saviour of English gardening from the formality of the High Victorian years.’<sup>24</sup> Robinson and McKenzie took Marnock ideas a stage further to an assertion of the absolute independence of garden design from architectural style.
- 7.6 In 1869 McKenzie wrote a booklet titled ‘Parks Open Spaces and Thoroughfares of London’ in which he writes that:
- ‘for some years past I have devoted much attention to the best modes of improving the British Metropolis with a view first, to the health of its dense population and next, in order to render it in somewhat more worthy of comparison with that of France than it is at present.’
- 7.7 Interestingly it was the French park designs of Jean-Claude- Adolphe Alphand and Édouard André that strongly influenced British Park design for the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Alphand had laid out new parks in Paris for Baron Haussmann from about 1853, these include the Bois de Boulogne, Parc Monceau and Buttes-Chaumont which at Napoleon III’s request were laid out in the English landscape style. Alphand’s Square des Batignolles of 1862 has striking similarities with McKenzie’s design for Queen’s Park. Square des Batignolles is in a naturalistic style with areas of grass enclosed by winding paths and shrubbery.
- 7.8 In 1867 Édouard André, who had worked with Alphand in Paris, introduced Parisian principles of park design to Britain with Sefton Park in Liverpool. Andre collaborated with a local architect Lewis Hornblower. Critics of Sefton Park said that the circles and intersecting paths gave the appearance of a network of railways; this was probably written in the knowledge that Andre’s mentor Alphand, had in fact been a railway engineer.
- 7.9 Robert Marnock repudiated the idea that there was anything English in this style of monotonous circles. However Hazel Conway in her study of Victorian parks in Britain says that the most important innovation was André’s layout of the paths and drives within Sefton Park. These enclosed a series of open spaces for a variety of activities screened by peripheral planting which potentially offered a solution to the problem of accommodating different sports.<sup>25</sup>
- 7.10 Sport was one of the main uses for open spaces in parks in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The generally accepted approach in Victorian parks to the problem of accommodating sports was to provide centrally located larger open spaces for such sports as cricket and to position activities requiring small spaces

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Conway, Hazel Peoples Parks P. 96-97

around the periphery of parks where they could be screened by planting.<sup>26</sup> At Queen's Park, McKenzie's 1887 design shows two circular areas of grass one slightly larger than the other, on this plan these are both labelled recreation ground and on the untitled plan with the straight central path, which is presumably an earlier design for Queen's Park, the smaller area is called a Lawn Tennis Ground and the large one a Cricket Ground.

- 7.11 The gymnasium shown on the McKenzie's design is in the position of the current children's playground near the periphery of the park. No specific information is known about the original set up of the gymnasium but other parks at around the same period contained pole and rope climbing and climbing up an inclined plank. Children's play equipment included swings and see saws.
- 7.12 A place in the centre of the park is marked as the location of drinking fountain. It was installed before 1910, as it is shown in a postcard of the 'Queen's Park Drinking Fountain' of that date.
- 7.13 The amount of planting on McKenzie's plan is notable and shows how much has been removed in more recent times.
- 7.14 McKenzie's design has six triangular, formal planting areas formed at points between the outer paths and the two circles. Today only one of these formal areas survives in the Quiet Garden or Flower Garden on the south east corner of the park.
- 7.15 Around the outer borders of the park the original plan shows dense bands of informal tree and shrub planting. These are scalloped on the inside edges where they adjoin the grass adding to the natural feel. The planting is thicker around the gymnasium area to screen it. Similarly a lodge building shown on the eastern side of the plan is half hidden in planting.
- 7.16 Informal bands of shrubbery also screen the circular grass areas from the outer paths but there are strategically placed gaps in these to preserve vistas and occasional views across the park which serve to increase its apparent size.
- 7.17 Therefore in a relatively small space McKenzie had achieved remarkable variety within the landscape, small scale formal areas with colourful bedding plants and topiary, open expanses of lawn, dense shrubberies and trees that both act as a buffer between the park and the yet to be built surrounding houses and which also hide and reveal views across the park as you walk around the curving paths.

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<sup>26</sup> Conway, Hazel Peoples Parks pages 192





## 8 TIME LINE – The Career of Alexander McKenzie

### **Major Alexander McKenzie Landscape Gardener born 1829 died 1893**

**1863** Designed and laid out the grounds of Alexandra Palace, first superintendent of Alexandra Palace Park, which was owned and operated by a private company.

**1869** Booklet published 'The Parks Open Spaces and Thoroughfares of London' By Alexander McKenzie Landscape Gardener, Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill.

**1869** Designed Finsbury Park.

**1869** Designed Southwark Park.

**1869** Designed Albert Embankment Gardens.

**1870** Designs for Victoria Embankment Gardens approved by Metropolitan Board of Works.

**By 1870's** Superintendent of all open spaces that were in the charge of the Metropolitan Board of Works\*, including Southwark Park, Victoria Embankment, Albert Embankment, Hampstead Heath, Blackheath, Shepherd's Bush Common, Stepney Green, Hackney Commons and London Fields.

Also as landscape architect to other patrons of a public and private nature in England Ireland and Scotland including the Alexandra Palace Company, other clients included the directors of the Metropolitan and City police orphanage, the board of management of the Middlesex County Asylum, Birmingham Town Council and the Lord Provost, magistrates and the Council of City of Edinburgh.

Other clients included owners of private estates including Park Place, Henley on Thames, and Easton Neston in Northamptonshire.

**1871** Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone, Kent a public park of 2 hectares (4.9 acres), laid out to the 1871 plans of Alexander McKenzie. Brenchley Gardens were presented to the town by Mr Julius Brenchley in 1873.

**1869-1879** Various entries in McKenzie's private note book<sup>27</sup> regarding actions for him to perform as agreed by the Parks Commons and Open Spaces Committee and Works Committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works in his capacity as Superintendent of Parks and Open Spaces, for example:

- A McKenzie to measure cubic capacity of lake in Finsbury Park and ascertain sum for which East London Waterworks Co would fill it for.
- Noted that path gravel needed for Southwark Park.

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<sup>27</sup> London Metropolitan Archives CLC/B/227/MS16861-

- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> AM to prepare an estimate of planting of Hampstead Heath with Gorse Heather Broom and Fern.
- Committee approved expenditure for plants for Stepney Green.
- AMc to view Shepherds Bush Common and report as to its condition and requirements.
- Planting of Thames embankment.
- Complaint of boys crawling under fence at Southwark Park, A McKenzie to see how it can be prevented.
- Committee approved £10 of flower seed for Finsbury Park.
- Expenditure for £25 for bedding at Finsbury Park authorised.
- McKenzie to report of condition and requirements of Hampstead Heath including the question of a drying ground.

**1874** Article by Alexander McKenzie 'Beautiful Shrubberies' in the Floral World and Garden Guide, Ed Shirley Hibberd<sup>28</sup>.

**1875** Article by Alexander McKenzie 'Promenade Trees' in the Floral World and Garden Guide Ed. Shirley Hibberd<sup>29</sup>.

**1875** Official opening of Alexandra Palace (the first having been destroyed by fire) and park on May Day, reported in The Floral World and Garden Guide 1875 Ed Shirley Hibberd<sup>30</sup>.

'Mr Alexander McKenzie the landscape gardener to the company has constructed a first class nursery near the west end of the building to supply the park and gardens with bedding plants and the Palace with the nobler forms of vegetation'.

**1877** Designed Grounds of Middlesex County Asylum Banstead, Surrey.

**1878** Designed Victoria Park, Portsmouth. Victoria Park covers approximately 3.5 hectares, and dates from the late-19th century. Features include a gate lodge, perimeter walk, aviary, a fountain and several listed monuments. Victoria Park was laid out in on land which had previously formed the glacis and open land of the defences of Portsea.

**1879** Appointed Superintendent of Epping Forest.

**1879** Letter from McKenzie to Committee in which he says that he does not intend to seek reappointment as MBW Superintendent of Parks, will be more than happy to give my best attention to anything they may wish me to do for them should at any time require my services<sup>31</sup>.

**1887** Designed Queen's Park, Kilburn. Correspondence re Queen's Park from McKenzie gives address as 'Superintendents Office, The Warren, Loughton, Essex' therefore still superintendent of Epping Forest at this date.

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<sup>28</sup> Pages 329 -394

<sup>29</sup> Page 74-76

<sup>30</sup> P154 155 Horticultural Affairs

<sup>31</sup> Letter in copy out book McKenzie Metropolitan Archives

***\*Metropolitan Board of Works***

*In 1855 the Metropolitan Board of Works was created, a new London-wide body with the power to raise money from Londoners to effect improvements, but still requiring an act of parliament for any major works. It was not directly elected but made up of representatives from the vestries. Despite the huge pressure for roads their first priority was dealing with sewage.*

*The greatest achievement of the MBW was the Embankment. The project, led by Sir Joseph Bazalgette, was not just about sewers, there were gas and water mains and eventually an underground railway. The road on top was designed to relieve traffic on the Strand and Fleet Street; it was opened in July 1870.*

*In 1889 the MBW was wound up and the London County Council came into being.*



## **Appendix**

### **Articles by Alexander McKenzie in The Floral World and Garden Guide**

**1874 Beautiful Shrubberies**

**1875 Promenade Trees**



of the best for garden decoration, for it is vigorous in habit and free flowering, as well as producing large handsome flowers. Another good rose of 1872, the year in which the four last-mentioned varieties were distributed, is *Francoise Michelin*, a beautiful flower, the colour clear rose, the reverse of petals silvery; this also is an excellent garden rose. *Madame Lacharme* is in a certain sense disappointing: the flowers are not pure white, and even with a dozen or so of plants there is a difficulty in obtaining a really first-class bloom. As a blush rose when grown under glass, it is simply superb, but as a garden flower it is quite surpassed by *Perte des Blancs*, which produces its pure white flowers in large clusters. *Cogrette des Blancs* is another good pure white variety. *Ferdinand de Lesseps*, a fine dark rose, the colour crimson with violet shade, is rapidly gaining ground in the estimation of rosarians, as it well deserves to do, for it is one of the best roses of its colour for exhibition as well as for the garden. *Paul Yvon* and *Marguse de Castellane* are rather too old to have a place amongst the foregoing, but they are so very attractive in the garden, as well as being valuable for exhibition, that they are well deserving of a place in the smallest rosery.

In turning to the new roses to be distributed during the ensuing winter and spring, I shall say nothing of the new continental varieties, of which lists have been received from the raisers. It is possible that *Bernard Varlot*, *Henry Ward Beecher*, *La Souveraine*, and *Souvenir de Duches*, offered by Eugene Verdier, and Damazin's *La Rosière*, Levet's *Antoine Montan*, and Liabard's *Anne Blanche*, may be first-rate, but it is purely a matter of chance, as so little reliance can be placed on the raisers' descriptions. The new English roses that have been offered, have been exhibited several times during the past season, and no difficulty whatever is experienced in speaking of their merits; *Duchess of Edinburgh*, a tea-scented variety, in the hands of Messrs. J. Veitch and Sons, is as remarkable for its distinctness, as it is for its superb qualities; the flowers which are of good form and produced abundantly, are of a deep rich purplish crimson, and therefore perfectly distinct from every other variety in the same class. As exemplified by the plants exhibited at the winter meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society, it forces well, and is consequently valuable for supplying winter flowers. The *Duchess of Edinburgh*, in the hands of Mr. H. Bennett, is a hybrid perpetual in the way of La France, but much superior to that justly famous light rose; the flowers are larger, fuller, and of better form, and the colour is several shades deeper. *Sir Garnet Walsley*, a hybrid perpetual, now being offered by Messrs. Cranstoun and Mayos, is a high-coloured variety of great merit; the flowers are large, globular, and full; the colours brilliant crimson; it is first-class both for exhibition and the garden, as the growth is vigorous and the flowers stand out boldly. *Crimson Bedder*, in the hands of this firm, belongs to the same class as the preceding, and is remarkable for its floriferous character and brilliant colour, and will be most valuable for planting in masses in the flower garden. *Climbing Jules Margottin* is a scandent form of one of the best known of pink roses, and as it differs in habit only from the parent, it need

only be said that it is a valuable addition to the list of climbing roses. Mr. Charles Turner has also exhibited several remarkably fine seedlings, of which the undermentioned, belonging to the hybrid perpetual section, are especially deserving of attention, namely, *Ree*, *J. E. Carr*, a dark rose, rich in colour, and superb in form. *Royal Standard*, a light variety which without doubt is the most perfect rose we have, the flowers are as round as a ball, and very full. *Miss Hassard* is a pink variety, of the most attractive character, and although not equal in quality to the two preceding, it possesses sufficient merit to justify its taking high rank amongst garden roses. To speak of the established varieties, would occupy more space than can be well afforded. Moreover, it is not needful to do so, for selections of the best roses arranged according to the purpose for which they are specially adapted, are given in the new edition of the "Amateur's Rose Book," of which doubtless the majority of the readers of the Floral World possess a copy.

## BEAUTIFUL SHRUBBERIES.

BY ALEXANDER McKENZIE, ESQ.,  
Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill, N.



In late years more attention has very properly been paid to trees and shrubs remarkable for their picturesque appearance or richly coloured leavages, and as a natural result the shrubbery borders in many gardens are beginning to present a more attractive appearance than in years gone by. There, however, yet remains much more to be done in this direction, for even in some of our best gardens the planting of the commoner kinds of trees and shrubs is carried on as if there was nothing better obtainable. This may, in a large measure, be attributed to a lack of knowledge of such things as the richly marked foliage of the golden hollies, the elegant pliny growth of the choicer Retinosporas and Cupressus, or the startling colours of the variegated Spanish Chestnut and the ash-leaved Maple. Then, again, there are a considerable number of the most beautiful flowering trees which are very sparingly planted, some of them being hardly known beyond the principal nurseries. People who have hitherto confined their observations to the shrubberies in private gardens which have been planted some years, would be quite astounded, were they to visit a first-class nursery, at the vast number of beautiful trees and shrubs available for the embellishment of the garden.

I would here pause to say that the garden should be planted in a quite different manner to the park. There are plenty of people who think that park and forest trees are the most suitable for the garden also; but nothing more directly opposed to the principles of garden decoration could well be advanced. In the garden we require materials of the richest description, which are also remark-

able for distinctiveness. The chief charm of park trees consists in the striking effect they produce in masses; but in the garden it is impossible to plant them in sufficient numbers to form good masses, and even were this formation possible, they would be too close to the eye to produce the desired effect. We, in fact, require the gardens to be furnished quite differently from the park and the forest, in precisely the same manner as we require the fitting and drawing-room furniture to differ from that of our kitchen and store-room. In suggesting the planting of the garden with trees and shrubs most suitable to it, I am not advising an extravagant outlay of money, for many of the very finest in the respective classes can be purchased at a trifling increase on the cost of the most common.

It has been considered desirable to direct attention to the subject now, because the current month, and the one immediately succeeding it, form the best period of the whole year for carrying on planting operations. The soil is then in a capital working condition, and much warmer than it is after it has been subjected to a winter's rains, snows, and frosts. Trees and shrubs planted during the period here mentioned are, therefore, placed under conditions more favourable to the production of new roots and becoming thoroughly established, than others planted in the spring. Many of the failures which occur are entirely due to planting at the wrong season, and yet it is not often the fact strikes the planter that the failure has been caused by spring planting. This appears to be one of the hardest of all lessons relative to garden management to learn; for, notwithstanding its being repeated in some gardens year after year, it most signally fails in teaching the planter where he is at fault. Spring planting cannot, in some cases, be avoided, and where it is carried out with skill, and the trees receive the attention most conducive to their becoming established afterwards, they do not suffer materially; but in small gardens, especially where very little time can be spared for watering in the summer, it should, if possible, be avoided. By planting in autumn, when garden work is slack, spring work, which brooks no delay, is not interfered with, a considerable amount of extra labour is avoided, and a chance exists of the work being executed in a better manner, because of other matters not pressing so heavily on the attention of those who have charge of it.

As I am anxious not to occupy too much space, I shall not say very much in reference to the planting operations. The roots of the shrubs and trees must, during the time they are out of the ground, be carefully protected from the air. As a rule, when they are received, they should be laid in by the heels in a spare corner, and then drawn out as required for planting. The roots do not suffer so much from exposure in the autumn as they do in the spring, but it is nevertheless desirable to avoid exposing them unnecessarily. Over-crowding is objectionable, because it necessitates, in the course of a few years, the lifting and re-planting of the whole of the shrubs. It is much better to plant the choicer shrubs at a proper distance apart, and then fill in with a few common things, which can be removed altogether as soon as the others require more space, or to

plant between the shrubs a few showy hardy herbaceous plants, to prevent the border having a naked appearance during the first two or three years of its formation. The variegated and green-leaved subjects should, as far as practicable, be distributed somewhat regularly over the border, and the variegated hollies be kept well towards the front, as they appear to greater advantage when supported by a background of green. The deciduous subjects, and the evergreens, must also be regularly intermixed, unless, as will sometimes be the case, it is desired to produce a distinct effect by planting groups of each. The standard trees must, of course, be planted towards the back of the border. In the formation of isolated groups in the pleasure grounds, the planter must be guided entirely by the situation, and the effect it is desired to produce in combination with surrounding objects.

In the case of newly formed shrubberies, the soil should be trenched over to a moderate depth previous to planting, but none of an uncongenial subsoil should be brought to the surface. When the shrubbery is improved by the addition of a few specimens at intervals, it will only be necessary to mark out a circle about twelve inches greater in diameter than will be requisite to spread the roots out horizontally, and then take out the soil to the necessary depth. The roots must be spread out quite straight, and be covered with the most friable soil obtainable from the surrounding surface. As the holes are in course of being filled in, the soil next be well trodden, and after the planting is completed put a stake to all that are of sufficient height to render support necessary. Puddling the roots, by pouring water over them as the soil is thrown into the holes, is a most objectionable practice. It not only involves extra labour, but it is hurtful to the tree or shrub, because the roots are enclosed in a soil of pasty mortar-like consistency, instead of in nice friable stuff, into which they can push without difficulty.

In the planting of gardens and pleasure-grounds, the under-mentioned subjects, which have, for the convenience of the planter, been thrown into groups, are by far the most preferable:—

DECIDUOUS TREES AND SHRUBS, FLOWERING IN SPRING:—The snowy *Mespilus*, *Amelanchier botrypifera*, a most light and elegant tree, with white flowers. The common Almond, *Amygdalus communis*, is a capital companion to the foregoing; with pink flowers; this is one of the best known flowering trees, as it is so frequently met with in suburban districts. The double-flowering Peaches, *Amygdalus persica* *fl. pl.* and its varieties, are amongst the finest of early spring flowering trees; especially are they useful for planting towards the front of the border, and kept to a height of six or eight feet, as they produce their flowers before the foliage, and require the assistance of the leahge of other things to bring out the colours to the best advantage. The Thorns constitute one of the most valuable groups of flowering trees we have. They are remarkably well adapted for garden planting, as they have a very cheerful appearance during the autumn season, when loaded with their brilliant berries. The best of these are *Cytisus caryanthea coccinea plena*, *C. o. panicula*, *C. o. multiplex*, *C. o. rosea fl. pl.* The Laburnum, not-



withstanding its being common, is much too good to be omitted, even from a small garden, as its bright golden flowers have a most attractive appearance, associated as they are with the flowers of the lilacs, almonds, and hawthorns. The double-flowering Cherry and Plum, which are known as *Cerasus domestica* *fl. pl.* and *Prunus domestica* *fl. pl.*, are useful, as they afford a pleasing variety, but they are not for a moment to be compared with the Siberian and other crabs. These latter are of the utmost value, for they bloom most profusely, and the flowers are exquisitely beautiful. The Siberian crab, *Prunus malus borealis*, is a small tree, remarkable for its floriferous character in spring, and for its attractive appearance when loaded with its small but brilliantly coloured fruit in the autumn. *P. malus hortensia* is also of small stature, and blooms even more profusely than the foregoing. The outside of the petals are of rich reddish crimson, and previous to the expansion of the flowers the branches have the appearance of being studded with highly coloured fruit; and as they are white inside, the contrast of the white and crimson, while the flowers are fully expanded, is very pleasing. These are two of the finest foreground flowering trees we have, and as they are very cheap, they should be planted extensively. The double flowering Chinese Crab, *Prunus spectabilis roseo-plena*, is a capital companion to the other two members of the same genus, for it blooms very freely, and is exceedingly beautiful. The lilacs are too well known to need comment; but it is not so widely known as it should be that the two varieties of the common form, known respectively as *Charles X.* and *Dr. Lindley*, are the finest varieties. The *Peruvian Lilac* is also useful, especially for front lines. *Prunus macrocephala*, *P. opulus*, and *P. phoenicea*, three distinct forms of the Guelder rose, or snowball tree, are useful for planting at the back of large borders. In addition to the foregoing, there are the Ghent Azaleas, which are of immense value for planting in the second lines of the choice borders.

**DECIDUOUS TREES AND SHRUBS FLOWERING IN SUMMER.**—The well-known *Althea frutes* claims attention because of its showy flowers and the lateness of the season in which they are produced. The double varieties are simply superb. The Altheas succeed uncommonly well in smoky districts, provided they are in a sunny position. *Deutzia scabra* is also useful, and can be strongly recommended. *Hypericum nepalense* flowers profusely throughout the greater part of the summer, and its large yellow flowers render it very effective. *Lycesteria formosa* is another useful subject. *Rhus coccinea* produces brownish foam-like flowers comparatively late in the season, but it is well worth a place in the most select borders independent of its flowers, for it has elegantly pinnate leaves, which in the autumn die off bright yellow and red. There is, again, that little known but handsome shrub, *Rubus spectabilis*, which has large purple flowers, and the shrubby Spireas, of which may be mentioned as being of especial value, *S. artemisia*, *S. callosa*, *S. corymbosa*, *S. Douglasi*, *S. Portanei*, *S. Lindleyana*, *S. Nobiliana*, *S. Racemosa*, and *S. sorbifolia*.

**CHOICE EVERGREENS.**—*Arbutus unedo* and *A. v. Crooni* are

two fine dark-leaved subjects for select positions. *Acunias* are too well known to need comment. They all succeed admirably in towns, and the green-leaved forms are the most effective. *Berberis Bedii*, *B. japonicum*, and *B. japonica* are valuable for planting in shady situations, and when the soil is tolerably good they grow freely and are highly ornamental. The variegated and the best of the green-leaved forms of the Box tree, *Buxus arborescens*, are useful for front lines, but they have a common appearance, and must be planted sparingly. The common Euonymus, *E. japonicus*, although one of the cheapest of evergreens, is still one of the best, for it grows freely in the most unsuitable situations, and in smoky districts it invariably presents a cheerful appearance, as even a slight shower is sufficient to wash the soot off the highly polished surface of the foliage. The variegated varieties, *E. latifolius aureus marginatus* and *E. l. albo-variegatus*, are valuable for the front row. The prostrate-growing species, *E. radicans variegatus* forms an excellent marginal band to a shrubbery, and it is also suitable for planting at intervals along the front. Of the Hollies it would perhaps be difficult to have too many. The common holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, is useful for filling in towards the back of the border, but for planting in more conspicuous positions, the choicer varieties alone should be planted. The most distinct and beautiful of those with green leaves are *I. v. crassifolia*, *I. v. fennia*, *I. v. flava*, *I. v. hibernica*, *I. v. glabra*, *I. v. Hodgkissi*, and *I. v. Shepherdii*. The richest coloured forms with variegated leaves are the *Siberian Queen* and *Golden Queen*. The *Larvensis* is only adapted for nice warm soils, as under adverse influence it grows but slowly, and the flowers perish before expansion, and renders the plants unsightly. A pretty thing is *Saxifraga japonica* for front lines in shady places; it is presentable at all times, but when loaded with its brilliant berries it is singularly attractive. It would be a waste of space to allude to the Laurels, the Phillyreas, and such subjects that are thoroughly well known; but it may be mentioned that *Ligustrum japonicum*, *L. ovalifolium* and *L. lucidum* are three fine Privets that can be strongly recommended.

**DECIDUOUS TREES WITH DISTINCT FOLIAGE.**—The following are useful for planting at intervals towards the back of broad borders and for planting in groups for producing distinct effects:—*Acer negundo variegata*, the well known "Ghost Tree," with pure white variegation. The golden-leaved Spanish Chestnut, *Castanea vesca variegata*, one of the most beautiful of golden variegated trees; the leaves are as richly marked as our exhibition Croton. The golden leaved Catalpa, *C. sycouifolia aurea*, a variety of this fine old tree, with lemon yellow leaves, is also desirable. Purple-leaved nut, *Corylus avellana purpurea*, is useful for shrubberies, as it takes the place of the purple-leaved beech, which is much too large for borders. The Golden Oak, *Quercus concorta*, is a most richly coloured tree, and although it may in time become too large for shrubberies, it is too good to be omitted from this selection. *Rubina pseudo-acacia aurea* is also effective, but as it has a more vigorous habit than the Golden Oak it is not so suitable for gardens. The most beautiful of the trees with elegant green leaves, are the fern-leaved Alder, *Alnus*

*imperialis asplenifolia*, the cut-leaved weeping birch, *Betula alba incana pendula*, the fern-leaved beech, *Fagus sylvatica asplenifolia*, and the Sumachs, *Rhus glabra*, *R. g. laciniata*, and *R. typhina*.

There are numerous other subjects well deserving of a place in these selections, but I think sufficient have been enumerated to show that there is no dearth of beautiful trees, and that it is quite unnecessary to fill the borders with the everlasting laurels, aucubas, and common hedges.

#### NOTES ON NEW FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.



**ANN'S Black Muscat Grape.**—This has been well-shown and tasted by good judges during the past four years, and there cannot be a question as to its distinctive character and high quality. It was raised by T. T. Venn, Esq., of Sneyd Park, Bristol, and has been handed over to Mr. Dodds for distribution. The bunches are usually rather tapering, but well shouldered, the berries round or roundish oval, the colour intense black, with a thin bloom, the flesh slightly crackling, richly saccharine, with a decided muscat flavour. It will be a fine companion fruit to the Muscat of Alexandria.

**PEASEGOOD'S NONSUCH APPLE.**—This is a fine fruit of the Blenheim type, raised by Mr. Peasegood, of Stamford, and now offered by Mr. Brown, of the same place. In size and style it combines the features of a Blenheim and a Nonsuch; it is extra large, somewhat oblate, the colour a fine yellow, richly streaked with red on the sunny side. The flesh is yellow, tender, juicy, with a sweet and sprightly flavour. It is scarcely a dessert apple, though quite equal to the Blenheim as a table fruit. In use from September to November, and may sometimes be kept until Christmas.

**LADY HENRIETTA APPLE.**—This is a remarkably fine exhibition fruit, raised by Mr. John Perkins, gardener, Thornham Hall, near Eye, in Suffolk. The fruit is very large, roundish, with prominent ribs, which terminate in ridges round the eye. The skin is a fine yellow colour, with a flush of red and streaks of crimson on the sunny side. The flesh is tender, but slightly crisp or breaking, with a good flavour. It is a first-rate kitchen fruit, in use from October to February, and is admissible to the dessert, for which it is well adapted on account of its size and beauty.

**COOLE'S SEEDLING APPLE.**—This was raised by Mr. Coole, of Cheltenham, and is now for the first time offered by Messrs. Veitch and Son. It is of medium size, roundish, ovate, even, the colour rich yellow, with streaks of crimson on the sunny side; flesh very tender, juicy, with a fine flavour. An excellent dessert apple, in use from October to January.

**WELFORD PARK NONSUCH APPLE.**—This was raised by Mr. Rose, gardener at Welford Park, Newberry. It is of medium size, roundish, the colour pure lemon yellow on the shaded side, bright crimson on the side next the sun. Flesh exceedingly tender, with a pleasantly subdued sweet flavour and rich aroma. A first-rate dessert fruit, in use during November and December.

**GIBBER'S GRANN MELON** takes precedence of all others in the green flesh class, there being few to equal it in beauty, and none to equal it in flavour. It is of full medium size, with yellow skin and deep green flesh of the most delicious flavour.

**THE SHAR** is a remarkably fine red flesh melon, that took first place in its class at the last Crystal Palace Fruit Show, being shown by Mr. Webb, of Calcutt. It is of medium size, perfectly round, with bright yellow skin, rather heavily netted. The flesh is light red, with a distinct breadth of green next the rind. It is quite melting and of the finest flavour. We believe this to be the best variety of its class.

**TUNNER'S DR. MACLEAN PEAS.**—This is the most prolific pea of high quality in cultivation. It is a green marrow, rising three to four feet, branching freely, and therefore requires to be sown very thin. The pods are straight, rather narrow for their length, with a short beak, the colour a fine deep green, the peas averaging seven to nine in a pod. In quality it is equal to the very best of the green narrows, and it surpasses them all in productiveness, the branches being literally smothered with pods from top to bottom.

**SUTTON'S GRANT BARRETT MARROW PEAS.**—This is a strong growing white wrinkled marrow pea of excellent quality, and highly productive. The pods are straight, with a slight beak of a light grass green colour, each pod containing six to nine large peas.

**BARR'S NEW DWARF CABBAGE.**—This is a member of the useful group of which Shilling's Queen and Ward's Incomparable were formerly representatives, but is in advance in point of quality and purity on those excellent types. We have grown it four years, and repeatedly compared it with the best varieties of its class, and always found it superior to them all. It is of compact growth, quickly produces solid globular or bluntly conical hearts of a large size in proportion to the very small extent of ground the plant covers. For autumn and winter use it is the best garden cabbage in cultivation.

**SUTTON'S DUCK OF CONYATGHT CUCUMBER.**—This is a large fast-growing white spine variety of the most perfect proportions, and adapted for any and every purpose for which a cucumber can be grown, whether to supply the market or the table, or take the lead in an exhibition. It may be grown to any size, but is very fine in quality and proportion, at from 20 to 24 inches. We have made notes on a fruit 22 inches in length; it was of the same width through, nearly rounded, without the slightest prolongation of the nose, and absolutely without a handle, for it contracts to the stalk suddenly, and may be sliced to the very hilt. The skin is grass green, glossy, and shows a few inconspicuous white spines.

**CUCUMBER BLUE GOWN** is worthy of a note, although no longer a new variety. It has proved the finest black-spined cucumber out, and it will be no easy matter to beat it. Having grown it in the same house with a selection of varieties noted for high quality, we find it not only the handsomest of its class, but the most prolific; in fact, in productiveness it surpasses the Ston House breed, but requires just a little more heat. Blue Gown and Duke of Connaught are undoubtedly the two finest cucumbers in all the long list.

S. H.

1875

busy at work. At such times the birds will often help by dancing up and down, with wings drooping, and all feathers up, and perhaps low and then giving the bare arms a gentle, playful nip. Yet the confidence shown in this way has never been betrayed, and a real case of cruel biting is in our house quite unknown.

PROMENADE TREES.

BY ALEXANDER McKENZIE, ESQ.,  
Landscape Gardener, etc., Alexandra Park, Muswell Hill, N.



OR the promenade, the terrace, and the Italian garden, we require trees of a quite distinct character of growth to those best adapted for park and wilderness planting. In the one case, close-growing trees of an upright columnar habit are alone suitable, and in the other, trees with widely spreading heads, or remarkable for their gracefully flowing outlines, are the most appropriate. They are not only more in strict accordance with the straight lines with which they are surrounded, but they help to create a greater diversity in the garden scenery than would be the case were trees of all classes mixed up indiscriminately over the whole of the garden and park. Some writers would fain have us believe that we should bring the wilderness to the hall door and the drawing-room window; but those who have any knowledge of the principles of landscape gardening will, I feel assured, agree with me when I say that the garden contiguous to the house should be somewhat formal and highly dressed, and the wilderness and other rustic scenes be arranged at extreme points in the grounds, so that the transition from the warmth and richness to be found indoors to the wildness of nature may be as gradual as possible.

It is not my intention to enlarge upon these points, as my object in writing now is to indicate a few of the more important trees for promenade planting, and I have merely alluded to generalities in passing, to show how important it is to select trees of a character suitable to the position they are intended to occupy. Granted that trees of a close upright habit are required for the promenade, we have next to consider the length, breadth, and position of the latter, and to select the trees according. It would never do to select the same trees for small as we would for large promenades. No, the trees must be proportionate. For example, for walks eight or ten feet or so in width and several hundred feet in length, large trees of a close yet somewhat free habit, such as the *Wellingtonia* and *Picea pinsapo*, may be planted; but for ordinary promenades, especially on terraces near the dwelling-house, smaller trees, like the *Thuja* and *Junipers*, will be more appropriate.

Before passing on to give the names of the finest promenade trees, I am anxious to say that for the sake of uniformity the same class of trees should be planted throughout the promenade, and

that the trees on both sides must be planted opposite to each other. The trees ought also to be of the same height, the same size, and, as far as practicable, of an equal degree of rigour; for if they differ materially in the latter respect, some will grow more freely than the others, and in the course of a few years the lines will present an uneven appearance. But with ordinary care in selecting the trees, and a little regulation of the growth when needful, there will be no difficulty in keeping all the trees to precisely the same shape and size. The trees which can be the most strongly recommended for promenade walks and geometrical schemes are—  
*Cupressus Lawsoniana*, a handsome tree of medium growth, eminently suitable for rather broad walks, cheap, and thriving in ordinary soils.

*Cupressus Lawsoniana erecta viridis* is a fine form of the preceding; in growth more erect, and in colour of a much brighter green; it is one of the finest of promenade trees.

*Cupressus Lawsoniana argentea* is less erect than either of the preceding, and forms roundish and dense specimens; the tips of the shoots silvery, and drooping gracefully.

*Juniperus chinensis*, a hardy and beautiful tree of medium growth, and elegant pyramidal habit.

*Juniperus excelsa striata*, a beautiful small growing tree, with a neat pyramidal habit and glaucous green foliage.

*Juniperus communis hibernica* is the Irish juniper, well known for its upright columnar habit; it can be clipped and kept to a small size, and is, therefore, well adapted for terrace promenades.

*Juniperus hispanica* has a dense pyramidal habit, and is very handsome when from four to six feet high.

*Libocedrus deurvens*, a rather robust tree, columnar in growth, and exceedingly handsome, resembling in some respect a gigantic lycopod. The colour is exceedingly rich.

*Retinospora obtusa* is a hardy and most elegant tree, forming dense roundish specimens; but it is not so generally useful as the other things mentioned.

*Taxus fastigata* is the Irish yew, so well known for its columnar habit, and is one of the best trees for promenades and geometrical gardens. It can be clipped to form neat columns three feet in height, or it may be allowed to grow into specimens twelve or fifteen feet high.

*Taxus japonica* is similar in character to the preceding, but dwarfier.

*Thuja Lobii*, a handsome tree of upright growth, somewhat similar to *Libocedrus deurvens*.

*Thuja orientalis aurea* is dwarf and distinct in character. It forms dense round bushes, and is one of the finest of its class for geometrical gardens and terraces. The young growth has a golden hue in spring, and the plants are then very attractive.

*Thuja orientalis elegantissima* differs from the preceding in being of a more erect and columnar habit.

*Thuyopsis borealis*, a fine upright evergreen, of rather free growth, and exceedingly handsome for broad promenades.

For very broad promenades in large gardens, and for carriage drives in those of a smaller size, *Aranea imbricata*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Picea pinus*, and *Wellingtonia gigantea* are the most valuable of all the hardy coniferous trees. The three last mentioned are most preferable. The two last mentioned are perhaps the most symmetrical of the large growing trees in the class to which they belong.

### NOTES ON SEED SOWING.

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**SEED** sowing of necessity occupies a large share of attention during the month of March, for nearly all the principal kitchen garden crops and numbers of flower seeds have to be sown. As so much depends upon the way in which seeds are sown, especially those of small size, I shall offer a few remarks bearing on the subject, for the purpose of assisting those amateurs who have not had much experience in work of this kind. The seeds to be sown now may, for convenience, be divided into three classes:—large seeds, such as the peas and beans; seeds which are to remain in the beds in which they are sown—as, for example, onions; and those which are usually sown in beds and transplanted, such as cabbage and lettuce. The sowing of peas and beans is simple enough, but as so many amateurs spoil their crop by sowing so thickly that the plants crowd each other in a manner that renders their proper development impossible, it will do no harm to point out briefly the proper way for sowing the seed to avoid waste, and at the same time secure a good crop.

Peas, more especially the tall-growing sorts, produce the heaviest crops when sown in rows from twelve to twenty feet apart, as both sides of the rows are fully exposed to the light and air. This has been pointed out in these pages on more than one occasion, and it is not needful to do more than allude to it in passing. In sowing the main crop sorts, it is an excellent plan to sow in trenches about nine inches in width and six inches in depth. The soil to be trenched over to a depth of two feet, and six inches of the subsoil to be thrown out of the bottom of the trench; for it would never do to remove six inches of the well-pulverized soil from the surface to turned over six inches or so of good rotten manure, and when this is done rather more soil must of necessity be removed. When trenches are prepared, it will be simply necessary to sow the seed on the surface and cover with three inches of soil.

In sowing on the level the drill should be three inches in depth and six inches in width at the bottom. The seed must then be

distributed thinly and evenly over the bottom and covered carefully. When sown in a very narrow drill and covered with lumpy soil, as is frequently done, the growth is unsatisfactory from the first, and in most instances the crop is less than it otherwise would be.

Broad and French beans should be planted with the hand in a double row in each trench; the rows to be four inches apart, and the seeds to be six inches apart in the rows. If a few miss it will be a matter of no consequence. In sowing these things in heavy soil, it is a most excellent plan to cover with fine soil, such as the siftings from the potting bench mixed with wood ashes and vegetable refuse decayed to a powder.

The surface of beds intended for onions, carrots, beetroots, and similar things, cannot well be too fine, for the seeds are small, and do not come up so strong and regularly when covered with rough lumps. Soils of a heavy character seldom work well when newly dug over, and a quarter which was turned over in the autumn, and the surface thoroughly pulverized by the action of the weather, should be devoted to these crops. Drills for all these things should be an inch in depth, and in the distance apart vary according to the character of the crop. The drills for onions and carrots should be twelve inches apart, parsnips fifteen inches, and beetroots eighteen inches. After the seeds are sown and the drills filled in, the surface should be well trodden and then raked over, and the alleys marked out, and the beds finished off in the usual way.

It is customary to sow cabbage, lettuce, broccolis, and winter greens in square beds; and as the plants become crowded immediately they are a few inches in height, and spoil unless transplanted quickly, sowing in these beds cannot be recommended. But by sowing in lines fifteen or eighteen inches apart, the plants have sufficient room to acquire strength before it is needful to transplant, and if from any cause a delay should arise, it will not matter much if the plants remain a fortnight or so beyond the proper time. By this plan of sowing, which I have had in practice for many years past, a supply of short stocky plants is obtained, which at once take possession of the soil when put out in their permanent quarters, without any of the labour and worry incidental to transplanting into nursery beds, so much recommended by some writers.

### STENOCASTRA MUTIFLORA.



**S** have selected this pretty subject as an example of a genus of gesneraceous plants that amateurs have hitherto too much neglected. Not only stenogastera, but eucodonia, nagalia, and other sections of the family are neglected, whereas they should have a little extra attention because of their beauty, their rapid development, and the very little trouble they occasion. The first requisite certainly is a moist stove, which, perhaps, comparatively few amateurs possess. But given this, the production of fine specimens of these handsome

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