



Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of World War 1
Brompton Cemetery
Wednesday 7th November 2018

Dear Victoria,

I am sending this message to thank you for being part of the memorial event held at Brompton Cemetery where we remembered all those parks, gardens and grounds staff lost in World War 1, including the 24 men from the Royal Parks. Many people and organisations came together to create an occasion that was truly memorable, and a poignant reminder of lives cut short in the horrors of war. Your contribution in helping to make this commemorative event such a special afternoon of remembrance and hope for the future is much appreciated by myself and the organising team. Thank you.

Andrew Scattergood, Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Parks, asked me to include his words of appreciation;

"I would like to put on record my thanks for your efforts in assisting with the commemoration of all those parks, gardens and grounds staff who died in World War 1. It was a truly fitting event. Your efforts made it a wonderful day of reflection. The memorial is a lasting reminder of the sacrifices that were made.

For us in the Royal Parks, supported by the Royal Parks Guild, we were delighted to host the event, provide the permanent home for the memorial, and support the creation of the Chelsea Pensioners' Battlefields to Butterflies wildflower meadow in the newly restored Brompton Cemetery. It felt very fitting that we should reflect on the lives lost in the devastation of the Great War within the tranquil setting of the cemetery grounds. The event itself was very touching – from seeing the Chelsea Pensioners sowing the wildflower meadow to hearing the bugle playing the Last Post. Also, it was lovely to look forward and finish with the apprentices getting their achievement awards.

But, as we all know, these events don't just happen. I would therefore like to put on record my thanks for all your efforts. I know countless hours and days went into preparing the event, and your support was essential. It was a wonderful day and thank you for helping to make it a successful and sincere act of remembrance."

In closing, may I thank you once more and look forward to you joining us again as we continue to explore the role of the Royal Parks during World War 1 and its aftermath, including the national peace celebrations of 1919, much of which took place in the parks.

Kind regards,
Mike.

Michael Fitt OBE, Chairman,
The Royal Parks Guild