

Avery Hill Winter Gardens



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The Winter Garden was part of a splendid mansion owned by the Victorian entrepreneur John Thomas North. North made his fortune by exporting nitrates from Chile.

The Greek goddess Galatea was created by sculptor Leopoldo Ansiglioni in 1882. The white marble figure and base are set on a separate slab of grey marble. This stands on an oval shaped, moulded dark grey marble plinth which has four cartouches around it, two of which are inscribed, with scallop shells above them. Four bronze birds standing on tortoises or turtles are ranged round the plinth with their wings outstretched against the marble, and beneath this is a pink marble slab of similar shape, standing on a stone base which holds the whole structure out of the water.

The London County Council acquired the site in July 1902. Presently, the University of Greenwich maintains the Winter Garden and commissioned C & D Restoration Ltd to clean the statue and bring it back to its original grandeur.

C & D Restoration Ltd cleaned the internal brickwork and statue using the specialist low pressure Jos/Torc system. Some remedial brick repairs and pointing was also carried out in the surrounding area.

