

*The Friends of Holland Park  
Winter 2021*





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

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### 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.

## Talk by Tim Marlow, Director of The Design Museum



Wednesday, 26 January 2022, at 7pm in the Holland Park Orangery

The Design Museum became our new neighbour in November 2016. Since then, it has evolved significantly, and Tim Marlow, the museum's Director, will give The Friends' February 2022 talk to tell us how it has changed. He will give us the news on future plans and explain why the museum wants to be part of the local community, as well as being the world's leading museum devoted to design in all its forms.



*Tim Marlow*

time to deliver wide-ranging and popular programmes, and brings a commitment to diverse and engaging exhibitions to his new role, showcasing the transformational capability of design. Tim Marlow sits on the Board of Trustees for the Imperial War Museum, Art on the Underground Advisory Board, The Design Age Institute and Cultureshock Media, and was awarded an OBE in 2019.

Formerly Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Arts, and Director of Exhibitions at White Cube, Marlow has been involved in the contemporary art world for the past thirty years as a curator, writer and broadcaster. He has worked with many of the most important and influential artists of our

Tickets are £18, to include wine and Janice Miles' delicious canapés. To order tickets, please use the order form that arrives with your newsletter, purchase from our website or from Eventbrite. If you use the Holland Park car park before 6.30 pm, please remember that the meters no longer take cash.

## Christmas Concert

Sunday, 5 December 2021, at 7.30pm in the Orangery

On 5 December it will be two years since we heard the wonderful singing of The Tallis Chamber Choir in The Orangery under their conductor Philip Simms. They first performed for us in December 2000, so this will be their twenty-first visit. Their singing of carols will be interspersed with readings and a chance for us

to sing some carols too. As always, the evening will be rounded off with Janice Miles's delicious canapés and plenty of wine. Tickets, at £22, can be ordered on our website ([www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org)) or on the enclosed order form.

## Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

11.00am – 1.00pm 1 January

21 Kenton Court, 356 Kensington High Street, W14 8NN

I have decided to go for the traditional party on the first Saturday in January, which this year is on New Year's Day. The offer, which is to all members, is the same as always, but it has to come with a caveat: it cannot be Covid secure. We can open the windows, but the room might still be crowded. Those who are public spirited might like to give themselves a lateral flow test (free from any chemist) before coming, and those who are fully vaccinated might feel bolder than others. But these are not conditions of coming, and I have no intention of asking. I entirely understand that some might not feel it wise to take the risk, and they will still be welcome in other years.

*Rhoddy Wood*





*Sandra French*

Each half term The Friends set up a stand in the Café Yard to attract park visitors to learn about what we do and to encourage them to join. Children love whizzing off to find what we have pictured on our spotter sheets and, this time, we had plants from idverde's plant nursery for sale, as well as Holland

Park honey. Why not volunteer to help us next time we have a pop-up stand. If this interests you, or you know someone who might be interested, please contact chairman, Jennie Kettlewell, on [jenniekettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org](mailto:jenniekettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org) to find out more.

## Subscription Renewals and Membership Cards

Thank you again for all your support, and we hope you will want to continue to help through these troublesome times when the park is more appreciated than ever, but also has had extra strains put upon it. Your membership also gives the Friends clout when negotiating with the Borough on the park's future.

The Friends' subscription year runs from 1 January. Some of you have already paid for 2022, and a healthy number (about 60%) pay by bank standing order on 1 January. In the last issue we asked those who did not have a standing order, especially those who have joined on our website, to fill in a yellow form, and some have done so or made direct arrangements with their bank. If you have not yet done so, there is still time for action before the New Year. New members who have joined since 1 September are already covered for 2022.

To the rest of you, now is the time to pay, using the order form or website: [www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), or contacting your bank. If in doubt, check with Graham Franklin 07802 761 548 or [ggfranklin3@aol.com](mailto:ggfranklin3@aol.com). 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 2022 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.

*Rhoddy Wood*

## Tree Planting

At last we are to have new trees planted in Holland Park. You will remember that a row of rather bedraggled red horse chestnuts was removed from the north border of the sports field because they were potentially dangerous. After much discussion, four large *Gymnocladus dioica* (Kentucky Coffee trees) and four large *Celtis australis* (Southern nettle trees) have been ordered by RBKC tree officers, and will be planted on 16th and 17th November. Bartletts, who have carried out much proactive health work on the park's trees, have offered to plant the new trees as their gift to the park, and to look after them for the first two years of their life. They will be fenced off to protect them from over energetic people on the sports field.



*Kentucky coffee tree*

jet projected non-toxic liquid onto the canopy leaves. idverde will be regularly clearing and destroying the fallen leaves under the two trees to prevent reinfection. The leaf miners might be tiny but, given the chance, they would over winter under the tree and climb all the way up the tree trunk in spring to start destroying the leaves all over again.

## Holland House conservation

Contractor Borrás started erecting scaffolding around Holland House on 21 September, just 24 hours after Opera Holland Park had cleared the site. Scaffolding has also gone up in front of the Holland Park Café arches so that repairs can be made to the upper walkway. The glossy-leaved Griselinia tree has been trimmed to allow Borrás to

get onto the roof of the Ice House, secure it from water ingress and ensure the rainfall runoff drains away from the walls of the very attractive building. We shall be very pleased if Borrás give this Stage-2 conservation work the sort of detailed care they very obviously gave to Stage 1.

## The Belvedere

Planning consent has been granted and we hope we will be able to enjoy a meal in the new restaurant by the end of April. The opening date has not yet been set and we shall put an announcement on The Friends' notice boards in the park as soon as we hear.

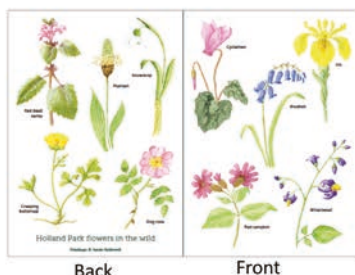
## Tree care

Horse chestnut trees all too often suffer from leaf miner. The persistent little insects tunnel into the leaves which become increasingly brown and crispy during the summer. This doesn't kill the tree, but reduces its ability to photosynthesize and increases the likelihood of stress and of succumbing to diseases such as canker. So The Friends asked Bartletts to spray two of the big horse chestnuts in the car park to see if it made a noticeable difference in comparison to the unsprayed trees in the row. Protective gear and a very powerful



*Jennie Kettlewell*

*Dean spraying the chestnut*



Back

Front

Greetings card, with paintings on both back and front, but blank inside. includes envelope. 105 x 148 mm

**£2.50 each.**

Available from:

- Holland Park Reception in The Stable Yard
  - Via the order form
  - Order on-line on [www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org)
- +P&P

**Cotton tea towel**  
**£6.50**



# Hi there kids!

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



Belinda Bee says: "Did you know?"

## "Bee and bug hotels are a great idea"

What is that on the wall of the Ecology Centre? Is it a clever wood sculpture? Is it a secret sign? No, it's a hotel for bugs and bees. They don't use it for an overnight stop but shelter in the small spaces during bad weather or over winter when they build a nest. The bees that use it are solitary bees and not the social bees that live in a hive.



## Nature quiz

1 What's the name of this fountain?

- A Sibirica
- B Tulip
- C Four-spouts



2 Why is this building called The Orangery?

- A The bricks are an orange colour
- B It was built by William of Orange
- C Orange trees used to be grown in it



3 Why do the male peacocks show off their feathers?

- A To attract a female
- B To dry off after a shower
- C To exercise their muscles



4 How many legs does a spider have?

- A Two
- B Eight
- C Twelve



5 What sort of berry is this?

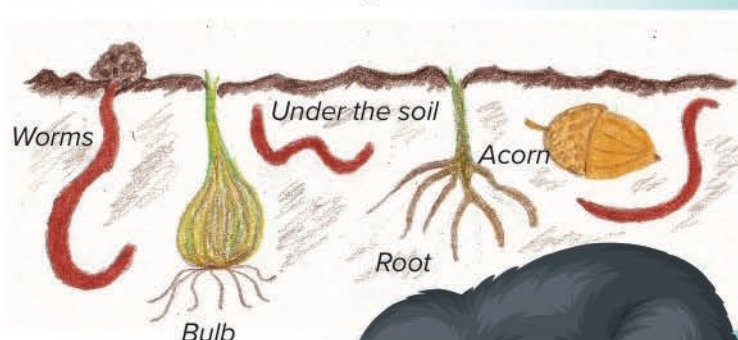
- A Raspberry
- B Blackberry
- C Gooseberry



## There's a whole different world under the ground

In winter, most plants look as if they've disappeared and all you see is brown earth.

They haven't gone but are under the soil and are busy preparing for spring. Along with the roots and bulbs are lots of worms which tunnel about to keep the soil light and airy. Squirrels and birds, such as the jay, bury nuts and acorns as food stores to see them through the winter.



WELCOME BACK! I am delighted to introduce The Friends of Holland Park Annual Art Exhibition 2022. During lockdown I did a lot of painting: some good and some not so good; and I enjoyed every minute of it. I invite you now to go through your work and select the pieces you would like to share with us. I am sure that you, like me when I did this, will be surprised and pleased with the body of work you produced. And we are extremely fortunate to have The Orangery for our exhibition. Now that museums and galleries are opening again, there is definitely an appetite: attendance is up, art is selling, the atmosphere is exciting, and I feel very positive about our exhibition in the spring.

If you know any painter, sculptor or craftsperson, please encourage them to join The Friends and enter the art exhibition. It is an excellent opportunity to display work, gain followers and perhaps make a sale: in my view a win-win situation. Let us, the artists, support one other, do anything you can to promote the exhibition and to generate more sales and revenue for the fantastic green space of Holland Park. Now, go through your work and please enter next year's exhibition. Good luck.

The conditions of entry are as before: 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 70cm x 100cm (including card 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, which includes cards and craft items. The minimum sale 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 £10 entry fee. REGISTRATION OPENS 18TH NOVEMBER. Artists who have registered for the main exhibition may include works in the mini-mart at no additional cost. Completed registration forms should be sent to Margaret Rhodes as soon as possible as space is limited.

Information about the 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)

All the information regarding the 2022 exhibition Feature Artist and sponsorship will be detailed in the spring newsletter. Specific details regarding the Private Views and how we plan to keep everyone safe during the exhibition will be explained closer to the date.

Let's have a great exhibition. We look forward to seeing you all back again.

*Gordon French*

## Art Exhibition 2022 Timetable

Thursday, 18 November	Artist Registration opens
Friday, 4 March	Final date for artist exhibit details forms to be received to allow catalogue listing
Friday, 1 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, 1 April	Hanging and judging, 11am – 6pm
Friday, 1 April	Private View (details to be advised)
Saturday, 2 April	Private View (details to be advised) (Private View times and guest details to be advised)
Saturday, 2 April	Exhibition opens to the public. Entry free of charge 1-6pm
Sunday 3 to Sunday 10 April	Exhibition open 10.30am-6pm.
Sunday, 10 April	Artist and buyers collect works, 6-7pm
Monday, 11 April	Artist and buyers collect works, 9-11am

*Artists are particularly asked NOT TO COLLECT THEIR WORKS BEFORE 6pm on SUNDAY 10 April*

All too often there are a multitude of views about the future of trees and woodlands in a time of climate change. People tell others what they think, and with great conviction, but no one is doing any listening.

We are fortunate to have some real experts who work with the Ecology Service: experts on habitats, birds, wild flowers, bees, butterflies and moths, and on trees. The Friends played a role in harnessing some of their views, and found they all pretty much agreed on the principles of what needs to be done to protect and enhance our woodland and meadow habitats. One thing they do all agree about is that climate change will hit our woodlands hard and might, in time, see the demise of broadleaf woods as we know them. We need to pay more attention to planting the species of trees and shrubs that stand a fair chance of coping with increased temperatures and unpredictable weather (drought and floods).

One of the essential building blocks to planning is species surveys. For example, it is only when we know what we have (e.g., in the grass meadows), that we can decide which wild plants it is appropriate to introduce and that will have a chance of thriving. Plug plants will have a much better chance than seed mix. Advice is to do it right and not be tempted to do it fast. The bird survey has been completed and we are well on the way to completing a list of butterfly species observed in the park with dates of sightings.



*Woodland Ponds Enclosure*

It is not sustainable to rely solely on native trees. Many species will not survive in the London area, and we already see birch and beech dying. We must think about a mixture of natural regeneration and sourcing related species from southern continental Europe. We might end up with a higher percentage of evergreens.

Grazing is to be encouraged and is a practice in which Holland Park has some useful experience. When brambles overwhelm an area, pigs enthusiastically excavate the roots and clear the ground. They will leave large mounds of bramble, which are great for nesting birds. Cows 'mow' the grass, and it is now possible to fit cows with a GPS collar that encourages them to graze where you want them by creating a virtual fence. The grazing location can be changed daily. Who knew that cows



*Longhorn cow grazing in Holland Park*



*Arboretum 1*

love to eat ivy? Ivy is a valuable habitat, but can get over-vigorous and obstruct the view of the top of big trees when the tree officers are checking for damage. Cows eat the lower leaves of the ivy and reduce its vigour.

The benefit of all this expert advice means Park Management and the Ecology Service are well on the way to producing a vision of what Holland Park woodlands should look like in future, and a list of key principles that will underpin the Woodland Management Action Plan. This is overdue, but very welcome.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

Many members have asked about volunteering to work in Holland Park. If you are interested, now is the time to make contact.

idverde work with Taskforce 4 Nature to run volunteer sessions in the north of the park each third Saturday of the month. Tasks focus on practical conservation that helps deliver the Ecology Service management plan and might include dead-hedging, scything, pond clearing and maintaining the paths in the Wildlife Enclosure. As you will have read in recent issues of this news, the management plan is being revised in line with findings in the recent woodland habitat survey. The new plan, The Woodland Management Plan, will give clear guidelines on planting, management of invasives, meadow management and more.



*Richard Kulczycki working in the Wildlife Area pond*

It is hoped that future volunteer sessions will also give the opportunity to learn about the historical context (buildings and plants) in which their work is being done.

These sessions are friendly, led by a volunteer manager and supported with a 'toolbox talk' explaining what is required of each session and why. The intention is to build a team

spirit so that volunteers are inspired to return to help on other occasions. Tea and biscuits are provided, but volunteers are asked to bring their own packed lunch and to wear appropriate clothing.

If you want to join, or find out more, please e-mail Gerry Kelsey, idverde's Training and Community Manager, at [Gerald.Kelsey@idverde.co.uk](mailto:Gerald.Kelsey@idverde.co.uk).

*Jennie Kettlewell*

## Christmas Cards

We would remind you that this year's Christmas card is of the ever popular Kyoto Garden. It has been painted by Catherine Masterman, who has produced successful interpretations of the park for several years.

We will hold a ready supply of these cards in both the standard 153mm x 196mm format at £10 the pack of ten and the smaller 118mm x 165mm at £9. The standard greeting is 'With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year', but it is also possible to ask for blank cards. Discounts are 5% on 100 cards, 10% on 200 and 15% on 300+. We have also made up mixed packs of old designs of Holland Park at £6.50 which will be very largely of big ones in at least 3 or 4 different designs and are really good value.



These can all be ordered on our website [www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org) or using the enclosed order form. They can all be very quickly delivered. And then there is a broad range of

Holland Park or other London views which you can find in the brochure we sent you in September, or on [www.montbattencards.com](http://www.montbattencards.com) but cannot be ordered on our own website. Do order now so you can get what you want quickly, and no one is stressed. If your newsletter is hand delivered (no stamp), our delivery is free, but beyond that we have to

charge an additional £1.60 per 10 cards. Please note that sending the order to us instead of directly to Mountbatten gets the Friends an extra discount, unless overprinting is required.

*Rhoddy Wood*

The Friends' Annual General Meeting was held on 13 October 2021 via Zoom. In president Sir Angus Stirling's absence, trustee Nicholas Hopkins welcomed everyone, and Nigel Brockmann introduced the voting. Members present approved minutes of the 2020 AGM and voted to adopt the 2020 accounts. All trustees were re-elected, and Roger Foreman was re-elected as independent examiner.

The **Trustees' Report for 2020** was presented by Jennie Kettlewell:

- On 16 September 2020 the Council approved the proposal and budget for stage 1 of the conservation of Holland House, with contractor Borrás, commencing work on the East Wing (Safestay Hostel) at the end of 2020.
- The Friends funded work to improve the health of the 50+ trees on the strip of ground between Holland House and the sports field. A donation of £6,500 covered vertical mulching of the trees, and the area was then covered with topsoil, and seeded with grass.
- The annual tree health programme was carried out by Bartletts, with a donation of £6,670 by The Friends.
- The Friends paid £7,372 for expert conservation of the Florentine tiles along the walkway above the café.

In all, £21,378 was paid in grant aid to Holland Park during 2020, including £760 for sponsorship of Ecology Service walks and talks.

On behalf of Secretary Rhoddy Wood, it was reported that membership had reduced only marginally year-on-year: a success, given the lack of events during the pandemic.

**Chairman's Outlook.** Much had already happened in 2021 and been covered in the newsletter. The latest news is in this issue of the newsletter and does not need to be duplicated here, but the main points at the AGM were:

- Commencement of Stage 2 of the Holland House conservation work
- Commencement of tree planting
- Woodland Management Plan to be based on habitat survey funding by The Friends
- Plans to re-green eroded areas
- idverde new contract in place
- Friends' events re-started.

Jennie Kettlewell thanked the trustees for their support and hard work, Nicholas Hopkins for chairing the AGM, Sir Angus Stirling for his wise advice, and the ward councillors Johnny Thalassites, Aarien Areti and Charles O'Connor for supporting the park and The Friends. Thanks were given to member Lisa McHale for moderation of the AGM and much-appreciated technical support.

Nicholas Hopkins closed the meeting and thanked all those who support The Friends and contribute in many ways to the considerable amount of work achieved.

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## Leanne Brisland leaves

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I am sorry to tell you that Leanne Brisland, head of the RBKC Ecology Service, has left to take up a similar role nearer to her home town.

Leanne worked hard, over nearly ten years, to promote awareness and understanding of biodiversity and the local environment. She developed policies such as the Biodiversity Action Plan, has driven initiatives like the Bee Super Highway, and worked to protect and improve the valuable habitats in the Holland Park woodlands. Many of you or your children will have enjoyed the

education sessions carried out by Leanne and her small team. That team, Matthew, Trevor and Max, will continue running the education programme, and someone is being recruited to fill Leanne's role.

The Friends are grateful to Leanne for keeping us well informed about ecology activities, and for giving us an opportunity to be involved in decisions about initiatives that we have sometimes been able to fund.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

Two events this autumn reminded us just how lucky we are to have so many species of birds in Holland Park. Both events were led by professional ornithologist, Bill Haines of West London Birding, who knows the park and its birds well.



*It's up there somewhere*

On 18 September Bill led a bird identification walk for The Friends. We spotted nineteen species in the park, with an obliging cormorant flying over, and a grey wagtail heard by Bill, but not seen. As well as being able to view the birds, we learned interesting information about them and got the chance to ask lots of questions.



*Looking at water birds*

The annual Holland Park bird-ringing event was on 9 October, organized by the Ecology Team and sponsored by The Friends. It was well attended, with some visitors staying on for the entire session. It was well worth it, as Bill's mist nets produced a total of 24 birds of 9 species: 5 wrens, 5 robins, 2 blackbirds, 5 goldcrests, 2 long-tailed tits, 2 blue tits, 1 great tit and 2 nuthatches (one male and one female). One of the long-tailed tits was feisty, and the tiny bird gave Bill's fingers a good pecking. The birds were gently removed from the netting, measured, weighed and ringed before being released. None of the birds captured had been previously ringed in the park, or ringed elsewhere. Birds seen or heard during the ring

session, but not captured, included green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, meadow pipit, grey wagtail, song thrush and chiffchaff.

Every 8-10 years a breeding bird survey is carried out in Holland Park. Bill Haines was commissioned by the Ecology Service and funded by The Friends to make five survey visits in early 2021, including one evening/dusk visit to survey for nocturnal bird species. Birds were logged, using the standard BTO codes, and transferred onto a Geographic



*Measuring a nuthatch after netting*

Information System. Across all visits, a total of 36 bird species (1,185 individuals) were recorded either on, immediately adjacent to, or overflying the park. The most common species was feral pigeon. Nine other species were recorded where more than ten birds per visit were noted. In order of abundance they were blue tit, wood pigeon, redwing (over-wintering, and these do not breed in the park), wren, robin, ring-necked parakeet, great tit, stock dove and carrion crow. Sadly, we no longer see house sparrows and greenfinches in the park, and they are declining nationally.



*Goldcrest collecting moss for its nest*

The Friends will be booking Bill for further bird identification walks in 2022. Keep an eye on our website and on our notice boards in the park for dates and times.

*Jennie Kettlewell*



The London Bee Keepers Association, with the RBKC Ecology Service, ran teaching sessions for groups of children to learn about Holland Park's bees. The children were greatly amused to be dressed up in protective bee suits.

Art class in Holland Park, run by Open Age, focusing on drawing and painting of the sculptures and installations. The Friends provided information on the subjects they were painting.



When idverde recently cleared and replanted the Dutch Garden beds, they had to protect against squirrels digging up the bulbs. One squirrel was a step ahead of the gardeners and very diligently planted an acorn, so there will probably be an oak tree growing among the spring flowers!

A group from the Dalgarno Trust enjoyed a coffee after participating in their second Blue Badge tour of Holland Park. This time they booked the History Tour, as they had so much appreciated the Decorative Art Tour.





## Who do You Think You Are?

In case you missed it, you might like to watch Episode 1 of the latest round of *Who do you think you are?* It features comedian Josh Widdicombe whose 10 times great grandfather was the 1st Earl of Holland, Henry Rich. The start of the programme was filmed in Holland Park, with permission from RBKC. Here is the link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0010krw/who-do-you-think-you-are-series-18-1-josh-widdicombe>

## The Ancora Duo

They are back, with another concert date for your diary: all being well, on Friday, 8 April The Ancora Duo will again be performing for us in The Orangery. Anne Allen (flute) and Sarah Freestone (guitar) will perform what had been planned for 24 April 2020. All we are permitted to know in advance about their programme is that they will perform the tango by Piazzolla that was so well received in their last concert, over two years ago. Booking details will be in our spring newsletter.

The Friends' jigsaw, 'Winter Fun in Holland Park' (£23.50 incl. p&p), and the cotton tea towel showing paintings of some of the flowers that grow wild in Holland Park (£7.50 incl. p&p), make excellent Christmas presents. Order on-line: [thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://thefriendsofhollandpark.org) or send a cheque with your delivery address to Margaret Rhodes, 25 Princedale Road, London W11 4NW.

The local retailers in our Friends & Neighbours discount scheme offer lots of ideas for presents: artisan handbags, hats, jewellery, toiletries and tasty foods from Havan; presents for the home from Lipp, plants and flowers from Rassells and the Bloomhouse, picture framing from Gallery 19, fine foods and wine from Jeroboam, or stylish gifts from the Design Museum. If you are visiting friends and relatives over the festive season, why not hire a car from Miles & Miles. The Holiday Inn spa and Threads offer beauty treatments. Or enjoy some holiday cheer at one of the restaurants and cafés in our scheme. They support us with a special price for our members, and we should support them. A full list of our Neighbours and discounts offered is on the Friends' website.



**JEROBOAMS**  
LONDON'S LOCAL WINE MERCHANT



Pop in and see Kathy and the team at  
96 Holland Park Ave, London,  
or call on 020 7727 9359  
[Jeroboams.co.uk](http://Jeroboams.co.uk)









## Local Events Run by Neighbouring Organisations

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### Winter 2021

Live events are back, and it is a great pleasure to be able to meet up with like-minded colleagues once again.

#### Kensington Gardeners' Club

Check details on [www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk](http://www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk).

To book, e-mail [susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com](mailto:susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com) or call 020 7727 3897.

**Tues. 5 Oct.** In-person talk, 'Seeded perennial meadows: a new way of gardening' by Sam Hunt, a planting designer and owner of Modica Gardens.

**Sat. 4 Dec.** In-person talk, including competition prize-giving, combined with a pre-Christmas social event. Check the website for details.

Venue for talks is St George's Church, Aubrey Walk W8 7JG. Free for members of the Kensington Gardeners Club. Non-members £5.00. Please book.

#### The Kensington Society

Further information on [www.kensingtonsociety.org/events](http://www.kensingtonsociety.org/events)

**Wed. 3 Nov.** 'Dare to Care!' Talk by Ben Oakley and Guy Oliver from SAVE Britain's Heritage, *6 for 6.30pm* at Dora House, 108 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3RA. Further information on [www.kensingtonsociety.org/events](http://www.kensingtonsociety.org/events).

**Wed. 8 Dec.** *6.30 for 7pm* Kensington Society Christmas drinks in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Hornton Street. Members of the Kensington society free, non-members £10. Rsvp to: [events@kensingtonsociety.org](mailto:events@kensingtonsociety.org).

#### RBKC Active for Life

Full details on [www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sport-and-leisure](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sport-and-leisure), or ring 020 7938 8182.

A varied programme of physical activities in Kensington, from gentle walks to sport.

**Thursdays 10.30-11.30 am.** Meet at the Holland Park Café, then share a leisurely walk in the park.

**Thursdays 3.00-4.00 pm.** Nordic Walking, with guidance for those who have not tried this before. Walking poles provided. Meet by Friends' notice board outside the Stable Yard.

RBKC offer other physical activities such as yoga and tai chi. See this comment from appreciative participant, Joan Bovarnick:

'As I finally began to participate in some of the excellent programmes in Holland Park which I had seen posted for a while, it brought a new dimension to what the park offers. Just think: yoga outside, under cover but open to the surrounding vegetation and birdsong, with a space full of eager participants, capably led by Cathy, who put us through numerous poses, twists and turns, stretching and relaxing, with each doing what worked for them. We hope that this will continue, as long as a suitable space is found.

Tai chi, with enthusiastic long-time teacher Andy, is in an ideal location on the lawn outside The Orangery. Following Andy's movements, looking forward one has a perfect vista overlooking the Iris Garden, with its green and floral display, archways gently curving, the ice house in the background and the gentle flow of water from the fountain. I thought: what a magical spot, a not-so-secret garden. And the sun was shining. Despite having walked through here many times, standing here doing tai chi movements and looking with a different perspective, gave it a new dimension. How fortunate we are to have this special space here.

Our thanks to the Council for providing such positive activities for us all.'



*Rhoddy Wood*



*Rhoddy Wood*



*Rhoddy Wood*

*Tree ferns (top) Mini Snowmen (above)  
Earls Court Gates (right)*



*The cover photo of the  
Belvedere and the Iris Garden  
was taken by Friend Joan  
Bovarnick on 24th January  
this year.*

## Parks Police


We are always grateful to the Parks Police for working so hard to keep us all safe. Sometimes we need to help them. Notice boards at park entrances show the current time the park gates are locked for the night. If you are in the park late in the day, please check the hour of closing and be sure to leave the park in time. Occasionally people get locked in the park, because it has not occurred to them to check, and then the police get called to let them out. That is not a good use of police time.

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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