

*The Friends of Holland Park  
Spring 2016*



*Your membership card is enclosed*

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Holland Park is the subject of much debate about securing its future as a safe green space that balances the often conflicting needs of its user groups. The strategy for the next ten years is drafted, and a Holland Park Conservation Management Plan has been commissioned.

Options are being considered to re-focus on the historic listed buildings and to explain their story to visitors. Progress is being made for the Holland Park pavilions as a more appropriate solution to the temporary tents erected for use by Opera Holland

Park, now an independent charitable trust.

Your trustees are party to all these discussions. We have the best opportunity in a long time to influence the future of the park and retain what we love or improve what we do not. We need your support to make sure we continue to have a wonderful park that we and future generations can enjoy. If you love the park, please do come to the AGM to hear what is happening, and share your views.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

## Conservation Management Plan

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) exists for Grade-I listed Holland House but, strangely, there has never been one for the park itself, which is Grade-II listed. This is being put right, and a landscape architect has been commissioned to develop one. But first, what exactly is a CMP? Essentially it is a document that states the significance of the place and what policies exist to ensure that that significance is retained.

Typically it includes research on the site's history, its development over time and the state it is in currently. This translates into a set of policies for managing and caring for what is significant about the site. A CPM will help preserve the essence of Holland Park for future generations.

This is close to 'The Friends' heart, and your trustees are most encouraged at the direction this is taking. It will allow attention



*Tiled walkway*

to be paid to what we want the park to look like in 10, 20, 30 years' time so that the woodlands, treescape, views, formal gardens, buildings, tiled walkways, paths and grassed areas are all a fitting environment for a notable historic estate, while providing facilities for the very different usage by today's visitors. Quite a challenge; and the landscape architects who have taken this on are Camlin Lonsdale who will be co-operating closely with Robin Snell & Partners, the architects

working on the Holland Park pavilions.

It will take time to do the research and produce the plan, but we believe it will be well worth the effort as this plan will help inform day-to-day decisions on what is done in the park. Implementing the plan will be a long-term project, phased over a number of years.

## Open Gardens Squares Weekend

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June

Open Garden Squares Weekend 2016, the magical two-day event when over 200 private and little known gardens open to the public, will take place on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June. A single ticket allows visitors to discover and explore a range of stunning gardens not normally open to the public, from

magnificent roof-top gardens with panoramic views to diminutive spaces tucked behind the hustle and bustle of London's busy streets. To find out more about Open Garden Squares Weekend visit [www.opensquares.org](http://www.opensquares.org)



*Gavin Gardiner*

*Royal Crescent*

## Great News

Rob May, who joined Holland Park's Quadron team last year, has been appointed Head Gardener for the park. He has already made his mark, with lots of beds cleared out for planned improvement, and he has some excellent ideas. We are delighted. This news has only just made our deadline for the newsletter and we will write more in the summer issue.



*Jennie Kettlewell*

*Holland House from the North Lawn*

## Holland Park pavilions

Now that Robin Snell & Partners have been commissioned to explore options for the Holland Park pavilions on the Holland House site, the project is progressing apace. The team of architects is currently carrying out research so that they thoroughly understand the park and how it is used, before they produce any proposals. As yet, there is no set idea for a solution. Design proposals might be available in early summer and you will then be able to air your views at a public consultation before any amendments are made and the Council then applies for planning consent. In the meantime the white tents will be with us for the 2016 and 2017 seasons.



*Jennie Kettlewell*

*Approach road through café*

## Approach road to the Holland House terrace

For many years The Friends have advocated moving the road that runs bang through the middle of the Holland Park café to a safer location. This is now on the Council's agenda and, if the plan is agreed, work might commence after the 2016 opera season. Moving the road to the immediate east of the café would allow enhancement of the seating area to the south of it and present a more appealing prospect when the café lease is finally put out to tender.

## Budget cuts and planting plans

It has been well publicised that Central Government has cut local government budget contributions, and our Council is, in

turn, having to consider budget cuts to some services. The parks are not immune and we are in discussion with councillors and Park Management to develop innovative ideas for savings that do no long-term harm to the park. Together with Quadron we are exploring different types of planting in some of the borders, so that pretty and interesting shrubs take the place of plants that need a significant amount of care. Add deeply planted bulbs that come up reliably every year, and you not only save man-hours but you also have an attractive display. The Quadron team have some clever ideas, and we will keep you up to date on how this progresses.



*Jennie Kettlewell*

*Earls Court gates removed*

## Earls Court gates

The fine, French, 18th-century gates were removed on 6 January for their makeover by Topp & Co. in North Yorkshire. The restored gates are due back in April, and we hope to give you full details of the work carried out, together with photos, in our summer newsletter.

## Pimm's

We have made the decision not to hold a Pimm's in the Park party in 2016 as the sums simply did not add up, due to the cost of the venues available to us.



*Jennie Kettlewell*

*Snowdrops in the park*

## Plants in the park

The Quadron gardeners have been energetically tackling the borders. Plants have been cut back to show what is of value, what needs to be removed and what should be shifted to a more suitable location. The big old *Wisteria* on the Rose Garden arches has been expertly pruned to leave flowering branches in a form that will best show off the fall of mauve flowers in spring. When I found gardener, Mark Sinclair, pruning away, we discussed which way the *Wisteria* twines, as some curl clockwise and some anti. I think ours is *Wisteria sinensis*, which means it twines anti-clockwise. The damaging ivy has been cut off the listed Belvedere building, at least at a low level where it would eventually kill the plant. Snowdrops are out just south east of the Holland Pond, and the Arboretum is full of daffodils.

*Jennie Kettlewell*



*Mark pruning the Wisteria*



*Wisteria by the Rose Garden*

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We are now in our second year of the 'Friends & Neighbours' programme, which offers members a discount on purchases from businesses local to Holland Park – our Neighbours. If you are a paid up member, you will receive a membership card with this newsletter. We have had positive feedback from Neighbours, so do keep buying from them and helping to spread the word locally about Holland Park.



## Kensington Place

A respected local restaurant since 1987, Kensington Place specialises in fish and seafood. Tim Peirson has recently taken over as chef and brings with him a wealth of experience, most recently from Michelin-starred Angler. The bright main dining room looks out over Kensington Church Street and there are also private dining facilities.

**201 Kensington Church St, London W8 7LX.** t. 020 7727 3184.

**Offer:** 20% off food and drinks when dining from the A la Carte or Market Menu for lunch or dinner. Conditions apply.

Bordeaux, Burgundy, grandes marques Champagnes, great wines of Italy, Australasia and the rest of the New World. Open daily.  
**96 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 3RB.** t. 020 7727 9359.

**Offer:** 10% off all purchases in the Holland Park Avenue shop.



## Gallery 19

Gallery 19 is not just your local picture framer. They specialise in architectural views of Kensington, London and Italy as well as maps, models, Florentine stationery and house portrait commissions. Owners, Gordon, Sandra and Alex French are well known to the Friends, not least for running our annual art exhibition.

**19 Kensington Court Place, London W8 5BJ.** t. 020 7937 72777, [info@gallery19.com](mailto:info@gallery19.com)

**Offer:** 10% off framing.



## Jeroboams

A long-established Holland Park delicatessen and wine store, offering an impressive selection of artisan cheeses, charcuterie and other fine foods, sourced from around the globe – a veritable Aladdin's Cave for the foodie. Wines feature mature vintages of

## Hollands Wine Bar and Genie's Restaurant.

NOW CLOSED!

This restaurant is currently closed. It appears it might have been sold so can no longer be part of our member offer. Please disregard its inclusion in the pre-printed loose insert in this newsletter.

Other participants in the scheme are Lipp Interiors, Miles & Miles car rental, Il Portico restaurant, Valentina Restaurant & Deli, Kensington Close Hotel Health Club & Spa, Rassells plant nursery and Holland Park Café. More information is on The Friends' website.

I have been to most of the fifteen previous concerts which the Tallis Chamber Choir and their director, Philip Simms, have given for us, but, in my opinion, that on 6th December was the best so far, and a virtually full Orangery had a wonderfully entertaining evening.

I never cease to admire Philip Simms' musical knowledge and ingenuity in devising new programmes. Whereas last year's carols were, with one exception, written or arranged by British composers, this year, as well as the United Kingdom, they came from France, Germany, Norway and Spain. We were also treated to a variety of seasonal readings.


The music began with a version of *O magnum mysterium* (a responsorial chant from Christmas Matins) by Tomas Luis de Victoria (c.1548-1611), a Spanish composer who spent over 20 years working in Rome where he might have studied under Palestrina; a polyphonic contrapuntal piece of great beauty and solemnity. Next we heard *O beatum et sacrosanctum diem* (1612) by Peter Philips (c.1560-1628), an eminent English composer and a Catholic priest, who was exiled in 1582 to Flanders where he spent most of the rest of his life; this happy piece begins meditatively, turns to great rejoicing, and finishes with choirs of angels. There followed *Dixit Maria* by Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), a North German composer and organist who was in Venice in 1584-85 and became a friend and pupil of Giovanni Gabrieli whose style he introduced to Germany. This work, published in 1599, uses polychoral techniques learnt in Italy. There followed one of two 19th-century works, a setting of *Ave maris stella* (the text of which dates back to the 9th century) by the Norwegian composer, Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), written in 1893 as a solo piece, and later set for a chorus, a piece imbued with maternal love. We then had the other 19th-century work, *Abendlied* by Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901), a German composer and organist whose style was particularly influenced by Bach and Brahms, the piece creating the impression of a serene prayer. Next was *Sing lullaby* composed as a carol in 1926 by Peter Warlock (1894-1930) using a text by Thomas Dekker (c.1572-1632) which had the feeling of a folk melody. (Warlock's real name was Philip Heseltine, and he was the father of art critic Brian Sewell.) We finished the first half with *A child is born in Bethlehem* written in 1650 by the German composer Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654) which used mediaeval chord patterns and had the feeling of a madrigal.

We began the second half with *Christmas is coming* by Sir Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941), who became Master of the King's Music in 1934 on the death of Elgar; a traditional chorus with a simple melody set in four homophonic parts. This was followed by *Can it be true?*, a carol in traditional English style with echoes of folk music, by Richard Moore,

a Friend of Holland Park, who took a bow to the appreciative audience. This was followed by *The donkey carol* by another contemporary English composer, John Rutter (b. 1945), a simple witty piece with overtones of a 1930s popular song. Then we had a traditional English carol translated from the Cornish, *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*, in an arrangement by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015), which, it seems, might have been devised in the 15th century to be sung and danced at the end of the first day of a three-day drama. Next, another English piece, *A spotless rose* by Herbert Howells (1892-1983) written in 1919, a simple setting of a 15th-century poem with a wonderful tenor solo for the second verse. We finished with a setting of *Yver*, the text of which was written by Charles d'Orleans (1394-1465), composed by Claude Debussy (1862-1918), which, whilst technically atonal, did not give that impression.

However, no carol concert by the choir would be complete without Philip Simms' own arrangement of *White Christmas*, which we had as an encore; and, once again, Janice Miles excelled herself with a wonderful spread of canapés. With lots of wine, the audience departed in true Christmas spirit.


George Law



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Spring is around the corner and preparations for The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition are well underway.

At this early stage we have already had a strong response from artists, including some new ones. Artists, please remember to send your completed exhibit details forms by Friday, 11 March, and to specify whether you would like tickets for the Friday evening or Saturday morning Private View. If you do not choose you will not be sent tickets for either. Also, please state clearly if you wish to steward, and when you would be available.

I am very excited about this year's feature artist, Mao Wen Biao, who was responsible for the spectacular mural in the arcade leading to the Orangery.

For the duration of the exhibition a credit card facility will be available to assist with sales, and raffle tickets will be sold, with wonderful prizes donated by generous local businesses.

We hope you will support The Friends of Holland Park by visiting our exhibition. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Gordon French*

### Art Exhibition Timetable

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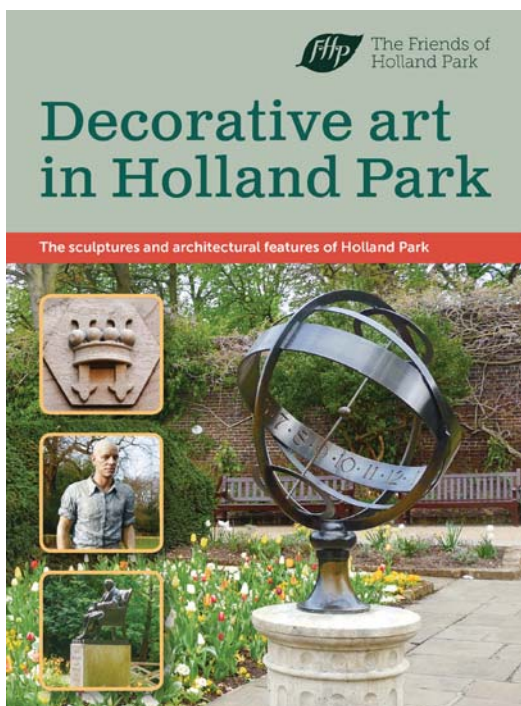
|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Friday 11 March                   | Last date for receipt of exhibit details forms to allow listing in catalogue<br><i>For the two Private Views, artists are entitled to 5 complimentary tickets in toto</i> |
| Friday 15 April 8.30-11am         | Artists deliver artwork to the Orangery, Holland Park<br><i>All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that the details shown are correct</i>          |
| Friday 15 April 11am-6pm          | Works will be hung/displayed and judged   |
| Friday 15 April 7.30-9.30pm       | Private View, entry by ticket at £3   |
| Saturday 16 April 10.30am-12.30pm | Private View, entry by ticket at £3   |
| Saturday 16 April                 | Exhibition open to the public 1-6pm. Free of charge   |
| Sunday 17 – Sunday 24 April       | Exhibition open to the public 10.30am-6pm. Free of charge   |
| Sunday 24 April 6-7pm             | Buyers collect sold works, artists collect unsold works   |
| Monday 25 April 9-11am            | Buyers collect sold works, artists collect unsold works   |

*Artists are particularly asked NOT TO COLLECT THEIR WORKS BEFORE 6pm on SUNDAY 24 April as this would spoil the exhibition for others*

Enquiries to 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)

### Another New Guide

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Our 'H is for Holland' guide to the sculptures and architectural features of Holland Park has sold out, so we have produced a new one. We have taken the opportunity to bring the design into line with The Guide to Holland Park and the Kyoto Garden booklet and to add the more recent decorative features in the park. We expect to have copies of *Decorative art in Holland Park* by the end of February. You can order a copy by means of the order form enclosed, or you can buy a copy from the Park Office in the Stable Yard. The price is £5 for the 32-page booklet, complete with a map to show the location of statues, sculptures and other works of art.



After a long time in the planning, The Friends arranged for Dr Glynn Percival to run a tutorial for Park Management, Quadron and the RBK&C tree officers on the subject of proactive tree health. Dr Percival is a world expert on the subject and is head of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory at Reading University. Having been fortunate to attend two of his tutorials at Kew Gardens while I was studying at The Plant School's tree course, I was hooked on his profound knowledge, and pioneering but simple solutions to tree disease.



Dr Percival in Kew Gardens

de-compacted and protected from heavy footfall. Of more concern was finding that the rare Lebanon oak was in trouble, and there was a possibility it might have a disease that would be devastating if it spread to other oaks. Tree after tree was quickly diagnosed and a solution suggested.

All this might imply that our Council are not looking after the Holland Park trees. They are. A regular tree health survey is carried out, with remedial action conscientiously taken as a result. However, very few park and public-space

trees are considered from the perspective of proactive health, i.e. taking action before the tree gets demonstrably sick. So often, a tree looks well to all but the most specifically trained eye. Boosting a tree's health helps it fight off disease when it inevitably arrives.

We need actively to ensure that we leave a legacy of a great treescape in Holland Park; we are working with Park Management on a long-term tree strategy, and have suggested that The Friends fund Dr Percival's team to carry out a pilot study on a number of iconic trees.

Holland Park would be a very different place without its trees. Just imagine...

*Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell*



*Toona sinensis 'pole'*

He first treated us to an impassioned 90-minute presentation on current and threatened tree pests and diseases and what could be done about them. The Ecology team asked questions about whether treatments damaged insects, beasts and plant life that lived in the trees, and he reassured us that he was not permitted to use methods that destroy wildlife. In fact, many of the solutions are surprisingly simple, but you do need to know which treatment to use for what problem and to be very precise about quantities. Mulch and aerating the soil ranked high

as treatments; but which mulch, and exactly where and how to use the air spade so that it does not do more harm than good? Another little understood problem is trees that are planted too deep, and die years later as a result. You should be able to see the root flare and it should not look like a straight pole stuck in the ground.

After taking on board a huge amount of information we walked around Holland Park, picking on certain trees which were either important to the look of the park, or that we thought looked a bit peaky. Glynn looked at each tree and knew exactly what the problem was: the *Toona sinensis* was a 'pole'; the *Zelkova* by the Earls Court gate had succumbed



*Compacted horse chestnut*

to honey fungus (highly contagious); and the big horse chestnut above the Sun Trap lawn needed the surrounding soil to be

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# Statement of Accounts

## The Friends of Holland Park

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2015

|  | £              | <u>2014</u><br>£ |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Incoming resources:</b>                   |                |                  |
| Donations                                    | 11,236         | 7,829            |
| <b>Activities in furtherance of objects:</b> |                |                  |
| Subscriptions                                | 11,391         | 10,652           |
| Legacy                                       | 500            | 181              |
| Advertising                                  | 3,935          | 4,730            |
| <b>Activities for generating funds:</b>      |                |                  |
| Events                                       | 14,430         | 16,643           |
| Sale of merchandise                          | 2,525          | 1,537            |
| Interest                                     | 389            | 386              |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>              | <u>44,406</u>  | <u>41,958</u>    |
| <b>Resources expended:</b>                   |                |                  |
| <b>Cost of generating funds</b>              |                |                  |
| Fundraising direct costs                     | 2,030          | 1,119            |
| Event expenses                               | 9,367          | 11,360           |
| Cost of merchandise                          | 609            | 499              |
|  | <u>12,006</u>  | <u>12,978</u>    |
| <b>Charitable expenditure:</b>               |                |                  |
| Newsletter                                   | 8,902          | 8,923            |
| Aims expenditure                             | 19,689         | 16,245           |
|  | <u>28,591</u>  | <u>25,168</u>    |
| <b>Governance costs</b>                      | 428            | 786              |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>              | <u>41,025</u>  | <u>38,932</u>    |
| <b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</b>     | 3,381          | 3,026            |
| Fund balances brought forward                | 102,264        | 99,238           |
| <b>Fund balances carried forward</b>         | <u>105,645</u> | <u>102,264</u>   |

### Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2015

|                                     | £              | £              |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Current assets:</b>              |                |                |
| Debtors and prepayments             | 210            | 2,955          |
| Deposit and current accounts        | 107,488        | 101,251        |
|                                     | 107,698        | 104,206        |
| <b>Creditors:</b>                   |                |                |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 2,053          | 1,942          |
| <b>Net assets</b>                   | <u>105,645</u> | <u>102,264</u> |

If your newsletter arrived without a stamp, it was hand delivered by a fellow member who, entirely voluntarily, devotes time to this task every quarter. You might think it a simple task, and indeed it is, but not without its difficulties. To begin, the volunteers call on Rhoddy, penetrating through the outer door to the block that is always stiff and sometimes without a functioning entryphone. Then into the lift built in the 1930s (without automatic doors) that won't start unless both metal gates are pushed firmly home. Be careful not to catch your fingers in the scissor-like mechanism. Exit by gates on the side opposite to where you got in. These are so stiff that some people give up and go to the sixth floor and walk down.

Inside Rhoddy's flat, usually sunlit, others are chatting while trying to count accurately newsletters, envelopes, order forms and often more. Especially the envelopes tend to stick together. Sometimes the labels have varying red dots which are a code for what goes into different envelopes. Getting it wrong is either wasteful or will entail a repeat visit. Most take their ingredients home to stuff, but some always have good reasons for stuffing on the spot. To ease the space, Rhoddy tried to move the stuffers to their own small tables, but no one wants to be banished from the cheerful hubbub around the main table. Don't forget to take your labels!

Then home to stuff and plan your route. It is always easier to do a route you have done before, but the addition or subtraction of even one address might affect the most efficient order. The numbers might be odds and evens on opposite sides of the street, or continuous along one side and back the other, or with odd non-contiguous groupings. Or a house numbered in street A has its door in street B. Individual houses have their own problems. London houses are seldom guarded by a dog in the garden but there can be one lurking inside, ready to snap at a hand coming through the letterbox. Some boxes are so narrow the newsletter needs folding, others are at ground level which is hard on the back, others snap shut to catch the unwary hand. In some streets all the houses have steps, ten or more, of varying heights, state of repair or slipperiness, with a hand rail or not. One deliverer could not manage one house because the steps started with a giant she

could not climb.

Deliverers come to feel responsible for their long-term addressees even though they have never met. So they fulfil a subsidiary function of helping Rhoddy to know when members have moved so that we can try to trace them. Their major job, however, is to keep members informed and happy with our service while saving the Friends over £2,000 a year in postage. They do this brilliantly and we are truly grateful.

*Rhoddy Wood*

## The Hippodrome: London's First Racecourse

Norland Conservation Society Annual Lecture



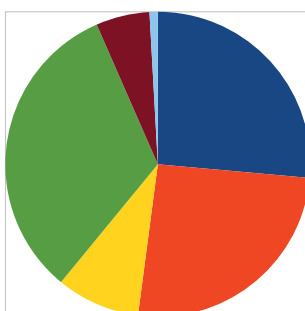
1841 map of Kensington by B.R. Davies

Did you know that the Hippodrome occupied about 125 acres of the Ladbroke Grove Estate with stable accommodation for up to 75 horses? Come and learn all about it at the talk that will be given by former RBK&C Councillor Jeremy Edge on Tuesday, 15 March at 7.30pm. It will be held as usual at St James Norlands Church, St James's Gardens, W11. Non-members are welcome. Tickets at £8, to include wine and soft drinks, are available from Veronica Scott, 24 Addison Avenue, W11 4QR. Please make your cheque payable to 'Norland Conservation Society' and enclose a stamped addressed envelope, or collect your tickets on the night.

## Statement of Accounts (contd)

### INCOME

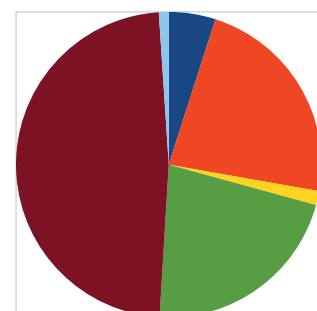
|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Donations & Legacy | 11,736 |
| Subscriptions      | 11,391 |
| Advertising        | 3,935  |
| Events             | 14,430 |
| Sales              | 2,525  |
| Interest           | 389    |



- Donations & Legacy
- Subscriptions
- Advertising
- Events
- Sales
- Interest

### EXPENDITURE

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Fundraising | 2,030  |
| Events      | 9,367  |
| Merchandise | 609    |
| Newsletter  | 8,902  |
| Aims exp.   | 19,689 |
| Governance  | 428    |



- Fundraising
- Events
- Merchandise
- Newsletter
- Aims exp.
- Governance



*Natalia Lomeiko*



*Jan-Erik Gustafsson*



*Yuri Zhislin*

Please note the new date, and change it if the original one was in your diary; it had to be changed because of other commitments by the artists. They and we send our apologies, and we have sent personal notifications to those who had booked for the earlier date.

Definitely coming are Natalia Lomeiko, violin, and Yuri Zhislin, violin and viola, two skilled artists who have delighted audiences in the Orangery since 2000. Both are professors at the Royal Academy of Music and have played in every prestigious venue in the world. Sometimes they bring with them a younger talented

performer who is just at the start of their career but this time they are introducing to us cellist Jan-Erik Gustafsson who is almost as experienced as they are. He comes from Finland and currently teaches at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. Like the others, he has played all over the world and with all the best symphony and chamber orchestras. He has also made many prize-winning recordings. He currently plays on a Stefano Scarampella from 1890.

Their programme for us will feature Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. We very much look forward to their visit.

## Membership Cards and Subscriptions

Those of you who use your membership cards to receive discounts when shopping with some of our Friends & Neighbours might have noticed that the end of February is when your card expires. A new (blue) one is enclosed with this newsletter if our records show you as having paid your subscription for 2016. Your order form will be white. All subscriptions were due on 1 January except for those who joined after 1 September 2015. If we think you have not yet paid, there will be no membership card, and your order form will be green with a standing order form on the back. Over 600 of our members use standing orders as it means they never have to remember again, and it helps our treasurer too. Current

minimum rates are £12, or £9 for the over 65s, with joint subscriptions available for two people at the same address for £20, or £15 where both are over 65. You will agree that these are very moderate sums but we keep them low to enable all to join.

Our records are not infallible, so do contact Rhoddy on 020 7602 0304 or at [rhoddy.wood@virgin.net](mailto:rhoddy.wood@virgin.net) if you have a query.

However you pay, we are most grateful for your support as it gives us clout in all our dealings with the Borough and other bodies.

The Ecology Service runs a number of informative events in the park, many of which need outside speakers who ask for a fee. With money short this means that they would have to charge for attendance, and experience shows that even a very moderate charge discourages the public.

Because The Friends think that knowledge about wildlife encourages its conservation, we sponsor many of the speakers so that there is no charge to attend. The list of events and dates is in *Dates for Your Diary*.



*Fox in the park*

They include talks/walks about amphibians, bats, birds, bumblebees, butterflies and moths, foxes, fungi and hedgehogs.

We do urge members to go to some of these; they can be interesting and rewarding and a pleasant way to spend an hour or two in summer. Indeed the first one, a talk on foxes, is coming very soon, 6.30-8pm on Thursday, 10 March, at the Ecology Centre. We hope that the lights from the car park will be on, but a torch could be a useful extra. To book, ring 020 7938 8186.



*Heron on the Kyoto pond*



*Peacock butterfly in the park*



*Hedgehog*



*Fungus in the park*

## Early Floral Cheer

Nestling amongst the trees in Holland Park's woodlands are little patches of wild flowers that can be seen clearly from the pathways, but I wonder if anyone ever notices them.

About a metre inside the western fence of the Lord Holland Enclosure, and shortly before the north fence of that area, is a cheerful little colony of *Eranthis hyemalis* or winter aconite. This part of the woodland is left wild and the *Eranthis* have forced their way up through a solid ground cover of ivy, now joined by the leaves of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (bluebell). A member of the buttercup family, the yellow shiny flower of *Eranthis* sits in a ruff of bright green leaves, or they might be bracts. The flower buds form globes, opening to a cup shape, but it does not flower for long and is well worth seeking out as one of the earliest flowering spring bulbs that adds bright yellow cheer at the end of winter. We noticed the flowers when we were on the Bird & Nature Walk on 6 February this year.

This woodland site is the plant's preferred habitat, under deciduous trees where it can enjoy the light before being shaded



*Eranthis hyemalis in the park*

out by leaves. Once the tree forms a dense canopy, the *Eranthis* leaves die down and disappear until the next year.

This is the only patch of *Eranthis* in the whole of Holland Park. We must look after it.

*Text and photo: Jennie Kettlewell*



## Your Committee

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**Assistant Treasurer** Simon Lindesay-Bethune

**Events Organiser** Graham Franklin

**Editor and Minutes Secretary** Joy Puritz

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**Art Exhibition** Sandra French

**Website** Nicholas Hopkins

**Publicity** Nigel Brockmann

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

*The Friends of Holland Park is registered as a charity, No. 281348*



*The cover photo was taken in the Kyoto Garden  
by Friend and artist Joan Bovarnick in April 2010*

### 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 all and would ask you to show your thanks by supporting them, please.

## Opera Holland Park

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Although The Friends of Holland Park is a quite separate organisation from Opera Holland Park Friends, we are happy to carry the announcement of their upcoming productions for this summer:

**Iris by Mascagni** June 7, 10, 14, 16, 18 **7.30pm**

**La bohème by Puccini** June 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 (matinée **2pm**), 21, 23, 24 (Young Artist performance), 25 **7.30pm**

**La Cenerentola by Rossini** July 14, 16, 20, 22, 27, 30 **7.30pm**

**Die Fledermaus by Strauss** July 19, 21, 23, 28, August 3, 5 **7.30pm**

**The Queen of Spades by Tchaikovsky** August 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13 **7.30pm**

All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**. The Friends' Nature Walks (NW, formerly BNW) are continuing to be led by varying regulars while we look for a new permanent leader with the requisite skills and commitment. We will have strolls 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 café 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 RBK&C are listed as 'ES', some of which are sponsored by FHP where 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 [ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk). There is a charge for those marked £.

Holland Park Conservation Volunteer days (for adults) are every third Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 3pm (except in December when it is the second Saturday); meet outside the café. 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, gloves, tools and instructions provided. Further information from the Ecology Centre (contact details above).

|                          |  |           |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|
| Tues 23 Feb              | <b>'Never was anything Finer':</b> The 18th-Century Court at Kensington Palace,<br>in the Orangery £15 | 7pm       |
| Sat 5 Mar                | <b>NW</b>  |           |
| Thurs 10 Mar             | ES. Foxes talk (sponsored). Must book  | 6.30-8pm  |
| Sat 19 Mar               | ES. Seeds of Spring: Ecology Centre Open Day. Drop-in  | 11am-4pm  |
| Tues 29 Mar              | ES. Easter Egg-stravaganza. Must book. £   |           |
| Wed 30 Mar - Fri 8 Apr   | ES. Children's Easter holiday activities. Must book. £   |           |
| Sat 2 Apr                | <b>NW</b>  |           |
| Sat 2 Apr                | ES. Bird-ringing demonstration (sponsored). Drop in at the wildlife area                               | 7-11am    |
| Fri 8 Apr                | ES. Children's Night Safari. Must book. £  |           |
| Sat 16 - Sun 24 Apr      | <b>Annual Art Exhibition</b> (see p.8), in the Orangery  |           |
| Wed 20 Apr               | <b>Annual General Meeting</b> (see p.3), in the Orangery   | 7.30pm    |
| Thurs 21 Apr             | ES. Amphibian walk and talk (sponsored). Must book   | 7-9pm     |
| Sat 23 Apr               | <b>Russian Virtuosi of Europe concert</b> (see p.12), in the Orangery, £15. <b>NEW DATE</b>            | 7.30pm    |
| Sat 30 Apr               | ES. Dawn chorus walk (sponsored). Car park. Must book  | 5-7am     |
| Sat 30 Apr               | ES. Family dawn chorus walk(sponsored). Car park. Must book  | 8-10am    |
| Sat 7 May                | <b>NW</b>  |           |
| Thurs 12 May             | ES. Bat walk (sponsored). Bring a torch. Must book   | 8.30-10pm |
| Tues 31 May - Fri 3 June | ES. Half-term children's holiday activities. Must book. £  |           |
| Sat 4 June               | <b>NW</b>  |           |
| Sat 11 June              | ES. Moth and butterfly walk (sponsored). Must book   | 12 noon   |
| Sat 18 June              | <b>Summer Tree walk.</b> Dr Alan Harrington. Meet in stable yard                                       | 11-1pm    |
| Sat 2 July               | <b>NW</b>  |           |
| Thurs 7 July             | ES. Summer tree walk: the basics. Must book  | 6.30-8pm  |
| Thurs 21 July            | ES. Bumblebees talk (sponsored). Must book   | 6.30-8pm  |
| Sat 6 Aug                | <b>NW</b>  |           |
| Sat 3 Sept               | <b>NW</b>  |           |

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