

ENCHANTED PARKS

Wednesday 9 - Sunday 13 December 2015

Alice - now all grown up and 20 years old (although, as you can imagine, in her topsy turvy world it's taken her 150 years to do so) - was visiting the Wailes family at Saltwell Towers.

After a hearty tea, the adults sat down to a game of cards whilst Alice and Estella gossiped in front of the roaring log fire when suddenly Alice spotted out of the corner of her eye hundreds of tiny people, wandering across the living room floor, somersaulting into the flickering flames and disappearing into the back of the fireplace.



Now Alice, being the curious young woman that she is, instinctively followed the procession through the blazing logs - finding herself on the lawn transformed into a Garden of Fire (a).



Heading towards the sound of clocks going Tick Tock (b) Tick Tock, Tick Tock, she passed through arches where time seemed to shift backwards and forwards and backwards again. It is here where two figures, strangely familiar to Alice, appeared and guided her towards a mysterious arch, whispering all the while "The Watcher May Enter" (c).

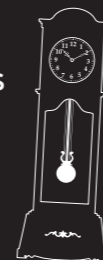
Emerging from the smoke, a familiar red Letterbox (d) started to speak. Now letterboxes don't usually talk, even though they do have mouths. Looking up, Alice might have spotted a most unusual cat grinning down at her - "it's not like My Smile (e) at all" she would have said to herself.

At this point, anyone would Ask Alice (f) why everything seems so peculiar today. Or is it yesterday now or perhaps even tomorrow? Alice followed a spectacular light that guided her on her journey when floating hearts began to fill the air, as if wearing Love Spectacles (g). It might have been the Queen of Hearts (h) up to her old tricks again.



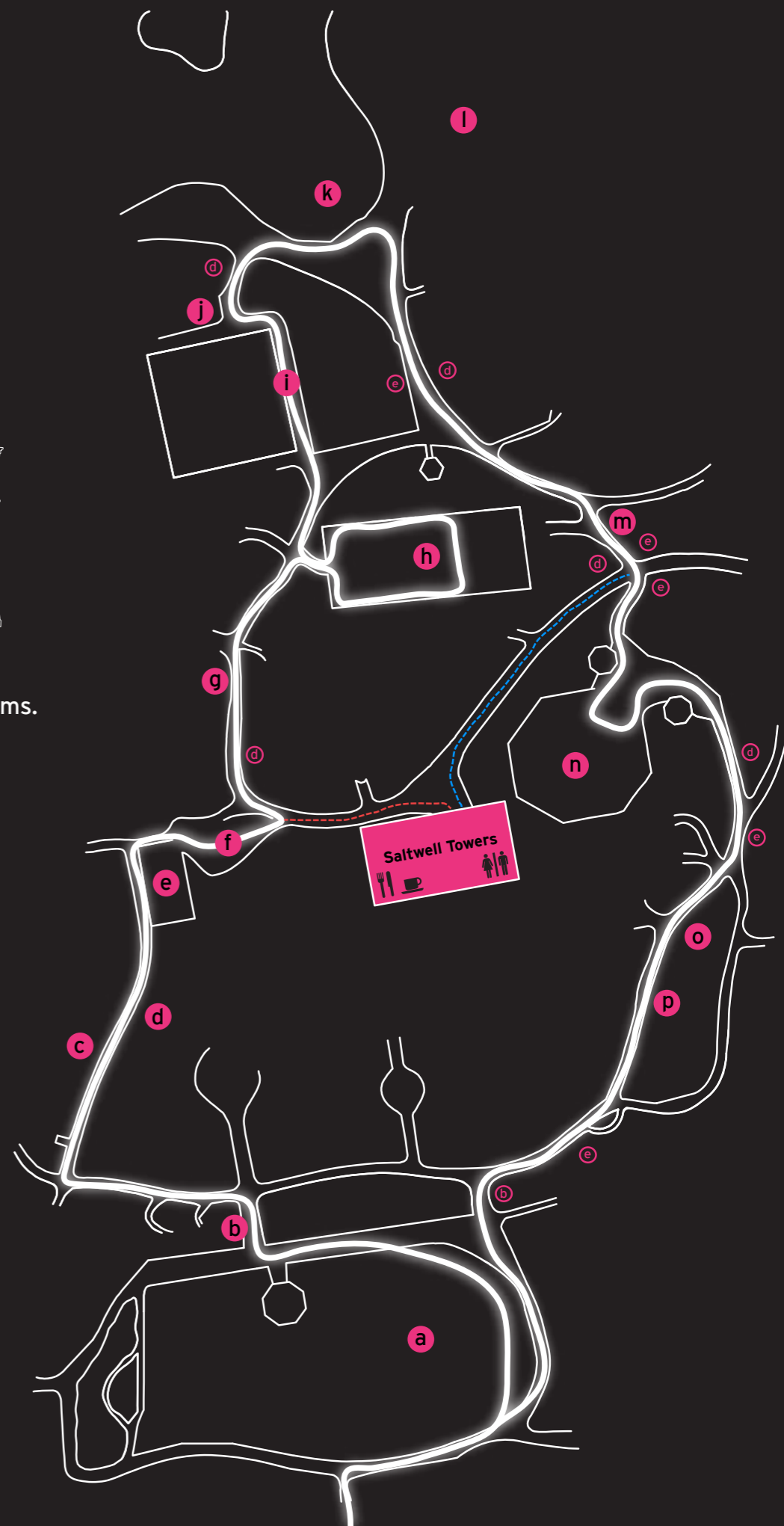
After a magical Journey Through the Tunnel (i), Alice emerged to find another speaking letterbox and chessboard - is it here where Alice will become the Queen (j)?

The Clock of Hearts (k) struck thirteen as Alice hurried round the lake, passing a labyrinth of Veils (l) and portals to other lands. She rushed on and on and on, past more grinning cats and talking letterboxes whilst still gripped by Wanderlust (m) before arriving on a lawn of mirrors where many stop to admire themselves. By now, Alice felt like she'd been here For iTernity (n).



Rounding a bend, Alice heard the sounds of a party, not sure whether they were coming from before or After Wonderland (o) until arriving at Alice's Night Club (p), where nothing is as it seems.

Perhaps by dawn, Alice would have heard the familiar sound of ticking clocks and wondered how long she had really been in this Enchanted Park.



- a - pa-BOOM - Fire Garden
- b - Wild Strawberry - Tick Tock
- c - Chantal Powell - The Watcher May Enter
- d - Stuff and Things - Alice through the Letterbox
- e - Aether and Hermera - My Smile
- f - Richard Broderick, Gilly Rogers, Carol Alevroyianni - Ask Alice
- g - Jeremy Shine & Johnny Goodwin - Love Spectacles
- h - Stephen Newby - Queen of Hearts
- i - SDNA - Journey Through the Tunnel
- j - Tom Jordan - Alice will become the Queen *
- k - Bryan Tweddle with Stephen Gumbly and Ian Broscob - Clock of Hearts
- l - Lola Muance - Veils
- m - Daniel Gough - Wanderlust *
- n - Katja Heitmann - Alice for iTernity
- o - Anna Selway - After Wonderland *
- p - Mick Stephenson & Stu Langley - Alice's Nightclub

* University of Sunderland BA (Hons) Glass & Ceramics Student Commission

The Artists

pa-BOOM Fire Garden

pa-BOOM is a company of artists, sculptors, designers and technicians producing work, shows and projections using the medium of sculpture and theatre animated by fire, light and pyrotechnics. pa-BOOM's work is constantly evolving to create memorable events and spectacles, using a refined colour palette in its pyrotechnic shows, being inspired by the landscape and architecture of its site specific projects and engaging people's artistic aspirations in its lantern and illumination projects.

Wild Strawberry Tick Tock, Tock Tick

Artist Andy McKeown is an artist, animator and programmer whose art practice is predominately based on interactive and reactive new-media light and sound. Works range from intricate multi projector interior installations to large scale outdoor Son et Lumière and semi permanent urban light works. McKeown and his production company Wild Strawberry have been creating interactive computer projects since 1995.

Chantal Powell The Watcher May Enter

Chantal Powell creates theatrical sculptural objects and installations that explore ideas of truth, illusion and reality. A PhD focusing on the social psychology of human relationships informs her practice as an artist. She has exhibited widely in the UK and internationally, most notably at Guildhall Art Gallery in London (alongside Paula Rego, Yinka Shonibare, Grayson Perry and Matt Collishaw), The Royal West Academy in Bristol, OCCCA in California, and at collateral events at the 53rd and 54th Venice Biennales.

Stuff and Things Alice Through The Letterbox

Stuff and Things are Nick Warburton and Paul Preston Mills who are a UK outdoor arts company producing engaging, entertaining, and highly original work. They explore performance 'in-the-moment' through the use of improvisational techniques, innovative sound technologies and by blurring the boundaries between reality and with a brand of theatrical surrealism.

Aether & Hemera My Smile

Founded in 2008 by Gloria Ronchi and Claudio Benghi, the collective often utilises the medium of light combined with digital media to create engaging spaces that connect people with their environment. Aether & Hemera, the names given to the ancient Greek god and goddess of light, is an interdisciplinary collaboration to research the aesthetic challenges of light and its powerful possibilities to trigger emotions and response, creating a sense of identity or setting a mood.

Richard Broderick, Gilly Rogers, Carol Alevroyianni Ask Alice

Richard Broderick is a sculptor best known for high quality carnival and celebratory pieces, collaborating on a number of works with other artists for previous editions of Enchanted Parks. Gilly Rogers is an artist known for creating temporary installations and permanent public artworks across the region, specialising in developing high quality community arts projects. Carol Alevroyianni is a producer, writer and photographer specialising in media platforms and engaging young people.

Stephen Newby Queen of Hearts

Stephen Newby has produced sculptural works that have varied from studio pieces to larger scale public art. With a fascination for manipulating materials to create objects that defy the gaze, his work has more recently extended to explorations in lighting, attempting to set up contradictions of form, material and scale while articulating a transformative space that occurs in the ephemeral relationships between object and viewer, sculpture and space.

SDNA Journey Through the Tunnel

Established in 2004 by directors Ben Foot and Valentina Floris, SDNA continues to develop and present digital artwork and theatrical productions for festivals, fashion labels, museums, city councils, musicians and many more, receiving many commissions for video design and multiple projection installations. SDNA's objective is to explore techniques of interaction within public spaces, using emerging technologies and unusual presentation media. Their interdisciplinary approach, integrating site-responsive installation and live performance, aims to widen the scope of digital art.

Tweddle & Gumbley Clock of Hearts

Bryan Tweddle and Steve Gumbley have worked together over many years, making and devising theatre shows and sets, sculptures, carnival floats and exhibitions. They are both very experienced in outdoor work in Britain and Europe.

Lola Muance (France) Veils

Lola Muance is a creator of original luminescent sculptures exuding passion, poetry and playfulness. Working with the raw materials of colour and light, the pieces are built in situ. Rigorous alignments of geometrical forms, infinite repetitions, wires, grids, and screens comprise the formal alphabet of Lola Muance. Lola Muance's work has been seen worldwide, with each installation unique to its site.

Katja Heitmann (Netherlands) Alice for iTernity

Katja Heitmann is a German choreographer, based in Tilburg (Netherlands) who works in a very unconventional way. Her main aim is to create theatrical situations in which performers and audiences are both invited to move. Lately she is looking in to what she refers to as 'composite reality' - the merging of physical and virtual reality in the world. Katja works closely together with performer Celine Werkhoven and technical producer/musician Sander van der Schaaf.

DFDS Seaways are sponsoring Katja, who has travelled with DFDS Seaways from The Netherlands to be part of Enchanted Parks.

Mick Stephenson & Stu Langley Alice's Nightclub

Mick Stephenson has spent over 20 years in the music industry working as a sound and lighting engineer. In 1996, he started a design and build company. Maintaining a strong interest in working with light as an artist, Mick was awarded a commission for the 2011 Durham Lumiere produced by Artichoke. Since then, he has created a number of successful light installations which have been exhibited in the UK. Stu Langley has over six years experience as a graphic designer. Now focused on creating light installations, Stu is passionate about lights capacity to transform and inspire. He has created works for Lumiere Durham, iLight Marina Bay Singapore, Illuminating York, and Nuit Blanche Brussels.

Johnny Goodwin Lighting Design

With experience of lighting shows involving complex moving sets, dynamic physical performance, video projection, pyrotechnics and special effects, Johnny has been lighting theatre, dance, and large scale spectaculars both outdoors and in more traditional venues since 1991. Johnny also creates light sculptures and illuminates existing structures.

Cocoloco The Cardsmen

Cocoloco specialises in professional indoor cabaret and outdoor performance with an emphasis on quality acts. Cocoloco have worked with volunteer guides to develop The Cardsmen for Enchanted Parks.
www.cocoloco.co.uk

Enchanted Parks also commissioned a number of students from BA(Hons) Glass & Ceramics at Sunderland University.

Tom Jordan Alice will become the Queen

Tom Jordan is a third year student, having previously completed a master's degree in Structural Engineering with Architectural Studies at University of Sheffield. Tom mainly works with clay to produce sculptures on a wide variety of scales.

Daniel Gough Wanderlust

Daniel Gough is a third year student who also works fabricating for other artists alongside casting pugs in glass and clay.

Anna Selway After Wonderland

Currently a second year student, Anna Selway this year came joint first for Brian Thomas Memorial Prize at the Stevens Glass Artists of the Year awards by The Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, as well as being awarded a commission for a Gin Glass design by Durham Distillery.

Jonathan E. Sutherland The Cardsmen

Student on Fashion BA (Hons) Degree at Northumbria University. Teleported through an emergency rabbit hole, Wonderland personalities crash together in the costume for the Volunteer Guides. Supported by Gael Henry, Fashion Lecturer. Thanks also to Maureen Atkinson for costume fitting and alterations.

Enchanted Parks

Enchanted Parks is part of Lighting up the North, a network of seven light festivals taking place in seven cities across the North of England.
www.enchantedparks.com

The seeds were sown for Enchanted Parks in 2006 when artists NVA delivered NewcastleGateshead's first international festival of light Glow across NewcastleGateshead. This was the first time that Saltwell Park was used as an outdoor after dark venue for contemporary art.

Over the past nine years of Enchanted Parks we have commissioned and presented 78 professional pieces of site-specific outdoor artwork in Saltwell Park, the vast majority commissioned especially for the event. We have engaged with schools and community groups in the development of many of the artworks as well as directly commissioning a further 27 pieces of artwork from students.

NewcastleGateshead Initiative

NewcastleGateshead Initiative is a destination management and marketing agency; a public-private partnership supported by Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council and around 170 private-sector partner organisations which share our ambition to inspire people to visit and to live, learn, work and invest in NewcastleGateshead.
www.newcastlegateshead.com

Gateshead Council

Gateshead Council's Culture Team support the development of Enchanted Parks directly through officer involvement in the commissioning process and site planning. They also support the community engagement aspects of some of the commissioned artworks and work closely with HE institutions for Student Commissions.

Jeremy Shine, M.I.A.

Enchanted Parks Creative Producer Jeremy Shine is the Artistic Director of Manchester International Arts (M.I.A.) which has been one of the leading presenters of outdoor festivals, spectacles, special events and installations across the North of England for the past 25 years.
www.streetsahead.org.uk

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www.dgbevents.com

Adam Long & Tim Garbutt, TG Events Ltd.

Enchanted Parks Production Management
www.tgevents.co.uk

With special thanks to...

DFDS Seaways for sponsoring Dutch artist Katja, who has travelled with DFDS Seaways from The Netherlands to be part of Enchanted Parks.

Balfour Beatty for their in kind support of equipment.

Ramada Encore for their support as hotel partner.

Staff from BA (Hons) Glass and Ceramics at Sunderland University for supporting the students commissions.

Staff from BA (Hons) Fashion at Northumbria University for supporting Jonathan E. Sutherland on the design of the costume for The Cardsmen.

The many volunteer guides and the stage managers working with them, box office staff and technical crew.

All Gateshead Council and NewcastleGateshead Initiative staff for the development and delivery of Enchanted Parks.

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