

Family sculpture

by FELIX BRIGHT

RESIDENTS of all ages gathered at the Maitland Park estate on Tuesday morning, to see the return of a restored sculpture.

For the first time since its installation in 1961, *Generations* by Geoffrey Harris has undergone refurbishment works.

The £23,000 repair was ordered after decades of exposure to the elements and vandalism.

Originally commissioned by London County Council after the Second World War as part of the Patronage of the Arts Scheme, it depicts four interconnected figures and was intended to represent family and community.

The Heritage of London Trust, which has already restored five deteriorating works across the capital, noticed

Harris's sculpture was in need of some TLC last year and reached out to Camden Council.

It has now been given its spruce-up with the help of funding from sponsor Imago Interiors.

Dr Nicola Stacey, the director of the Trust, said: "The council has been so enthusiastic about the project from the start. Last year we realised the sculpture was in a bad state and there was no information on the site about the art to help the community appreciate Harris's work."

Labour ward councillor for Haverstock Kemi Atolagbe said: "Teaching young people the history of art is as important as the art itself – seeing the final version of not just the sculpture, but the hard work our community has put into the project is a



A gathering in Maitland Park for the *Generations* sculpture, pictured inset

fantastic end to the journey."

Harris's sculpture is now accompanied by an informational plaque which serves to teach people about the piece's history.

Dr Stacey said: "Harris used fibreglass to mimic bronze, an effort to reduce costs in the wake of the war, while still providing quality art to poorer communities."

Beth Shaw, who has lived on Maitland Park estate since

1978, told the *New Journal* she has always been "really proud" of the sculpture, adding: "We used to call it 'the Family' because there was no information about it, it is nice to know its real name is *Generations*."

"It was looking in a bit of trouble for a while, and last year they took it away leaving just a concrete plinth. I was delighted to hear it was being restored back to how

I remember it all those years ago."

The sculptor's son Chris Harris, was present at the unveiling and said his father "wouldn't have considered himself a successful artist."

He added: "To see what it means to local people is amazing, he would have loved the children's reaction to his work. My father taught young people straight out of school and to see how this work has inspired people of that age



PHOTO: HERITAGE OF LONDON TRUST

would have made him proud." "As often happens with artists, so many of his sculptures have

been lost or thrown away, so it is an honour to see the work that has gone into this restoration."

Daisy firm to open up new Heath eatery

THE upmarket food operators Daisy Green is almost ready open its new venture on Hampstead Heath this weekend.

Customers will see what it has done to the Parliament Hill Fields café, which was run by the D'Auria family for decades. The decision to award the contracts to a new provider lead to protests last year, with

campaigners saying they wanted reasonably priced lunches to remain the order of the day.

In new social media posts, Daisy Green promised to open "very soon", adding: "Fresh paint. Final fittings. Landscaping and gardening. Furniture finding its place. One last sweep before the doors open."

The Daisy Green "collection" – the City of London has insisted it did not bring in a chain – includes existing places to eat at the National Portrait Gallery, Holland Park and a spot by the river in Richmond.

A legal challenge to the tendering process has delayed its planned takeover of the café at the Lido.



Dinomite! Join the Jurassic jamboree

THE dinosaurs are on their way back!

Visitors to the iconic Brunswick shopping centre near Russell Square will be transported back to another age on Sunday – as they come face to face with the giant visitors.

It's all part of the Jurassic Jungle, a free family event this Saturday (July 18).

Organisers say they are ready to transform The Brunswick into a

prehistoric playground, with roaming Jurassic dinosaurs, exciting photo opportunities and immersive entertainment.

Look out for the T.Rex, brontosaurus and megalosaurus to adorable dinosaur babies. No tickets or bookings are required, allowing visitors to simply turn up and enjoy the adventure.

John Themis, Marketing Manager at The Brunswick says,

"We're delighted to be welcoming Jurassic Jungle back to The Brunswick this summer. The event has proven incredibly popular with our visitors in the past, and this event promises even more prehistoric fun."

"From coming face-to-face with giant dinosaurs to snapping selfies with adorable dino babies, there's something to delight dinosaur fans of every age."

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