

*The Friends of Holland Park*  
*Winter 2018*





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Our spring speaker will be from the 'home team'. Inspector Rumble, head of the bi-borough parks police force, has agreed to tell us what lies behind the police presence in Holland Park; and I suspect we are in for a few surprises as the issues faced by the parks police team are extraordinarily varied, all faced with calmness and practical solutions.

Mike Rumble manages the Parks Police Service for two London Boroughs, Kensington and Chelsea, and Hammersmith and Fulham, and has done for the past ten years. What extraordinary things he must have seen during that time and what stories he must have to tell. He is infuriatingly discrete, but he often has a twinkle in his eye when regaling us with his experiences. The force hosted the Olympic Torch in Holland Park and facilitated



*Inspector Mike Rumble, Head of the Parks Police*

the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan in May 2012.

The Parks Police strongly believe that a problem-solving approach is the most effective way of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, so they work with local communities and park users to identify concerns and find solutions. This work has been recognised with a number of prestigious awards in recent years. He has other talents too. He studied calligraphy and heraldic art and has been a member of the Heraldry Society for over 40 years. He designed the new badge when the RBKC and Hammersmith & Fulham forces merged. The design features a London plane leaf.

Tickets are £18, to include wine and Janice Miles' delicious canapés. To

order tickets, please use the order form that arrives with your newsletter, or order on our website:

[www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org)

*Jennie Kettlewell*

## Subscription Renewals and Membership Cards

The Friends' subscription year runs from 1 January. Some of you have already paid for 2019, and a healthy number (about 64%) pay by bank standing order on 1 January. New members who have joined since 1 September are already covered for 2019. To the rest of you, now is the time to pay, using the order form. If in doubt, check with Rhoddy on 020 7602 0304 or [rhoddy.wood@virgin.net](mailto:rhoddy.wood@virgin.net). We would like to emphasise that it is less trouble to both you and us if you pay by standing order; if you do not yet do so we are always ready to send you a form.

You will know that your membership card, which entitles you to discounts under our Friends & Neighbours scheme, expires at the end of February. Those who have paid their subscriptions for 2019 will receive replacement cards with their spring newsletters, which will reach them in late February. Please be careful opening your newsletter, as the cards can easily fall out and be lost. Your membership gives the Friends clout when negotiating with the Borough on the Park's future. Thank you again for all your support.

## Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

11am-1pm, Saturday, 5 January 2019  
Chez Rhoddy Wood, 21 Kenton Court,  
356 Kensington High Street, W14 8NN

All members of the Friends are invited to celebrate the New Year on the first Saturday in January at this warming occasion. It is quite informal; come as you are and no RSVP – just turn up and enjoy the company of other Friends.

## Christmas Concert

Sunday, 9 December 2018, at 7.30pm, in the Orangery

You will just be in time to book for our musical event heralding Christmas: our concert of carols sung by The Tallis Chamber Choir, conducted by Philip Simms, and you the audience, of course. Do not forget the seasonal, and often amusing, readings to go with it, all rounded off by wine and canapés. You can order tickets, at £22, either using the enclosed order form or on our website: [www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org)

## Erratum

Many of you will have noticed the (glaring, but at least consistent) mistake in the 'Black Poplar' article on page 7

of the autumn newsletter, namely 'Richard' (instead of 'David') Attenborough. Many apologies for this oversight.



## New cricket nets

Contractor, Total Play, were able to start earlier than expected on improved cricket nets, and were on site by 15 October, with work expected to take around four weeks. id verde say they are pleased that the cricket 'cages' will be surrounded by a 3m security fence, and hope this reduces misuse and damage which, sadly, has been a problem with the current nets.



*Total Play at work on the cricket nets*

## 'No Cycling' sign

The park is a no-cycling zone because the paths are so well used by pedestrians, with their children, pushchairs and dogs. The Highway Code sign, used on signposts in the park, can be misinterpreted because there is no red line through the bike. Members often ask why a red line cannot

be added, but this government sign must be used unchanged, so that cyclists can be legally stopped and, if necessary, fined. The Friends have been asking for 'No Cycling' signs to be set into the road at park entrances as they are more likely to be noticed by cyclists. The first will be installed at the Duchess of Bedford Gate.

## Adventure Play Area

Work on a greatly improved Adventure Playground is due to start on 29 October. It involves substantial topographical, drainage and installation work, so the play area might not be open again until April 2019. Please look out for signage in the park, which will keep you informed on progress. The Friends have been involved in the discussion about new trees for the play area, and look forward to seeing some new planting.



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[Jeroboams.co.uk](http://Jeroboams.co.uk)



## Belvedere tower

And still the work continues. We have been told it will be finished by Christmas, but time will tell.

## Parking meters in the car park

These meters seem to confuse everyone as they seem to want payment by card, and I have seen people give up trying to pay. They are not under the management of the park, and the park has to accept what is installed. So, if you want to use the park before 6.30 p.m. come prepared to pay by card.

## Litter

Litter seems to have got worse in the park, especially around some of the benches. There are regular litter clearance patrols by id verde, but the sheer amount of litter is challenging. One wonders why visitors cannot take the trouble to use the bins. Park Management is aware of this increasing problem, and is working with other boroughs to see what has been successful.

*Text and photo: Jennie Kettlewell*



At last the landscaping works on the south terrace of Holland House are complete, and it now looks an elegant and fitting environment for a Grade I-listed building. It was certainly splendid in the evening sunshine at the formal opening on 25 September.

Cllr David Lindsay, Lead Councillor for Healthy City Living, described the convoluted historical context, followed by RBKC Executive Director, Sue Harris, who thanked all those involved in the many aspects of ensuring success from vision, to consultation, and design to implementation. Chairman of The Friends, Jennie Kettlewell, followed with a description of what the terrace had looked like several years ago and how pleased The Friends are to see the final result of some very skilled input. Xanthe Quayle, director of Camlin Lonsdale, the landscape architects, told the audience that the huge project had



© Justin Thomas

*Holland House terrace opening.*

*L-R: Ian McNicol, Jennie Kettlewell, Natan Gjongecaj, Sue Harris, Cllr David Lindsay, Cllr Mohammed Bakhtiar*

ordinator, Ian McNicol, who had masterminded exemplary consultation throughout, so that not one single objection was raised to the planning application. Thanks were also given to Natan Gjongecaj, Blakedown Landscapes' site supervisor, who oversaw the implementation of the whole project with care and good-natured responses to the daily questions from us all.

Appreciation was expressed to Tim Ahern who, as the RBKC councillor responsible for the environment during the planning and start of the

implementation, steered us through some complex negotiations. Michael Volpe, General Manager of Opera Holland Park was thanked for reducing the build and strike periods of the opera season so that the terrace can now be open to the public for longer in the year. Now we can all enjoy sitting on those comfortable benches, in the winter sunshine, with a fine view of the remaining stonework arcades of the original Jacobean house and a view to the south towards the Design Museum. Do go and have a look.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

## Crab Apple and Quince Jelly

We have already made and sold a number of jars of our traditional crab apple jelly. This year two separate sources donated quinces. One was small fruit, round but a little knobbly, and about the size of a large crab apple.

These come from the Japanese quince, *Chaenomeles speciosa*, known as *Japonica*, which is usually grown as a wall shrub for its saucer-shaped early spring flowers in white, pink, orange or red. The others were like outsize Comice pears from the tree quince, *Cydonia oblonga*, which can reach 6 metres. It is thought that both kinds fruited unusually well this year because of the hot summer. Jelly from both fruits has much the same perfumed taste. It might be that we will have a few more jars of both quince and crab apple jelly. Do phone or e-mail Rhoddy Wood if you are interested.



*theoriginalgarden.com*

*Chaenomeles speciosa*



*Natan Gjongecaj*

*The terrace at sunrise*

often been challenging, that she was relieved to have overcome those challenges, and pleased to have created a landscape that set off the grand house. The terrace was formally opened by Deputy Borough Mayor, Cllr Mohammed Bakhtiar.

The sizeable and attentive audience was made up of those who had been involved in the project and many members of The Friends.

Special thanks were given to Xanthe for her vision and caring about getting the detail right, and to the Council's project co-



Our speaker, Jonathon Jones, established the first British tea plantation at the Tregothnan Estate in Cornwall. He has not only applied his undoubted horticultural knowledge, but has encouraged the public to think very differently about tea drinking – quite a challenge in a nation of tea-drinkers.

It all started with selling the estate's produce as a way of funding the estate's ten gardeners. He fascinated the audience with stories of growing the *Camellia sinensis* in an area it would not have been thought possible – alongside the River Fal at Truro. Research and experimentation have led to some 35 'clones' of the tea bush. A 'clone' is what would be called a cultivated variety in other plants. Experimentation continues, and Jonathon is considering how the true scent of the tea bush could be built into our cuppa, probably from the flower, instead of the false scent that is usually added.

He told us how to make tea, and that boiling water brings out the bitterness. Black tea should be brewed at 95°, herbal tea at 85°, and green tea at only 75° to get the optimum taste. Who knew that.

Holland Park has venerable camellias but has not had the



*Tregothnan is truly international*

tea bush until recently, when we bought one from Tregothnan. Jonathon wondered about other links. Tea was introduced into Britain around 1610, just a few years after Sir Walter Cope built Holland House. Were his family early adopters of tea? The Duchess of Bedford was a well known tea drinker. Did she drink tea at Holland House? Did Earl Grey visit Holland House, in

spite of the fact that he and Charles Fox did not always agree?

Tregothnan is now a very successful international tea business, even exporting tea to China. We were tempted by the many variations of tea available from the estate. As yet, stock of the products in Britain is selective, but the full range is available on their website: [www.tregothnan.co.uk](http://www.tregothnan.co.uk). One person in the audience commented that: 'We can expect to see exciting things happening in the tea world over the next few years, with the tea trade recognising the role Jonathon and Tregothnan are playing.'

The evening was rounded off with delicious canapés and a Tregothnan tea cocktail concocted by our events organiser, Graham Franklin.

*Text and photo: Jennie Kettlewell*

## Richard Kulczycki Joins as a Trustee

We are delighted that Richard has agreed to become a trustee, and he has been enthusiastically co-opted onto the committee. His focus will be on ecology matters in the park, although I am sure he will contribute on other subjects too.

You might remember the photo of Richard in the last newsletter, shown cleaning out the Wildlife Area pond on one of the Ecology Centre's volunteer days. He

has got his hands dirty in a few areas of the wilder parts of the park and knows what the soil and plants are like. This knowledge means he was able to help when the Ecology Team and The Friends worked together on an application to the London Mayor's Greener City Fund so that the West



*Richard Kulczycki*

Woodland Enclosure (previously known as the Nature Play Area) can be restored as a habitat, with a space for learning about nature.

The Borough has an excellent ecology team with a vision for the park, but they do not have the hours available to do all they want to do. The Friends will continue to work with them to support their programmes and add resource when possible.

Richard seems to have unusually eclectic interests and has been helpfully observant on subjects as diverse as the park's drainage and a green solution for the newsletter envelope. Welcome Richard. We look forward to working with you and hope you enjoy being a trustee.

Now that the temperature has suddenly dropped after an incredible long, hot summer, and the clocks have been turned back, it is time to start thinking about The Friends of Holland Park 2019 Art Exhibition.

Last spring we had an extremely successful exhibition, and I am keen that we all build on that. As the organisers we handle the administration, advertise the exhibition and co-ordinate the two Private Views, but in the back of my mind there is always the question of how to get more people in The Orangery during the exhibition. I now realise that you, our artists, are the answer. Most of you have buyers, mailing lists and friends interested in art. You are members of art groups, gyms, parent circles or book clubs. Use these contacts. Your artworks will be displayed for ten days in The Orangery, one of the most picturesque venues in London, situated in beautiful Holland Park. When we e-mail you the exhibition poster, forward this to your contacts and ask them to pass it on to anyone they think will be interested. Perhaps arrange your own 'Meet the Artist' in The Orangery, on a weekday when there is less of a crowd, which gives you a fantastic opportunity to speak about your artwork to potential buyers. The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition has a reputation for selling quality work at a fair price, and I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to be involved. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to how we can increase our visitor numbers, please let me know.

All the information regarding the 2019 exhibition Feature Artist and sponsor will be detailed in the Spring newsletter. There is no change to the entry conditions of previous

years: Friends who are artists and artists who become Friends are invited to exhibit up to ten works; two framed works to hang on the walls, and up to eight unframed works for display in the portfolio browser stands, these with a maximum size of 70 x 100cm (including mounts, but no wooden mounts please). Friends are also invited to exhibit up to ten three-dimensional objects such as ceramics, glassware and small sculptures, or enter the mini-mart of small works on offer at £40 and under, including cards and craft items. The minimum price for works in the main exhibition will be £50.

Friends interested in exhibiting in the art exhibition, the mini-mart or both, need to register by completing the order form (enclosed with this newsletter) and pay the £10 entry fee. Please note that artists who have registered for the main exhibition may also include small works in the mini-mart at no additional cost. Completed order forms should be sent to Rhoddy Wood as soon as possible because space is limited, and when enough artists have registered we cannot accept any more.

Information on The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition is available on our website, [www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), or from me, Gordon French, 19 Kensington Court Place, London, W8 5BJ; tel: 020 7937 7222; e-mail: [gordon.l.french@gmail.com](mailto:gordon.l.french@gmail.com) Let us all think how we can spread the word about the 2019 art exhibition, get more people in The Orangery so we can continue to have lots more red dots.

*Gordon French*

## Art Exhibition Timetable

Friday, 15 March	All artist exhibit details forms must be received by this date to allow listing in the catalogue
Friday, 5 April	Artists deliver artworks to the Orangery, Holland Park, 8.30–11am <i>All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that all details shown are correct</i>
Friday, 5 April	Hanging and judging, 11am–6pm
Friday, 5 April	Private View, 7.30–9.30pm, entry by ticket at £3
Saturday, 6 April	Private View, 10.30am–12.30pm, entry by ticket at £3 <i>(on application, artists are entitled to a total of 4 complimentary tickets + 1 artist ticket)</i>
Saturday, 6 April	Exhibition opens to the public, 1–6pm. Entry free of charge
Sunday, 7 – Sunday, 14 April	Exhibition open to the public, 10.30 am–6pm. Entry free of charge
Sunday, 14 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 6–7pm
Monday, 15 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 9–11 am

*Artists are particularly asked NOT TO COLLECT THEIR WORKS BEFORE 6pm on SUNDAY 14 April*



One of the benefits you tell us you enjoy as a member of The Friends is the 'Friends & Neighbours' scheme, which allows members a discount on purchases from businesses local to Holland Park – our Neighbours. We currently have 14 Neighbours in the scheme. Do visit them. Here is a reminder of some of them:



*Rassells*

### Rassells Plant Nursery

Rassells plant nursery has been on this site for over 100 years and is a local institution. The plants for sale change with the season, and you can find unusual gems among the more recognisable trees, shrubs and annuals. The staff show real interest and are great on advice, from what to plant to how to plant it and what treatment it needs to survive. They also sell cut flowers and house plants. Check them out at 78-80 Earls Court Road. Tel. 020 7937 0481. **Offer:** 10% off all purchases in the nursery and flower shop.



*Miles & Miles*

### Miles & Miles

Established in 1953, Miles & Miles is London's oldest independent car rental company offering the widest selection of vehicles to hire in the capital – standard car, executive car, cabriolet/convertible or 4x4/SUV. All cars are fitted with Satellite Navigation. The reservations office is based in South Kensington, where staff advise on the most suitable car for your needs. Cars are delivered to the door by Miles & Miles or may be collected from London Heathrow, London City and London Gatwick Airport. 18 Petersham Mews, London, SW7 5NR. Tel. 0207 591 0555 [www.milesandmiles.co.uk](http://www.milesandmiles.co.uk) **Offer:** 15% discount (off the tariff price) with every rental and any marque of car.



*Holland Park Café*

### Holland Park Café

Well used by visitors to the park, this café serves light meals, snacks, hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and pastries. It is very pleasant to sit on the smart new terrace on a sunny evening, watching the more energetic rushing around the sports field. Customers include mums and dads with young children, chess players, park visitors from all over the world and a few people earnestly taking advantage of the free Wifi to catch up on e-mails. Just north of the Ilchester Gate, in Holland Park. Tel. 020 7602 6156.

**Offer:** 10% off all purchases over £10.



*Holiday Inn health club and spa*

### Holiday Inn Health Club & Spa

There's a choice of relaxing treatments in the Spa, an invigorating swim in the pool, exercise classes, or a workout in the gym. They claim to have the largest swimming pool in Kensington (18m) and swimming is not only fun but is one of the best forms of exercise. Some health clubs can be daunting, but this one is not and has friendly and helpful staff.

Tel. 0844 770 2322.

**Offer:** £72 per month for minimum of 3 months. No joining fee. 20% discount in hotel restaurant.

Other participants in the scheme are Artisan du Chocolat, The Belvedere Restaurant, Chakra Restaurant, Gallery 19, Il Portico, Jeroboams, Kensington Place, Lipp Interiors, Romulo Café and ULI Restaurant. More information is on The Friends' website: [www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org)



You might have read about Janie Burford's 1978 dissertation in the last newsletter and seen the reference to Steven Rettig. Member, John Rae, read it too and rang with a reminder that it was Steven who conceived the idea of The Friends of Holland Park in 1978, along with colleagues Sarah Davidson and Christopher Long – all volunteers. At the time, the beautiful grounds of Holland House were semi-wild and slowly deteriorating due to the neglect of its municipal guardians, the Greater London Council (GLC). Without Steven's action, Kensington might have lost many acres of natural woodland and



*Steven Rettig memorial bench*

unkempt but utterly enchanting grounds in the 1970s. He has loyally supported the cause of preservation of the park ever since, and we are grateful to him.

*Text and photo: Jennie Kettlewell*

## Children were Holland Park Detectives

On a sunny Tuesday during half term, children walking past the café area were surprised by a stall draped with a banner stating: 'Imagine you are a detective! What can you discover?' During the day about 60 children visited the stall, eager to find all the features depicted on an activity sheet that we handed out, with clues to help find them, all the features being within easy walking distance of the stall. When the children had ticked off all the items, they were given badges that showed that they were now 'Holland Park Detectives'. This occasion also offered an opportunity for the children and accompanying adults to learn more about the park and The Friends. Several of our publications were sold, especially the new 'Children's Guide to Exploring Holland Park', a page of which we displayed in the autumn newsletter; and here you can see another one. We are hoping to have such a pop-up stall again sometime.

*Joy Puritz*



# Hi there kids!

This page is for you, with fabulous things to discover about Holland Park and fun activities to do.

Can you find these words in the square? The words may be written from left to right, from top to bottom and some words are on a start.

D	A	G	K	C	Y	R	E	L	P
L	N	F	X	L	O	R	Y	F	A
E	K	T	L	S	F	D	N	U	C
A	Y	O	Q	A	F	Y	E	N	Z
R	H	O	L	L	A	N	D	V	Z
N	N	X	T	W	I	N	T	E	R
M	B	E	R	R	Y	P	A	R	K
Q	N	B	N	G	C	O	Q	M	H

**WORDS TO FIND: BERRY, HOLLY, CODE, PARK, HOLLAND, FUN, WINTER, LEARN**



**Omar Owl says:**  
"Have you discovered the Ice House?"

When Holland House was built in 1605, fridges hadn't been invented. The people in the house wanted to keep their food and drinks cold so they built ice houses. During the winter, they collected ice and snow and stored it in the ice house where it stayed cold because the walls were very thick. *Pictured left is Holland Park's Ice House.*



## COOL CODE

Sometimes you want to write in code to keep what you have written a secret. Writing backwards is a good code. What does this say?

!od ot sgniht nuf eht lla yojne

Have a go at writing your name backwards:.....

Answer at the bottom of the page



Birds think berries are yummy to eat but where do they find them?

These colourful berries are all on bushes or small trees in Holland Park. Be a super spotter and track down where they are.

From Earl's Court Gate, walk towards Holland House. Look for a long hedge on the edge of the sports field.



Rose hips

Find the Melancholy Man statue in the Dutch Garden, then walk towards Holland House. It is on your left.



Beauty berry

Start at the Walking Man statue and go towards the Kyoto Garden. You will pass it on the way.



Strawberry tree

Start outside the front door of the Belvedere Restaurant and walk north to a gap in the wall. Look above you.



Holly berry

• Don't eat the berries. Leave them for the hungry birds •

Answer: Enjoy all the fun things to do.





## Hedgehog

Dr Nigel Reeve gave a most interesting talk about these little mammals, as part of the Ecology Service events programme. He is supremely knowledgeable and passionate about his subject. Sadly, we no longer have hedgehogs in Holland Park, because the park is not big enough to maintain a sustainable population by itself, and the green links have gone now that gardens are being hard-landscaped and surrounded by impregnable fences. The talk, on 27 October, was well attended and much enjoyed.

1. The only hedgehogs left in central London are in Regent's Park.
2. The species declined in urban areas by around one third between 2004 and 2017, although the decline seems to be levelling off. The decline is largely due to lack of suitable habitat for feeding and nesting, poor connectivity between habitat patches, road kill and a wide range of other hazards.
3. A male might walk up to 3 kilometres per night in search of food and females. Females typically travel around 1 kilometre per night.
4. Their diet is mainly made up of invertebrates.
5. Hedgehogs are solitary, do not live in groups and do not pair bond. A litter might have more than one father.
6. Hedgehog pregnancy lasts 35 days, and it is then about 40 days before the hoglets become independent.
7. They hibernate, but never sleep through the whole winter. They might wake to change or fix their nest, or forage for food.
8. They nest all year round and not just when they hibernate, so take care not to disturb areas that might hide nests.
9. Brambles and 'dead hedges' make great nesting places for hedgehogs.
10. Hedgehogs are found in Europe, Africa and Asia, but not in the Americas, South East Asia or Australasia. They were introduced to New Zealand in the 1870s but have since become a problem for some of the endemic wildlife.

Look out for the 2019 list of Ecology Service events, which will be available soon.

## Autumn Bat Walk

It is good to see that the Ecology Service events are being well attended and the Bat Walk on the evening of 13 September was no exception.

It was led by a representative of the London Bat Group, who was full of praise for the woodland areas of the park and how these allow for the dark conditions that bats need. Old trees are important too, as these have the nooks and crannies which bats need for roosting, i.e. resting and sleeping.

Participants saw Soprano and Common pipistrelles. There was also a brief appearance over the Wildlife Enclosure pond of a Nathusius' pipistrelle, which we were told was a new record for Holland Park. Probably this was a bat only passing through the park, but clearly it found it a useful place to feed during its journey.

This event was sponsored by The Friends, so that those who were interested could participate for free.

*Richard Kulczycki*





*Damage to Holland House*

In the autumn newsletter, we were pleased to report that the conservation plan for Grade 1-listed Holland House was being drawn up in three stages, with work on the roof and facings of the main building due to start this autumn. Well, it seems the Council has hit a snag, and there is as yet no news about when this essential work will start: this year or next. We understand that the detailed plans of the stage-one work have not yet been sent to Historic England, so The Friends are lobbying hard to get this important programme back on track. Parts of the stone facing are flaking off, the finials were loose and have been temporarily removed, and anyone who cares to look will see that the window frames in the east wing, housing the youth hostel, are in a very sorry state indeed. What another winter will

do to this fine example of Jacobean architecture does not bear thinking about.

Where we are making progress is that The Friends are obtaining quotes from two specialists in historic tiles conservation to get the beautiful tiles on the upper and lower walkways cleaned, repaired and protected. The Council is happy for us to do this, as we were instrumental in the major tile conservation work (both getting it done and contributing funds) in 2004, under The Friends' previous chairman, Nicholas Hopkins.

*Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell*



*Windows, East Wing*

## Bird-Ringing Demonstration



*Dirk Todd*

*Goldcrest at the bird ringing*

On 13 October consultant ornithologist and active birder, Bill Haines, demonstrated his considerable bird-ringing skills in the Wildlife Enclosure of Holland Park. He runs West London Birding and is licenced to do the specialist work of bird ringing by The British Trust for Ornithology. Ringing is a way of collecting information on survival rates of bird species, on their movements and their health, the data providing vital support for conservation efforts. The event was well attended, and Bill showed some 40 interested spectators how to catch birds safely in mist nets and then how to ring, measure and weigh them before releasing them back into the wilds of the park. A total of 39 birds of seven different species were captured during the morning, with blue tit being the most common, followed by great tit. Other species netted were wren, robin, blackbird, goldcrest and coal tit.

Bizarrely, one of the blue tits and one of the great tits had been ringed before in the same area of Holland Park, and both on the same day: 16 December 2016.



**Kensington Gardeners' Club** (information from [www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk](http://www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk) or please contact 07949 769702). Talks and club meetings take place in the basement lecture theatre at Kensington Central Library, Phillimore Walk. Free to members. Guests pay £5.

19 Jan 2019 2.30 p.m.

9 Feb 2.30 p.m.

9 March 2.30 p.m.

Alpine expert, Roy Barker, will talk about mountain plants of France

Club meeting. Check website for details

Stephen Anderton will talk on the magic and fascination of garden plants.

**Opera Holland Park** (all information from [www.operahollandpark.com](http://www.operahollandpark.com). Tickets available from 0300 999 1000)

Details of 2019 performances are on the Opera Holland Park website – see above.

**The Kensington Society** (all information and on-line booking on [www.kensingtonsociety.org/events](http://www.kensingtonsociety.org/events))

26 Nov

Workshop in Kensington Town Hall, Hornton St. Update on Recent planning changes, hosted by Executive Director, Sue Harris, supported by the Council Planning Department.

6 Dec

Carol concert in the Mayor's Parlour.

## The Dutch Garden in Spring Jigsaw Puzzle



*The Dutch Garden as depicted on the jigsaw puzzle*

Readers are reminded that these jigsaws make excellent Christmas presents for single fanatics or family parties. They are of high quality and difficult enough to engage the most experienced with quirky shapes. Order from the website or on our order form.





*HO19 Holland Park Café 2018*

We think this year's Christmas card is especially attractive with its swirly composition and figures having fun in the winter landscape. It shows the new arrangement of the café yard, so it is bang up to date. It comes in both sizes, and we try to keep a supply at home for quick delivery. Also with us at the bargain price of £6.50 for 10 cards are mixed, mostly large, cards from other years. We illustrate some of these which you might find in your packs – but no guarantees. Also included are a number of other designs, some by Mountbatten's first and much loved artist, Terry McKivragan, but sometimes we have only one or two of these. All other designs from the brochure (further copies can be posted) or the website [www.mbcards.co.uk](http://www.mbcards.co.uk) can also be supplied, but might take a little longer. If you send your order (on our order form or

Mountbatten's) to 21 Kenton Court, the minimum order is 10 cards, and we will deliver free within our newsletter-hand-delivery area but have to charge postage of £1.60 per ten beyond that. If you order from Mountbatten cards directly, delivery is free. The Friends get a little more profit if ordered through us, but overprinted cards must be ordered from Mountbatten. In either case envelopes are included, and there are discounts of 5% on 100 cards, 10% on 200 and 15% on 300+. We hope that you will all nominate FHP as the recipient of the charity donation from Mountbatten of 25% of the profits, but you are free to choose any charity. *N.B. Not all cards are listed in Mountbatten's catalogue, but the complete list is on their website.*

*Rhoddy Wood*



*HO12 Belvedere and Arches*



*HO16 Iris Fountain and Ice House*



*HO18 Stable Yard in Snow*



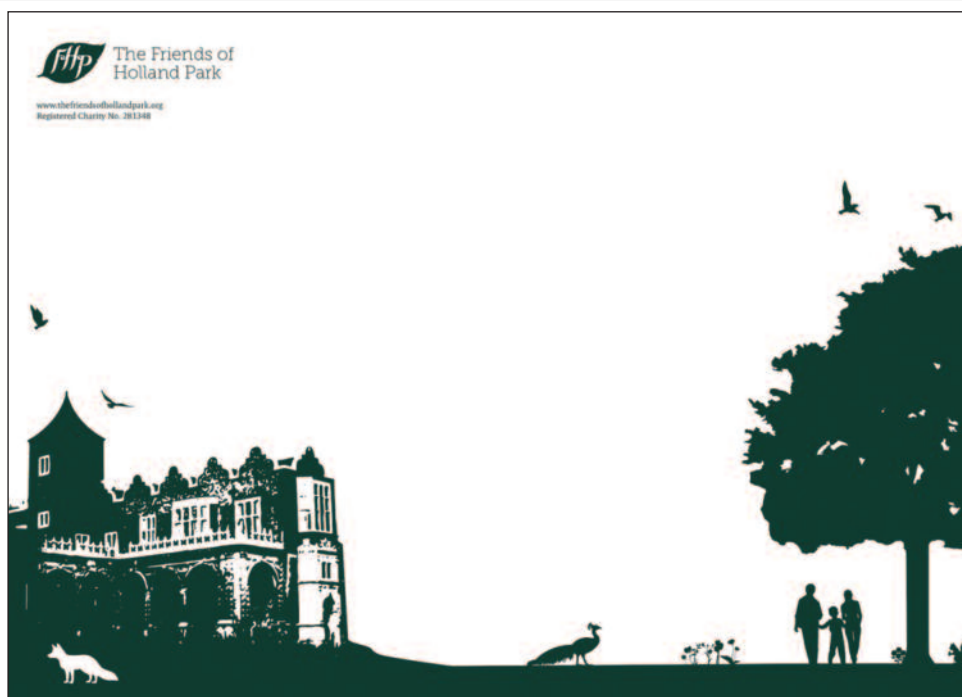
All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**. The Friends' Nature Walks (NW) are continuing to be led by varying regulars who have the requisite skills and commitment. We will have a one-and-a-half-hour stroll through the park looking at birds, plants, butterflies and park management of current interest. There is no charge, and all are welcome without booking. Meet outside the Stable Yard at 9am on the first Saturday of each month. No dogs, please, as even well behaved ones on leads disturb the wildlife. We recommend you bring binoculars if you can. Events organised by the Ecology Service of RBKC are listed as 'ES'; where FHP have sponsored them, this is indicated. Unless otherwise stated, the meeting place is in the Ecology Centre near the Adventure Playground. Some must be booked, in which case please call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail [ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk). There is a charge for those

marked £. In order that some Ecology events can be free for participants, The Friends will continue to sponsor the walks and talks that are led by independent experts in their field and ensure their costs are covered.

Holland Park Conservation Volunteer days (for adults) are usually every third Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 3.30pm; meet outside the café. No specialist skills are required, and this is your chance to make new friends while getting healthy outdoor exercise: digging, chopping and planting in the wilder parts of the park. Tea, biscuits, gloves, tools and instruction provided. Wear sturdy shoes and old clothes, and bring waterproofs and your lunch. For further information from the Ecology Team visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology), call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail [ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk).

Sat 1 Dec	NW
Sun 9 Dec	<b>Christmas Concert:</b> Tallis Chamber Choir, in The Orangery, £22 ( <i>see p.3</i> ) 7.30pm
Sat 5 Jan	NW
Sat 5 Jan	<b>Mulled Wine and Mince Pies</b> ( <i>see p.3</i> ) 11am-1pm
Sat 3 Feb	NW
Thurs 28 Feb	<b>'A Walk in the Park'</b> ( <i>see p.3</i> ), in The Orangery, £18 7pm
Sat 2 Mar	NW
Sat 6 Apr	NW
Sat 6-Sun	<b>Annual Art Exhibition</b> ( <i>see p.7</i> ), in The Orangery 14 Apr

## New Envelope for your Newsletter



You will notice that your newsletter is no longer sent to you in a single-use plastic sleeve. After taking advice, we decided on paper because it can be recycled by the Borough, provided it is not shredded. We put a design on the envelope so that you know it is your newsletter inside and not some circular that lies unopened.



President Sir Angus Stirling

Chairman Jennie Kettlewell

Secretary Rhoddy Wood

Treasurer Silvi Spassov

Events Organiser Graham Franklin

Assistant Treasurer Simon Lindesay-Bethune

Publicity Nigel Brockmann

Editor and Minutes Secretary Joy Puritz

Website Nicholas Hopkins

Art Exhibition Sandra French

Park Observer Andy Walker

Our website address: [www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org)



*The cover photo of the huge London plane just south west of The Orangery was taken by your editor on 25 February 2018.*

## OUR ADVERTISERS

That we are able to produce this quarterly newsletter for members is in no small measure thanks to the continued support of our advertisers. We are most grateful to them, and would ask you to show your thanks by supporting them, please.

### **Parks Police**

Holland Park is generally a safe place, but we should never be complacent.

If you see any antisocial behaviour, such as vandalism, please contact the Parks Police on:

**0300 3655 101**

Remember three key points:

- Keep yourself out of danger
- Take a description of the person, location and exactly what they are doing
- Contact the Parks Police and report the facts.





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