

Time Out

London

FREE DRINKS
FOR YOU AND A FRIEND!
At Lost Society,
The Social,
LAB and more SEE PAGE 24

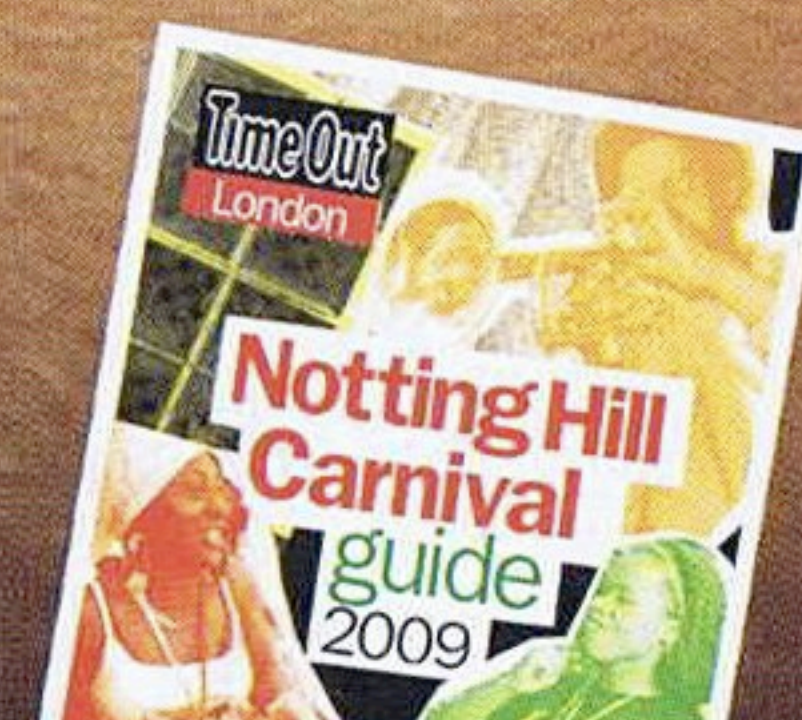
NO CATCH!

KNOW MORE. DO MORE.
TIMEOUT.COM/LONDON
AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 2 2009

Why this
year's is
going to
be the
best ever...

CARNIVAL!

£2.99
No.2036



**FREE 32-PAGE
GUIDE INSIDE**
**PLUS: LOADS
MORE THINGS TO
DO THIS WEEKEND**

Around Town

AND KIDS

This week's best events for family and friends Edited by Sara O'Reilly



Ten alternatives to Carnival

Not-in-here, Carnival The futuristic Thames Barrier Park is a serene bank-holiday alternative

If Notting Hill is a little too noisy for your taste this bank-holiday weekend it doesn't mean you have to stay in and watch the telly. Here are ten peaceful, family-friendly alternatives you may want to consider, assembled by the **Time Out** team

1 Thames Barrier Park

On the north side of the river the beautiful Thames Barrier Park, opened in 2001, was London's first new park for half a century. It has a lush sunken garden of waggly hedges and offers perhaps the best views from land of the fabulously sculptural shiny silver fins of the Thames Barrier. The park features a children's play area, a fountain plaza where kids can splash about and a five-aside football/basketball court.

Thames Barrier Park, North Woolwich Rd, E16 2HP (7476 3741/ www.thamesbarrierpark.org.uk). 7am-8.30pm (Aug); 7am-7.15pm (Sept). Pontoon Dock DLR or 474 bus.

2 Learn to grow your own herbs

This workshop with the friendly folk at Spitalfields City Farm will teach you ways of providing yourself with herbs and salads from the end of summer through winter. You'll learn about

sowing seeds, planting out, maintaining plants and containers, choosing seeds and compost and using organic methods. Those attending will also pick and cook a vegetarian lunch using produce from the farm. Booking is essential.

Growing Herbs and Salads for Beginners, Spitalfields City Farm, Weaver St, E1 5HU (7247 8762/ gardens@spitalfieldscityfarm.org). Aldgate East tube or Liverpool St tube/rail. 10am-4pm Sat. £55 incl lunch.

3 Morden Hall Park

Morden Hall Park, a beautiful former deer park and ancient hay meadow with an extensive network of waterways and impressive avenues of trees, is perfect for family picnics. Herons and kingfishers dip into the River Wandle, which runs through the site, and the rose garden is currently in bloom. The old estate buildings house a National Trust information centre, and the old Snuff Mill hosts a monthly craft market (11am-4pm August 29-31).

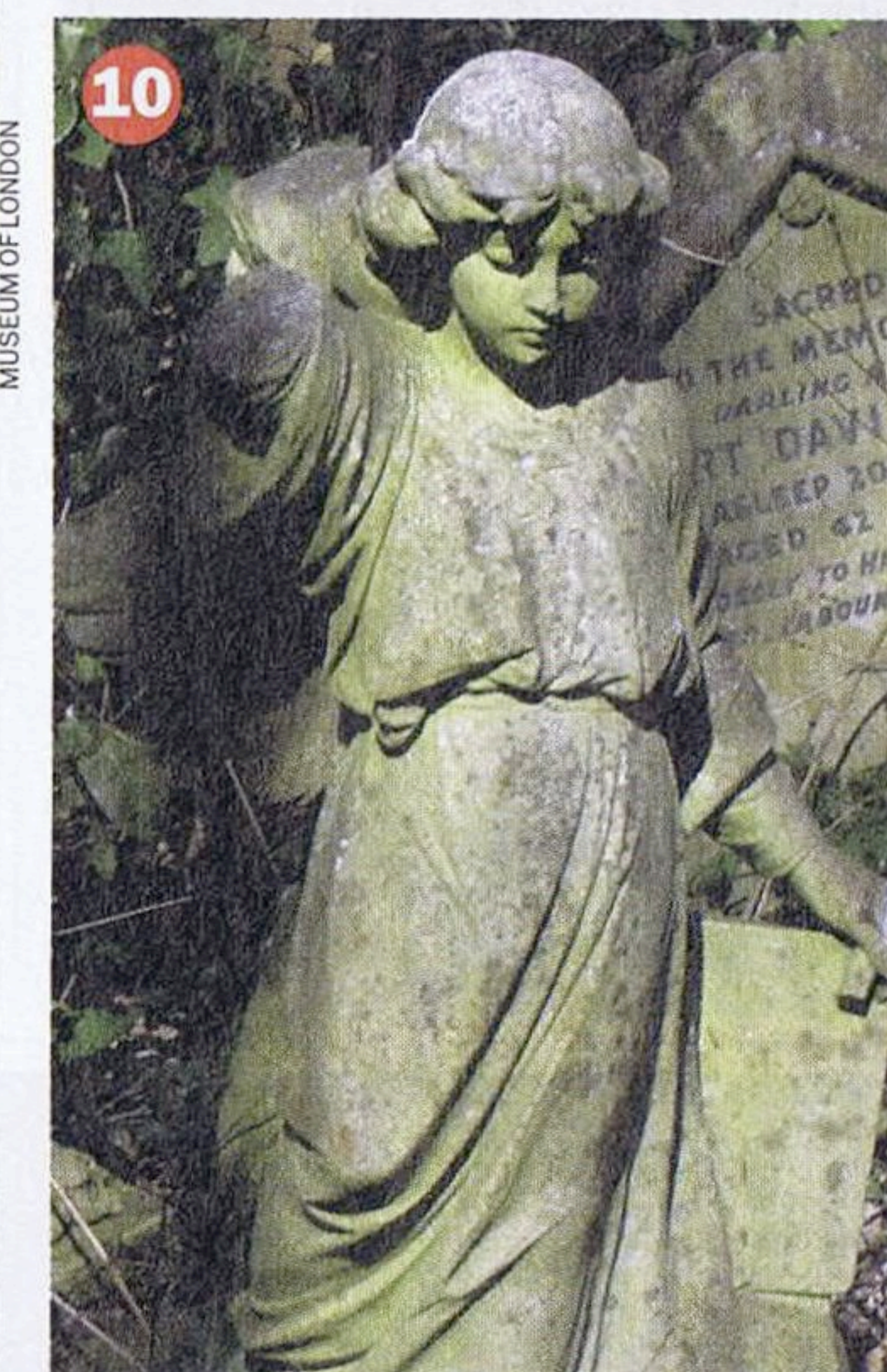
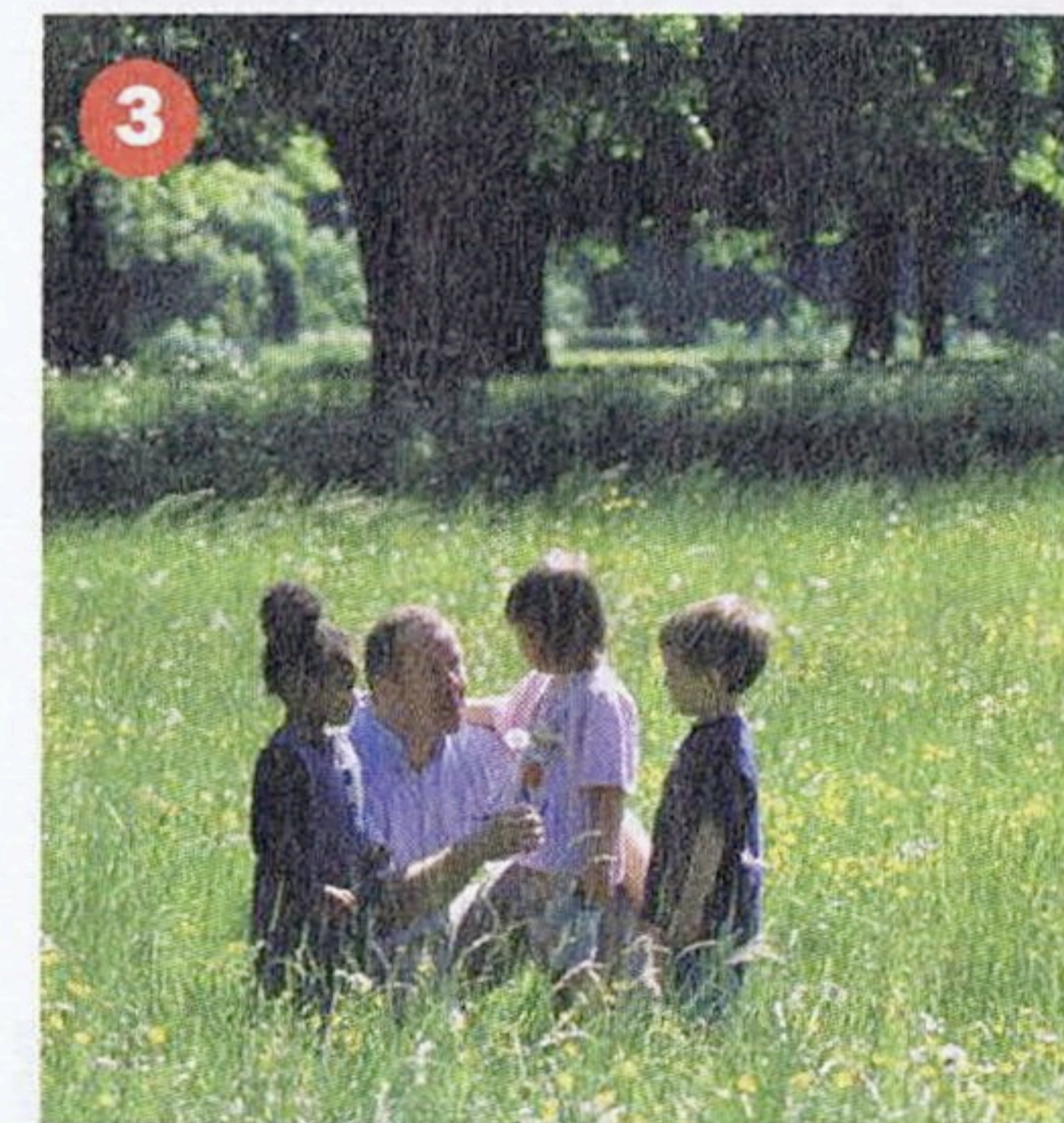
Morden Hall Rd, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5JD (8545 6850/ www.nationaltrust.org.uk). Morden tube. 8am-6pm daily. Free.

4 London Lido Cycle ride

The first event of its kind, challenging cyclists to ride from Parliament Hill Lido to Brockwell Lido, is organised by the lidos and Brixton Bicycle Art. The swimming centres were both completed in the late 1930s on similar principles and layouts, both faced closure in the 1980s but are now much-loved resources for their respective local communities. Because they are on opposite sides of London, many swimmers who love one have never visited the other – this cycle ride is the perfect excuse to do just that. To enter, pick up a 'Rider' card at either lido and choose your own

route between the venues. Your times will be stamped and the fastest rider wins the Brixton Bicycle Art and Brockwell Lido Perpetual Trophy. You can start in either north or south London but it makes sense to wind up at Brockwell where there is a programme of live music and screenings of 'Belleville Rendez-Vous' and 'The Harder They Come'. It's free to enter the ride and attend the evening events but entry fees apply if you want to add a refreshing swim.

Parliament Hill Lido, Parliament Hill Fields, Gordon House Rd, NW5 1LP (7485 5757/ www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampstead). Gospel Oak rail. £2-£4.30; free-£2.70 children. **Brockwell Lido**, Brockwell Park, Dulwich Rd, SE24 OPA (7274 3088/ www.brockwelllido.com). Herne Hill rail. £2.60-£5.20; free-£3.10 children. Mon 10am-6pm; evening events at Brockwell Lido 5-8pm.



5 Float down the canal

Hop aboard the Jenny Wren for a picturesque 90-minute cruise from Camden Lock, past London Zoo in Regent's Park, through the tunnel to Robert Browning's Island at Little Venice and back to Walker's Quay. **Jenny Wren**, Camden Lock, 250 Camden High St, London, NW1 8QS (7485 4433/ www.walkersquay.com). Camden Town tube. 12.30pm & 2.30pm daily; weekends & bank hols also 4.30pm. £8.50; £6.50 concs; £4.50 children (3-15); under-threes free.

6 Guerrilla Gardens walk

Richard Reynolds unwittingly became part of the guerrilla gardening phenomenon when, secretly at night, he started to plant flowers outside his tower block. His blog attracted activists from around the world wanting to share their experiences and inspire others to join in. Guided by Reynolds, this walk unearths some of London's patches of ground cultivated by guerrilla gardeners, explores techniques such as seed bombing and provides tips for those who want to change the landscape around them. Booking essential.

Guerrilla Gardens walk, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN (7001 9844/ www.museumoflondon.org.uk) St Paul's/Barbican tube. 2pm Sat. £6.50.

7 London Wetland Centre

Climb the three-storey tower for excellent views of this 105-acre wildlife area of lakes, reedbeds and marshes, or slip under cover into hides to watch ducks and wading birds undetected. On August 28 there's a day of children's activities including junior birdwatching with binoculars and telescopes and tips on drawing from nature. **London Wetlands Centre**, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, SW13 9WT (8409 4400/ www.wwt.org.uk). Hammersmith tube then Duck Bus (283). 9.30am-6pm daily (last adm 5pm). £8.95; £6.70 concs; £4.95 children (4-16); £25 family ticket; under-fours, helpers for disabled people & mums free.

8 South Bank fun

The National Theatre's Watch This Space programme of outdoor theatre continues over the bank holiday with a mix of Catalan variety acts and a

dance special – join the Cockney Awkestra in a knees-up, take a tango class or experience an after-dark swing and ballroom extravaganza with the Jay Craig Orchestra.

On Sunday at Southbank Centre you can join in with a mass synchronised dance routine choreographed by Katie Prince, creator of hip hop show 'Into the Hoods'. Learn the moves online beforehand, or take part in free workshops which take place on the hour from 11am. **Watch This Space**, National Theatre Square, SE1 9PX (7452 3400/ www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/wts). Waterloo tube/rail. Wed-Mon various times. **Dance Mob**, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX (0871 663 2500/ www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Waterloo tube/rail. 3pm Sun (workshops hourly from 11am). Free

9 Go back to Tudor times

It's all go at Hampton Court, where a three-day Tudor Tournament takes over the magnificent grounds with riotous jousting. Henry VIII himself (well, someone dressed as King Hal) will be competing at 3pm each day of the

weekend, in the first joust to take place at the palace for more than 450 years. **The Tudor Tournament takes place Aug 29-31 at Hampton Court Palace**, East Molesey, KT8 9AU (0844 482 7777, bookings 08445 791940/ www.hrp.org.uk). Hampton Court rail. 10am-6pm daily (last adm 5pm). £14; £11.50 concs; £7 children (5-16); under-fives free; £38 family (2 adults, 3 children).

10 Nunhead Cemetery Tour

This south-east London cemetery offers a charming location for a languid wander, but if you prefer more directed guidance, the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery run tours on the last Sunday of every month (that's this weekend). The tour of the romantic and overgrown cemetery will allow you to glimpse some of its 1,000 ivy-clad angels and learn about the Victorians buried in the green heart of Peckham. **Nunhead Cemetery**, Linden Rd, SE15 3LP (7732 8396/ www.fonc.org.uk). Nunhead rail/484, P12 bus. 2pm Sun. Free but donations welcome.

www.timeout.com/aroundtown