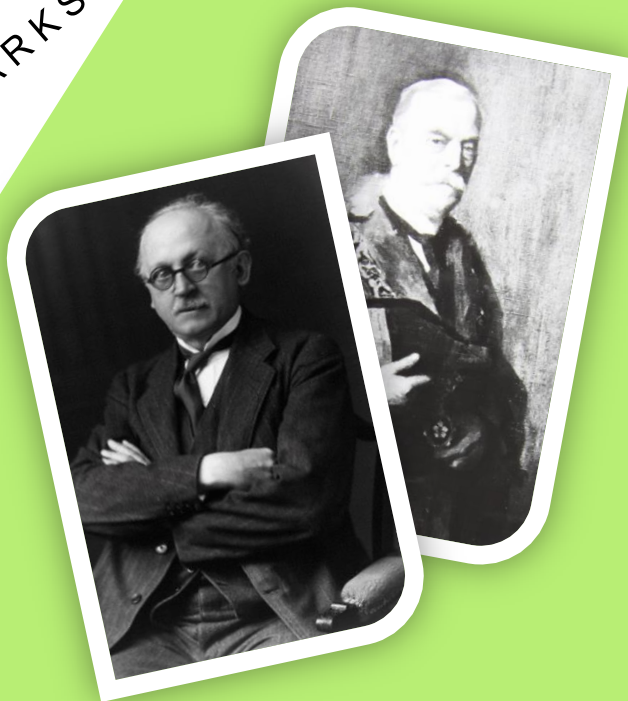


VICTORIA PARK GATE RESTORATION PROJECT

THE STORY OF OUR PARKS



**DEVELOPMENT STAGE
PROJECT NEWSLETTER**

**MAY
2014**



Leicester
City Council



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Leicester City Council is in the process of receiving a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund after completing a successful stage one application last year to restore historic wrought iron gates located in Victoria Park, designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, and commissioned by Sir Jonathan North in memory of his late wife.



Now in the Development stage, the project looks to design an activity plan which sets out a programme of events and activities that will run until the project ends in December 2016.

The project not only aims to restore the gates and explore the history of Victoria Park, but will also delve into the story of all of Leicester's main Parks, including:

Abbey Park

Evington Park

Spinney Hill Park

Castle Hill Country Park

Knighton Park

Beaumont Park

Humberstone Park

Western Park

Watermead Country Park South

Braunstone Park



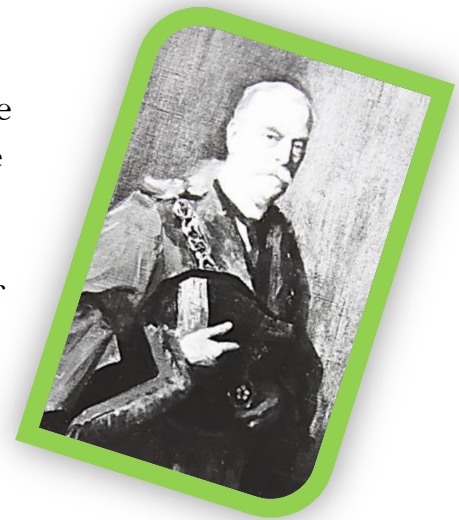
WHY ARE THE GATES IMPORTANT?



Sir Edwin Lutyens, born in London 1869, was one of the finest British architects of his time, best known for designing country houses, a number of buildings in New Delhi and war memorials across Europe, including the memorial in Victoria Park– which incidentally is a very close match to the India Gate.

Lutyens also designed the Park Lodges found on London Road, along with the gates, and those at the end of Peace Walk, leading out onto University Road.

Sir Jonathan North, born in Rothley in 1855, became Mayor of Leicester in the First World War. He was re-elected three times and remained Mayor for the majority of the war. He was responsible for the development of the war memorial and commissioned the development of the lodges and gates in memory of his late wife, who died in 1930.



The gates are now Grade II listed and in poor condition. It is therefore essential to restore the gates and preserve this important piece of local and national history.



WHAT DO WE NEED FOR THE NEXT STAGE?

By the end of this development stage we will need to have prepared the detailed **activity plan** stating all of our research and consultation, the results of this, and an action plan setting out the activities/ events and their requirements and costs. This will be submitted in **December 2014** with a verdict decided by **spring/summer 2015**. If we are successful, activities will commence shortly after this time and end in **December 2016**.



Gate Restoration

Leicester City Council will be appointing **conservationists** to restore the historic gates, at the cost of over **£200,000**. Work will start **2015/2016** if the this second stage submission is successful.



Activity Plan

Graduate Project Officer, **Jess Boydon**, will be developing an in-depth Activity Plan based around **community consultations**, to completed by **December 2014**.

The Activity Plan must include the HLF requirements for **learning and participation**.



WE NEED YOU!

As part of the restoration, there is an opportunity to encourage local residents to make greater use of the parks as well as connect them to their local history. **Consultation** will be a very important part of this stage and we are looking to get in touch with local groups, schools and residents to help design an exciting and useful activity plan that suits the needs and interests of all.

We would like to hear your opinions on what you would like to happen within the following areas:



Events - Anything from big scale events, to a small group event.

Activities – Anything from a one off craft activity to weekly or monthly workshops.

Volunteering – Opportunities to get more involved with heritage and the community.

Training – Chances to learn different heritage skills e.g. oral history, archival research, conservation etc.



GET INVOLVED



- ☐ Complete our **online survey** and have your say. (from 16/06)

<http://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/>

- ☐ Sign up to our **newsletter** to receive news and updates of any upcoming **activities** or **training opportunities**.

- ☐ **Volunteer!** Join our volunteer list to receive emails regarding **volunteer opportunities** over the course of the project.

- ☐ **For more information** and to sign up to our newsletter, contact graduate project officer, **Jess Boydon**.
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