

The Friends of Holland Park
Summer 2017



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Wednesday, 18 October 2017, at 7pm in the Orangery

We sometimes forget what makes Holland House so special, but it is of course a fine example of Jacobean architecture, and we are fortunate to have it as the centrepiece of our park. Who better to set Holland House in context than Malcolm Airs, Emeritus Professor of Conservation and the Historic Environment at Oxford University.

He will tell us about the changes in architecture and appearance of country houses in the early seventeenth century, placing Holland House in the wider context of a distinctive group of houses in the London suburbs, such as Charlton House, Ham House and the Dutch House at Kew. He will examine the roles played by patrons, developers and designers, and will explain why Holland House is so important.



Professor Malcolm Airs

Professor Airs' many distinguished roles include serving on advisory committees of English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, past president of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, member of both the Council and the Architecture Panel of the National Trust.

This talk could not be better timed as our local council considers what conservation work needs to be undertaken to ensure our grand old building is kept in a state that will delight future generations.

Tickets are £18, to include wine and Janice Miles' delicious canapés. To order tickets please use the order form enclosed with your newsletter, or download it from The Friends of Holland Park website.

Pimm's in the Park

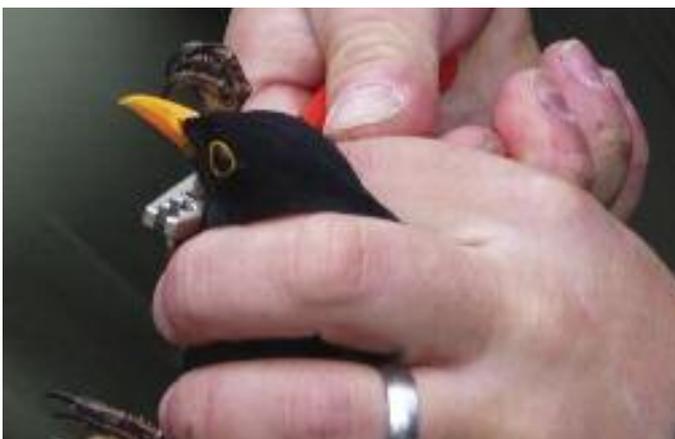
Tuesday, 11 July 2017, 6-8pm, in the Dutch Garden marquee

Our annual summer party is almost upon us, so hurry to book if you wish to attend. We again have to thank Michael Volpe, General Director of Opera Holland Park, for kindly allowing us to use the marquee on the raised terrace at the east end of the Dutch Garden. He will be one of our special guests. This year the party will coincide with an opera rehearsal, which will mean that access to the marquee will only be from the Dutch Garden.

This is our one event of the year that is only open to Friends and their immediate guests, but not to the general public. Pimm's, soft drinks and canapés will be served. The trustees will again be inviting other special guests in gratitude for helping the Friends in their efforts to make the park a place of enjoyment and relaxation for everyone.

Tickets, at £17 each, can be booked on the enclosed order form which can also be downloaded from our website.

Bird-Ringing Demonstration



Bemused male blackbird

Once again consultant ornithologist and active birder, Bill Haines, demonstrated his considerable bird-ringing skills in the Wildlife Enclosure of Holland Park. He is licensed to do this by the British Trust for Ornithology. On 18 February he showed 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. He showed us the fiery orange feathers under the gold crest on the bird of that name. He ringed a bemused looking male blackbird, who obligingly allowed his leg be held upright for the ringing.

Text and photo: Jennie Kettlewell



Annual General Meeting 2017: Report

The Friends' AGM was held on 5 April 2017. President, Sir Angus Stirling, welcomed those present, and the minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved.

The **Trustees' Report for 2016** was presented by Andy Walker, the main points being:

- Proposals and consultation for the improvement of the Holland House environment and café yard.
- Restoration of the 18th-century Earl's Court gates.
- New and clearer directional signage in the park.
- Approval of RBK&C's Ten-Year Strategy for Parks, in the creation of which the Friends had played a considerable role.
- Significant increase in the Friends' grants to the park: total £33,142.
- Production of two guides: 'Decorative Art in Holland Park' and 'Notable Trees'.

Simon Lindesay-Bethune gave the **Treasurer's report for 2016**. The balance for the financial year 2016 was £86,470: down on 2015 due to success in increasing funding to the park in 2016. Event income was down, and trustees aimed to address this issue over the coming year. The full accounts had been circulated in the spring 2017 newsletter.

The **Secretary's Report** was delivered by Rhoddy Wood, who said that membership stood at 980, of whom 150

were new members, and others were expected to renew. Members were encouraged to sign up for Gift Aid and to pay by banker's order. She thanked those members who had encouraged others to join, and also thanked the 21 members who saved the Friends ca £2,400 a year in postage by hand-delivering newsletters.

Election of the trustees. All nine trustees had agreed to stand again and were duly re-elected.

Election of the independent examiner. Roger Foreman was re-elected.

Chairman's Outlook for 2017. Chairman, Jennie Kettlewell, emphasised that the last two years had been a period of building foundations for improvements the Friends wished to see in the park. Some of these improvements were now beginning to be realised. She was pleased to announce that new member, Silvi Spassov, had agreed to act as FHP Accounts Co-ordinator (*see below*). There were some interesting questions from the floor (*some of which have been addressed, as will be seen in this newsletter*).

Much has happened since the AGM, and this is an opportunity to update members, rather than report on the situation as it was in early April (*see News Update on p.7*).

Silvi Spassov Joins as the Friends' Accounts Co-ordinator

We are delighted to welcome Silvi Spassov to the new role of Accounts Co-ordinator. That means he handles all the day-to-day accounts and payments, and he keeps the trustees informed on the state of our finances. Silvi is a qualified and experienced accountant, having worked for many years as a PricewaterhouseCoopers consultant with client-facing roles, which means he well understands how to build relationships with others in a team. We are already enjoying working with him and hope he will equally enjoy working with the Friends.

Silvi lives locally, was already a member and loves the park, but he can express this better himself: 'My love of Holland Park has been developing for many years and I became a

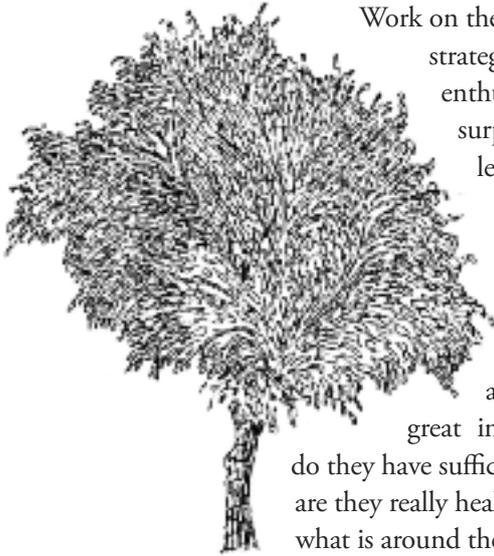


Silvi in the Kyoto Garden

member of The Friends of Holland Park with great passion. I always wanted to be more involved in the activities run by the Friends, and an opening for an Account Co-ordinator was a great opportunity for me to bring my expertise and knowledge to the charity. Recording the daily life of the charity by preparing the accounts and assisting the trustees with ad-hoc work, I can see the enormous work, effort and love everyone puts into this job. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to be part of this.'

In the short term, the Chairman will retain the financial oversight role of Treasurer, but this will be

reviewed over the coming months. Simon Lindesay-Bethune continues as Assistant Treasurer.



Pyrus salicifolia

Work on the park's long-term tree strategy has kicked off with enthusiasm and a surprising and gratifying level of agreement by all in the working party. The trick is to identify which trees are our 'future trees', i.e. those that are still likely to look great in many years to come: do they have sufficient space to thrive; are they really healthy. Then we look at what is around these future trees and whether that needs to change. In some cases, trees will need remedial pruning. Stray saplings may need to be removed as might some trees that are sick and will not last the course. That of course provides us with the opportunity for new planting to create a wonderful treescape for future generations to enjoy. What a wonderful project. It is however a very big project, and it will take many years to work our way around the whole park. The working group is made up of the RBK&C

arboriculture team, park management and representatives from your trustees.

When assessing the trees in the strip between Holland House and the sports field recently, we were again reminded what very special trees we have in that area alone. The Willow-leaved Pear (*Pyrus salicifolia*) is a native from the Caucasus to Iran, introduced to this country in 1780. It has silvery leaves and weeping branches, and this particular one was a champion tree: the largest known in England, though this title has now been taken by another tree. The Pride of India (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) is special because it is the fastigiata form: tall and thin, which means it is probably Ted's tree (see article 'Map of the Park' on p.12). *Koelreuteria*, like the two near the Iris Garden, are usually covered with yellow flowers in July, followed by pink bladder-like seedcases and golden autumn leaves. This narrow, upright form is very rare and has yet to flower.



Koelreuteria paniculata

Text and drawings: Jennie Kettlewell



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‘From Anvil to the Finest Wrought Iron in the Land’

On the evening of 22 February, rounded off as usual by wine and Janice Miles’s delicious canapés, Managing Director of Topp & Co., Chris Topp, fascinated our audience in the Orangery with the story of his career as an expert in the design, construction and restoration of metalwork such as bronze, but particularly wrought iron, of which his specialist division, The Real Wrought Iron Company, is one of the few suppliers left in the world.



reputation, several are keen blacksmiths from countries such as France, Switzerland, Lithuania and the Czech Republic. As Chris said, ‘Hot metal is addictive.’

He showed us photos of stunningly beautiful creations and restorations on prestigious sites such as Lincoln Cathedral, the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St Paul’s Cathedral. They even made a working replica of a cannon from the *Mary Rose*. In St Paul’s, Topp & Co. were

He explained that wrought iron is not only so called because of the way it is worked but because of the kind of iron it is: an alloy of iron and slag inclusions which gives it a fibrous quality and grain, rather like wood. It is less corrodible than steel or cast iron. It is malleable, easily welded but tough: the door of the Great Pyramid was made of it, and it is still there.

Initial cleaning of gates

commissioned to replace a 450-foot handrail of 1703, the one in the Whispering Gallery; as requested, they made it look as if it had been made in 1703 and yet last another 300 years. No problem. Their ability to work quickly is also impressive: they had just two months in which to make a new balustrade for the entire staircase in the Queen’s Gallery.

Chris grew up in industrial Bolton and, as a student, became a volunteer involved in industrial museums. He also used to wander into the works of Thomas Walmsley & Sons and, on seeing his first rolling mill aged 18, he ‘fell in love’ with hot metal. He became a blacksmith, and got his family involved; in fact, his wife still designs some of his beautiful creations. He set up his first works in Buxton, Derbyshire: Dorothea Restorations, which still exists today. Needing more space, he moved to North Yorkshire and began work at the bottom of his garden. Starting with six men, they are now 26 and, due to the company’s fine

Chris ended with a photograph of the Earls Court gates in Holland Park, newly restored by his company. He was delighted by the attention of the audience, and the number of interesting questions asked. From one of these we heard that Topp & Co. had been storing for several years bits of the gates that had looked in danger of dropping off. The Borough had asked for them to be removed, pending restoration some time in the future. Thankfully it is now in the past.

Joy Puritz

The Earls Court Gates, Then and Now...



*The gates ca 1900, complete with lodges
(Courtesy of RBK&C. With thanks to Friend John Rae
for drawing our attention to this photo)*



The gates in June 2017

Joy Puritz

Landscaping improvement

Following Planning and Listed Building consent for Camlin Lonsdale’s plan to improve landscaping around Holland House, Blakedown Landscapes (SE) Ltd have been appointed to carry out the work. This major project will make the café yard and Holland House terrace much pleasanter spaces in which to spend time, and the re-siting of the access road to the terrace will be safer and less disruptive to café users. Much needed conservation work is proposed for the masonry of the walls and steps related to the terrace. Work will commence in late September 2017 and be completed before the opera build starts in March 2018.



The new recycling units

Recycling units at car park entrance

The old recycling bins were being misused and causing a mess of dumped rubbish which was not a great welcome to the park. Smart new units are now in place, with clear signage and little space between for rubbish. On the front of each is a photo of the park, supplied by The Friends with the intention of showing potential miscreants that we have a

beautiful park that is not enhanced by their rubbish.

Schedule of works

There is so much work scheduled for the park in the next 18 months that Park Management have produced a helpful schedule of projects and timing (*see inside back cover*).

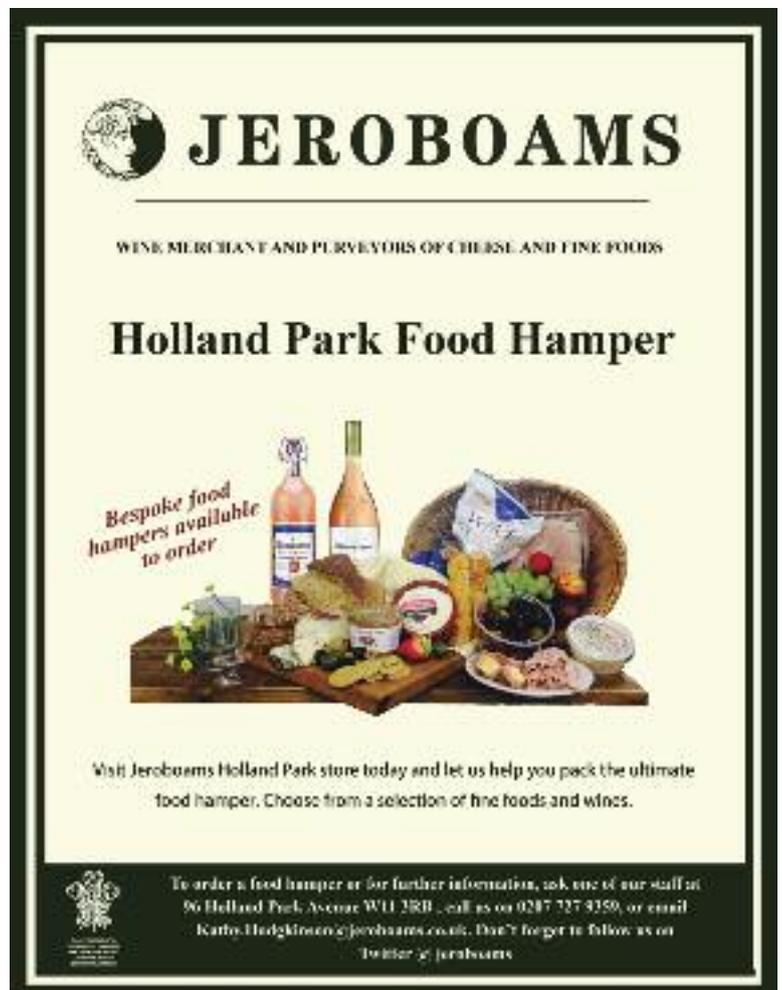
Text and photo: Jennie Kettlewell

Holland House conservation

At last a Condition Report on Grade-1-listed Holland House and the exterior of the East Wing has been commissioned, as required by the Conservation Management Plan for Holland House. While we await the results of the report, we hear that recent high wind has uncovered defects in the stonework, and some stones have had to be removed from the building for safety. This is as we had feared and highlights just why the Council must not allow actions determined in the Conservation Management Plan to fall behind schedule. Careful repairs were last carried out on the building in 2007-8 as a result of the property being put on Historic England’s (then English Heritage) ‘At Risk Register’. We want to see the great old structure safe and preserved so that it can be enjoyed by future generations, and do not wish to see it ‘at risk’ again.

Sustainable Drainage

You will have noticed that the path from the car park to the D Garden has been closed for some weeks in order to carry out work to channel rainwater into small overflow basins in the woodland. This is to make use of the water for the park, rather than lose surface water to the sewerage system. The path is unlikely to be open until early July.



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What a great exhibition we had this year: lots of RED DOTS!

This was our most successful exhibition. The weather was wonderful and attendances were up. The standard, as usual, was very high, and pricing was spot on. The most important aspect of the exhibition was the spread of sales across so many artists, some who have never sold before, and all were delighted. This is exactly what this exhibition is about.

The Orangery is always a magnificent venue, this year with 75 artists, I thought it looked fantastic, with a little more space than in some previous years. The exhibition is a team effort with special thanks going to Alison Beckett for the overall hanging; Alison was assisted by Graham Franklin, Nigel Brockman,



Gordon French stewarding

Alex French and Neil Gidman. Isabel Langtry, Principal of Hampstead School of Art, judged the exhibition, and we are indebted to her for her time and expertise; and to Rhoddy Wood for organising the Mini-Market, Joy Puritz for co-ordinating our catalogue, Sandra French, everyone who volunteered to steward, and the FHP trustees.

Our thanks to our sponsor Romulo Café. This is the second year Rowena and Chris have supported us, and we are extremely grateful.

Lastly I would like to thank the artists. This is your exhibition and I want to congratulate you all. See you next year!

Gordon French

The Judging Experience 2017

It was a pleasure to judge 'The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition 2017'. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful park on our doorstep; walking through the park reminds me that it should never be taken for granted. The exhibition was beautifully displayed; I appreciate the great care, attention and energy that putting together such an exhibition demands from its coordinators. Thank you.



Art Exhibition 2017 in the Orangery

A range of exciting media and materials were on display, giving me the opportunity to enjoy looking at a rich, varied, mixture of artworks including prints, photographs, painting, ceramics, glass, drawings, 3-D works and decorative jewellery.

Malgorzata Lapsa-Malawska was awarded the Prize for Artistic Excellence for her painting *If a Tree Falls in a Forest*, oil on linen canvas, showing great painting skill and a poetic use of narrative. I am delighted that the Sir Hugh Casson Drawing Prize was awarded to Jennifer Blackburn for her beautiful drawing with paint, an artwork called *Beyond the Sky* using acrylic and ink. The 3-D Prize was awarded to Angela Wilkes for *Bull*, modelled in stoneware

and beautifully glazed to create a spirited beast reminiscent of the romantic Spanish natural style; and I was delighted to offer the Hampstead School of Art Prize in Applied Arts to Anne Musso for her delicate capture of plants in porcelain: her artwork *Lamp*, a vertical meadow.

Highly commended were Kye Sook Park for her work in the browser which offered a beautiful range of life drawings in the expressive minimal-line style alongside excellent prints; and Judith Gordon particularly for her painting *The Dark Hedges*, a lovely use of dense and atmospheric watercolour; Mary Romer Greenfield for her painting *Rainbow Steps*, a composition with a secret narrative of striking colours, skilfully optimistic; Ihor



Natalia Lomeiko



Adi Tal



Yuri Zhislin

There was a very good audience in the Orangery for the concert by the Russian Virtuosi of Europe: Natalia Lomeiko (violin), Yuri Zhislin (viola), and Adi Tal (cello).

The concert started with the Aria (the basic theme) from J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, transcribed for string trio by Dimitri Sitkovetsky, a Russian violinist, conductor and arranger, who emigrated to the United States in 1977, but now lives in London. The piece was played as a tribute to the late Colette Price, former trustee of The Friends of Holland Park, who had introduced Natalia Lomeiko, and hence the Russian Virtuosi, to the Friends.

The main work was Mozart's *Divertimento* in E-flat major, K563, for string trio. It was composed in Vienna in 1788, the same year in which he completed his last three symphonies, and is dedicated to Michael Puchberg, a fellow mason, who lent Mozart money. It was first performed in Dresden in April 1789 by Anton Teyber (violin) and Antonin Kraft (cello), with Mozart himself playing the viola. It is in the classic *divertimento* format of six movements, including two minuets, one slow movement in sonata form

and another in the form of a theme and variations. Throughout the work the substance and depth of the work show great maturity, with remarkable richness of colouring achieved with such modest instrumentation, and it has nothing in common with lighter 'entertainment music', the literal meaning of *divertimento*. As Alfred Einstein, a German-American musicologist, noted in *Mozart: His Character, His Work*, published in English in 1945, 'It is a true chamber-music work, and grew to such large proportions only because [...] it was intended to offer something special in the way of art, invention and good spirits [...] Each instrument is *primus inter pares*, every note is significant, every note is a contribution to spiritual and sensuous fulfilment in sound' and 'It is one of his noblest works'. One cannot but agree with Einstein's conclusion.

The Virtuosi gave us a truly brilliant performance, which made it, to me, the best of all the concerts that they have given for us. It was a truly memorable evening, which will give me great pleasure in retrospect for a very long time.

George Law

The Judging Experience 2017 (contd)

Ropyanyk for the masterly use of oils with palette knife in *Wildflowers*; Salina Thomas for *A Slice of Galicia*, its Atlantic waves pulsating with life; Nadhira Benaissa for the photograph of *Holland Park Ice House*: it is so good to see this local landmark so beautifully captured. Also commended were Russell Mack whose skilful ceramic works are so alluring; Hazel Leach, showing both paintings and ceramics; Alex Longmore showing us how flowers and ceramics work so well together; Susanne Bagner with her beautifully crafted and controlled slumped glass; and Rosamund Lyons, also sharing beautifully coloured glass with us.

A special mention at the awards evening was made for all the artists who exhibited; I congratulate you all for submitting work, it is a brave and generous to contribute to an excellent

exhibition and support an event that makes such a valuable contribution to our London community. I noted with pleasure the presence of diverse drawing which delights me: the root of all our inspiration. Please continue your practice with vigour; I look forward to seeing your new work alongside new submitters in the exhibition next year. A very special thanks to those of you who buy the artworks, your patronage makes these events possible and gives the event a special buzz, as well as making an important contribution to the excellent work of The Friends of Holland Park.

Isabel H. Langtry, Art Judge and
Principal of Hampstead School of Art
www.art-school-hampstead.co.uk



Helen Dickenson

Gypsy Cuckoo bee

Come and explore the natural world we are lucky enough to have in Holland Park. Many of the talks, walks and events organised by the Ecology team are sponsored by the Friends so that they can be free for participants. Experts will help us discover things in the park that we may not notice for ourselves.

Events sponsored by the Friends

6 July: Ornithologist, Bill Haines, and ecologist Netty Ribeaux will entertain us with some fascinating facts from research on parakeets, before we go out into the park to see if we can spot parakeets congregating before they head off to roost. Bill is well known to many park visitors from his annual bird-ringing demonstration in the Wildlife Area.

10 July: We are delighted that Allan Watson of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust is back again to tell us more about the threat facing bumblebees, and about their importance for our gardens, natural habitats and of course our park. Alan is passionate about these most loved and familiar of our garden insects and is always keen to share his knowledge with us.

The Trust's leaflet says 'bumblebees have smelly feet': I think we need to know more.



John Wells

14 September: Join an expert from the London Bat Group and delve into the nocturnal world of bats. Learn about their natural history before searching for them with bat detectors in Holland Park. You need to bring a torch.

All the above events are free, but you do need to book on ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk or 020 7938 8186.

Events run by the Friends

The Friends run a Nature Walk on the first Saturday of each month, for which you do not need to book. We meet outside the Holland Park Café at 9 a.m. and choose a route to see whatever is of interest at the time, whether birds, plants or trees.

We are delighted that John Wells has agreed to lead the Nature Walk on Saturday, 1 July. John is an experienced nature-walk leader and has a remarkably varied knowledge about birds, beasts and green things that grow. He also knows Holland Park and some of the natural history delights in it. On this occasion he will pay particular attention to our native trees, and help us be more aware of what we have.

The full Ecology programme can be found on www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology



Andrew Whiteley in June 2013

Andrew Whiteley was a long-term member of The Friends and someone who not only loved trees and shrubs, but was extremely knowledgeable about them. Being a classics scholar, he knew and was very fussy about

the Latin (botanical) names. When he became ill some years ago, he told me he wanted to leave money 'for nature'. He left his 'nature' money to a friend and asked me to work with that friend to choose projects of which Andrew would have approved. Sadly, Andrew died in 2014, but the money has funded wonderful projects in his memory: Japanese cherry and maple trees for the redesigned Azalea Garden at Kew, a habitat study at Barnes Wetlands, some funds for The Tree Register (a record of Britain's notable trees) and rare Rhododendrons from Wakehurst's plant nursery for Holland Park's Fukushima Garden.

So, what about the Mediterranean Bed in Holland Park. In recent years this 80m-long flower bed along the old brick wall on the north side of the Dutch Garden has outgrown its structure and has 'forgotten what it is meant to be'. In spite of careful management of the bed by IdVerde, it needed a complete overhaul. A donation of just under £14,000 from Andrew's money was made to the Friends for this purpose. The intention is to give a structure to the planting scheme

that ensures the bed will look good for many years. That structure will be provided by sizeable 'anchor plants', interspersed with plants of varying size, shape and texture. Predominance of evergreen species means the bed will look good in winter as well as summer. Bulbs and perennials will add some colour, but not so much that it clashes with the main attraction, the formal beds in the centre of the Dutch Garden. In keeping with the Borough Parks strategy, the planting will be sustainable in the sense that it will not need regular replacement. The microclimate of the old brick wall allows inclusion of some unusual plants from areas of the world that enjoy a Mediterranean climate. We hope it will both look beautiful and please those who follow a botanical interest, but it will be a little while before the bed is fully established. That is the nature of good gardening.



Lyonothamnus floribundus

The first anchor plant in the bed is a rare *Lyonothamnus floribundus* (Catalina ironwood), which bears panicles of creamy-white flowers in early summer. Once the bed is planted up we will tell you about all the different plants so you can go and identify them for yourself.

Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell

Barrie Maclaurin Wins Award for Kyoto Garden

Barrie Maclaurin, former Parks Manager for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, has been chosen to receive the prestigious Japanese Sato Award for International Exchange. This award, in memory of Mr Akira Sato, is presented to individuals and organisations for outstanding achievement in fostering exchange between Japan and other countries on the subject of parks and green spaces. The citation for the award explains just why Barrie was chosen:

'As Parks Manager for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, London, Mr Maclaurin has greatly contributed to the promotion of cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between Japan and the UK through his work with parks and Japanese gardens. His efforts have included presenting Holland Park's Kyoto Garden to the Emperor and Empress during their visit to the UK in May 2012; developing the new Fukushima Garden and holding its opening ceremony in July 2012; promoting cultural exchanges with elementary school children in Fukushima



Barrie Maclaurin with his award

Prefecture's Miharu-machi in November 2012; erecting and holding an unveiling ceremony for a stone monument bearing the words used by the Emperor to express his gratitude for the aid provided for relief activities following the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11 March 2013; and presenting the Kyoto Garden and the Fukushima Garden to the Speaker of the House Representatives Ibuki during his visit to the UK in September 2013.'

Barrie was invited to receive the award at a ceremony in Tokyo at the end of May 2017, where he was treated royally in celebration of his achievements. He will feature in Japanese media, including the Japanese publication 'Parks and Open Space'. Barrie is obviously delighted, and we are proud on his behalf and very grateful for all he has done to ensure Holland Park's Kyoto and Fukushima Gardens are authentic in concept. We must ensure they remain that way.

Jennie Kettlewell

There was a request at our AGM for a map of Holland Park with all the places marked on it. We have produced one, and you should find a copy enclosed with this newsletter. Please keep it; we hope you find it useful.

You will notice that the Abbotsbury Road south entrance is also known as Ted's Gate, named after Ted Lonsdale who lived in Selby Court, where one of



Ted's Gate

the porters still remembers him. Ted was a trustee of the Friends from 1990, and Vice President from 1994. Among many other achievements he was instrumental in helping the Borough prevent Thames Water from installing a

pumping station in the park (it was installed on Holland Park Roundabout instead). He was a churchwarden at St Mary Abbots, and walked daily through the park from home to the church via the Abbotsbury Road gate. His sight was poor but he knew his way, and the park staff all looked out for him. Eventually they started calling it Ted's Gate although it is not called that on official council maps. Those who have known the park a while, still call it that. Ted was tall and thin and strode out on his daily walk. After he died, on 22 February 2003, a tall thin tree was planted in the park in his memory.

Local Events Run by Neighbouring Organisations: 2017

Kensington Gardeners' Club (information from www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk or please contact 07949 769702)

June/July

Garden competition for gardens within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

21 October

Garden competition prize giving; talk and slide show of entrants' gardens by competition judge.

18 November

Talk in Town Hall by Andrew Babicz, the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh.

Opera Holland Park (all information from www.operahollandpark.com. Tickets available from 0300 999 1000)

15, 19, 21, 26, 28 July, at 8pm

Kát'a Kabanová, by Janáček.

18, 20, 22, 27, 29 July, at 7.30pm

Zazà, by Leoncavallo.

13, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 July at 4pm*

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Will Todd. Performed on the Yucca Lawn, Holland Park.

*Relaxed performance.

*29 & 30 June, at 7.30pm,
1 July matinée, at 2.30pm,
and evening at 7.30pm*

Royal Ballet School end-of-year summer performance.

The Kensington Society (all information from www.kensingtonsociety.org or please contact 020 7942 5235)

27 July, at 7.30pm

Natural History Museum private viewing of Hintze Hall, and wine reception.

13 September, at 6pm

Twentieth Century Society architectural walk. Two-hour walk through central Kensington to see well designed but under-appreciated modern buildings.

Your Committee



President: Sir Angus Stirling

Chairman and Acting Treasurer: Jennie Kettlewell

Secretary: Rhoddy Wood

Assistant Treasurer: Simon Lindesay-Bethune

Events Organiser: Graham Franklin

Editor and Minutes Secretary: Joy Puritz

Park Observer: Andy Walker

Art Exhibition: Sandra French

Website: Nicholas Hopkins

Publicity: Nigel Brockmann

www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

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



*The cover photo was taken by your editor
in the Dutch Garden in August 2016*



*The photo on the back cover was taken in the Holland Park car park
by Friend Brook Horowitz in April 2017*

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.



Dates for your Diary

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 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 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. 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; meet at the Holland Park 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. Refreshments, gloves, tools and instructions 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, call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk.

Sat 1 July	NW with John Wells (see p.10)	
Thurs 6 July	ES. Parakeet walk and talk (sponsored). Must book	7-8.30pm
Tues 11 July	Pimm's in the Park , marquee at east end of Dutch Garden, £17 (see p.3)	6-8pm
Thurs 13 July	ES. Summer tree walk: the basics. Must book	6.30-8pm
Thurs 20 July	ES. Bumblebee talk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 22 July	ES. Brilliant butterflies: Ecology Centre Open Day. Drop in	12 noon-4pm
Mon 24 July – Fri 1 Sept	ES. Children's summer holiday activities. Must book. £	
Sat 5 Aug	NW	
Sat 12 Aug	ES. Dazzling dragonflies. Open Day. Drop in at Wildlife Area	12 noon-4pm
Sat 2 Sept	NW	
Sat 9 Sept	ES. Small mammal trapping and surveying. Must book	10-11.30am
Thurs 14 Sept	Autumn bat walk (sponsored). Must book	7-8.30pm
Sat 23 Sept	Autumn seeds. Open Day. Drop in at Wildlife Area	12 noon-4pm
Sat 7 Oct	NW	
Weds 18 Oct	'Jacobean Country Houses in the London Countryside' (see p.3), in the Orangery, £18	7pm
Sat 21 Oct	Autumn tree walk . Dr Alan Harrington. Meet in Stable Yard.	11am-1pm
Mon 23 – Fri 27 Oct	ES. Children's half-term holiday activities. Must book. £	
Fri 3 Nov	ES. Children's Night Safari (5-8 year-olds). Must book. £	4-6pm
Sat 4 Nov	NW	
Fri 10 Nov	ES. Children's Night Safari (8-12 year-olds). Must book. £	4-6pm
Sat 11 Nov	ES. Fungi Foray (sponsored). Must book.	2-4pm
Thurs 16 Nov	ES. A Year in Holland Park: talk. Must book	6-7.30pm

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.

Schedule of Works in Holland Park

Project	Area of Holland Park	29/05/2017	05/06/2017	12/06/2017	19/06/2017	26/06/2017	03/07/2017	10/07/2017	17/07/2017	24/07/2017	31/07/2017	07/08/2017	14/08/2017	21/08/2017	28/08/2017	04/09/2017	11/09/2017	18/09/2017	25/09/2017	02/10/2017	09/10/2017	16/10/2017	23/10/2017	30/10/2017	06/11/2017	13/11/2017	20/11/2017	27/11/2017	04/12/2017	11/12/2017	18/12/2017	25/12/2017			
Mediterranean border (Dutch Garden) replanting	Dutch Garden																																		
SUJDS footpath and natural drainage works	Footpath running from D Garden to car park					TBC																													
Opera Holland Park build, season and breakdown	Terrace and environs																																		
Stable Yard roof replacement to Parks Police and Old Ecology Centre	Stable Yard																																		
Belvedere and tower refurbishment	Belvedere and Orangery																																		
Hydro-seeding to improve grass	North end of sports field																																		
Holland House terrace improvement and access road realignment	Terrace and cafe																																		
Footpath works	South end of North Lawn																																		
Sports pitch renovation	Sports field																																		
Under 5s playground refurbishment	Under 5s playground																																		
Adventure playground refurbishment	Adventure playground																																		
Stable Yard toilet refurbishment	Stable Yard																																		
Orangery Gallery Repairs	Orangery													TBC	TBC																				
Stable Yard roof repairs to Changing Rooms and Toilet block	Stable Yard																																		

2018

