

## **Tributes paid to London Parks and Gardens First Director**

**With sadness and much gratitude for her eight years of protecting city parks and greenspaces, the Board of London Parks and Gardens (LPG) has accepted the decision of our first Director, Helen Monger to pursue a new path this autumn.**

LPG Chair Sharon Turner said:

*“Without Helen’s incredible dedication and drive to protect our green capital since 2016, this small charity with a huge role could have neither survived nor prospered. Helen has established LPG both as a force to be reckoned with – successfully defending parks in both the High Court and Parliament – and as a source of information, inspiration and delight for the tens of thousands of people who enjoy our London Open Gardens event, lectures, research and publications every year. She has forged vital local and national partnerships, and established LPG’s respected and often relied-upon reputation as an expert voice and enthusiastic campaigner in defending historic parks and landscapes. On a personal level, Helen’s ongoing friendship and insights continue to be invaluable as I settle into my role as Chair.*

*The Board is especially thankful that Helen has agreed to continue driving the campaign to prevent building over the iconic Victoria Tower Gardens, SW1 as this proposal progresses. Helen’s expertise will be crucial as we defend Victoria Tower Gardens with new legislation to undo the park’s protection already before Parliament.*

*We look forward to paying a public tribute to her work very soon, but in the meantime wish Helen a relaxing summer after a very demanding eight years in which she has served London Parks and Gardens with seemingly inexhaustible zeal!”*

LPG is thankful for all that Helen has achieved to put our work on such a firm foundation with a dedicated but tiny staff team and the passion of hundreds of volunteers, members, donors and benefactors.

The Board is grateful that Tim Webb (formerly a Trustee) will bring his significant expertise and experience to the role of LPG’s Interim Director while it consults and considers a new strategy over the coming months. Helen will support Tim in a handover process before departing on 15 August.

Helen commented:

*“The power of parks and gardens to make London a liveable city has never been more potent. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to lead so many committed volunteers, staff and a loyal membership through the pandemic and beyond. I leave with admiration and gratitude to everyone who has enabled the charity to prosper. It has been exhilarating to see London Open Gardens evolve; the lecture programme pivot to a hybrid offering; and to use the charity’s voice and expertise to strengthen the defence of historic spaces across the capital. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of LPG’s ongoing research project documenting the influence of migration on London’s landscapes and opening up parks to everyone from refugees and garden apprentices to older citizens.*

*I am delighted Tim is picking up the baton bringing a fresh perspective and ecological expertise to lead LPG into a new chapter. Whilst there is much that I'll miss about LPG I've decided to move on in the knowledge that LPG is stronger, better known and more respected than ever. I wish the Charity, and everyone who supports its vital work every future success."*

Trustees warmly invite anyone who wishes to pay tribute to Helen or support the charity through this time of transition to contact [office@Londongardenstrust.org](mailto:office@Londongardenstrust.org). The next edition of LPG's magazine 'London Landscapes' will include a selection of these memories and a chance to celebrate Helen's immeasurable contribution to this much-loved charity for London. **Ends.**

**Notes to editors:**

- **For further details please contact**  
**07740 346 636, [nathan.oley@londongardenstrust.org](mailto:nathan.oley@londongardenstrust.org) or [office@londongardenstrust.org](mailto:office@londongardenstrust.org)**
- [London Parks & Gardens](#) (the trading name of London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust) is a registered charity (no1042337) which protects our green capital, and a company limited by guarantee (no 2935176). We help everyone to appreciate and access historic green spaces from our home - the iconic Duck Island Cottage, St James's Park, SW1. LPG is affiliated to the [Gardens Trust](#).